

**A RESOLUTION
OF THE EXECUTIVE/FINANCE COMMITTEE OF THE
ASSOCIATION OF MONTEREY BAY AREA GOVERNMENTS
ADOPTING A RESOLUTION REGARDING THE RALPH M BROWN ACT AND FINDING OF IMMINENT
RISK TO HEALTH AND SAFETY OF IN-PERSON MEETINGS AS A RESULT OF THE CONTINUING COVID-
19 PANDEMIC STATE OF EMERGENCY DECLARED BY GOVERNOR NEWSOM**

WHEREAS, on March 4, 2020, Governor Newsom issued a Proclamation of State of Emergency in response to the COVID-19 pandemic; and,

WHEREAS, the proclaimed state of emergency remains in effect; and,

WHEREAS, on March 17, 2020, Governor Newsom issued Executive Order N-29-20 that suspended the teleconferencing rules set forth in the California Open Meeting law, Government code Section 54950 et seq. (the "Brown Act"), provided certain requirements were met and followed; and

WHEREAS, on June 11, 2021, Governor Newsom issued Executive Order N-08-21 that clarified the suspension of the teleconferencing rules set forth in the Brown Act, and further provided that those provisions would remain suspended through September 30, 2021; and,

WHEREAS, on September 16, 2021, Governor Newsom signed AB 361 that provides that a legislative body subject to the Brown Act may continue to meet without fully complying with the teleconferencing rules in the Brown Act provided the legislative body determines that meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees, and further requires that certain findings be made by the legislative body every thirty (30) days; and,

WHEREAS, California Department of Public Health ("CDPH") and the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC") caution that the Delta variant of COVID-19, currently the dominant strain of COVID-19 in the country, is more transmissible than prior variants of the virus, may cause more severe illness, and that even fully vaccinated individuals can spread the virus to others resulting in rapid and alarming rates of COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/variants/delta-variant.html>); and,

WHEREAS, other variants of COVID-19 exist, and it is unknown at this time whether other variants may result in a new surge in COVID-19 cases; and,

WHEREAS, the CDC has established a "Community Transmission" metric with 4 tiers designed to reflect a community's COVID-19 case rate and percent positivity; and,

WHEREAS, Monterey and San Benito Counties currently have a Community Transmission metric of "high" which is the most serious of the tiers and Santa Cruz County currently has a Community Transmission metric of "substantial"; and,

WHEREAS, due to the seriousness of the current pandemic situation, the CDPH has required that all unvaccinated persons wear facial coverings indoors, and the CDC and CDPH recommend that all persons, regardless of vaccination status, wear facial coverings indoors; and,

WHEREAS, the Executive/Finance Committee for the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG) is empowered to take actions necessary to protect public, health, welfare and safety within the region; and,

WHEREAS, AMBAG has an important governmental interest in protecting the health, safety and welfare of those who participate in meetings of AMBAG’s various legislative bodies subject to the Brown Act; and,

WHEREAS, in the interest of public health and safety, as affected by the emergency caused by the spread of COVID-19, the AMBAG Executive/Finance Committee deems it necessary to find that meeting in person for meetings of all AMBAG related legislative bodies as well as subcommittees of the Board of Directors subject to the Ralph M. Brown Act, would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees, and thus intends to invoke the provisions of AB 361 related to teleconferencing as provided in subdivision (e) of Government Code section 54953; and

WHEREAS, all teleconferenced meetings of the AMBAG Board of Directors, AMBAG Executive/Finance Committee, as well as all subcommittees of the Board of Directors shall comply with the requirements to provide the public with access to meetings as prescribed in paragraph (2) of subdivision (e) of Government Code section 54953;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Executive/Finance Committee of the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments does hereby approve as follows:

1. The Executive/Finance Committee finds that meeting in person for meetings of all AMBAG related legislative bodies subject to the Ralph M. Brown Act would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees.
2. This finding applies to all AMBAG related legislative bodies subject to the Brown Act, including but not limited to, the AMBAG Board of Directors meeting; the AMBAG Executive/Finance Committee; the RAPS, Inc. Board of Directors meeting, and any other standing committees.
3. Staff is directed to return to the Board of Directors no later than thirty (30) days after the adoption of this resolution, or by the next Board of Directors meeting (whichever comes first), with an item for the Board to consider making the findings required by AB 361 in order to continue meeting under its provisions.
4. The AMBAG Executive Director and AMBAG Counsel are directed to take such other necessary or appropriate actions to implement the intent and purposes of this resolution.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 29th day of September 2021.

Steve McShane, President

Maura F. Twomey, Executive Director