



TO: GCSB Board of Directors

FROM: Jennifer Flores, Administrative Services Manager

DATE: December 14, 2021

SUBJECT: Agenda Item 4G: Adoption of a Resolution Proclaiming A Local Emergency Persists, Ratifying the Proclamation of a State of Emergency by Governor’s Executive Order N-25-20 and Order N-29-20, and Re-Authorizing Remote Teleconference Meetings of the Legislative Body of the Groveland Community Services District for the Period of December 14, 2021 through January 11, 2021 Pursuant to Brown Act Provisions

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

I move to approve Resolution 41-2021 Ratifying the Proclamation of a State of Emergency by Governor’s Executive Order N-25-20 and Order N-29-20, and Re-Authorizing Remote Teleconference Meetings of the Legislative Body of the Groveland Community Services District for the Period of December 14, 2021 through January 11, 2021 Pursuant to Brown Act Provisions.

BACKGROUND:

In March of 2020, the Governor issued Executive Order N-29-20 (“Order”) suspending portions of the Brown Act and allowing public meetings to occur virtually. That included restricting the public to attend the meetings virtually without a physical location. The Governor’s Order expired on September 30, 2021.

On September 16, 2021 the Governor signed AB 361 that amends the Brown Act teleconferencing requirements to allow a public agency, during a declared emergency (such as the current pandemic), the option of holding meetings remotely without following the current teleconferencing requirements in the Brown Act and restricting the public’s access to telephone or video conference. However, it establishes procedural hurdles that must be followed and maintained during the election to meet remotely.

Following are requirements for invoking AB 361 the first time that a public agency does so:

1. There must be a “proclaimed state of emergency,” *as there is currently, in that the Governor’s State of Emergency Declaration, issued on March 4, 2020, has not been lifted, and*
2. One of the following three circumstances must exist:

- a. State or local officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing, *which also currently exist in California in light of the COVID-19 pandemic*;
- b. The meeting is held to determine, by majority vote, whether as a result of the emergency, meeting in person would present imminent risks to health or safety of attendees; or
- c. The majority of the legislative body has voted that, as a result of the emergency, meeting in person would present imminent risk to the health or safety of attendees.

If a public agency wishes to consider invoking AB 361 for subsequent meetings, the following is required for those subsequent meetings:

1. The proclaimed state of emergency must remain active; or
2. State or local officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing; and
3. Not later than 30 days after teleconferencing for the first time under the AB 361 rules, and every 30 days thereafter, the Legislative body shall make the following findings by majority vote:
 - The legislative body has reconsidered the circumstances of emergency, and at least one of the following circumstances exist:
 - a. The state of emergency continues to directly impact the ability of the members to meet safely in person; or
 - b. State or local officials continue to impose or recommend measures to promote social distancing.

The requirement that a Legislative body must make one of the two findings listed directly above by majority vote every 30 days to continue to invoke AB 361, will result in the need to hold special Board meetings prior to some of the regularly scheduled monthly meetings as they will fall outside the 30-day window.

FISCAL IMPACT:

None.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Resolution 41-2021

RESOLUTION 41-2021

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE GROVELAND COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT PROCLAIMING A LOCAL EMERGENCY PERSISTS, RE-RATIFYING THE PROCLAMATION OF A STATE OF EMERGENCY BY GOVERNOR'S EXECUTIVE ORDER N-25-20 AND ORDER N-29-20, AND RE-AUTHORIZING REMOTE TELECONFERENCE MEETINGS OF THE LEGISLATIVE BODIES OF THE GROVELAND COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT FOR THE PERIOD DECEMBER 14, 2021 TO JANUARY 11, 2022 PURSUANT TO BROWN ACT PROVISIONS

WHEREAS, the Groveland Community Services District is committed to preserving and nurturing public access and participation in meetings of the Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS, all meetings of Groveland Community Services District's legislative bodies are open and public, as required by the Ralph M. Brown Act (Cal. Gov. Code 54950 – 54963), so that any member of the public may attend, participate, and watch the District's legislative bodies conduct their business; and

WHEREAS, the Brown Act, Government Code section 54953(e), makes provision for remote teleconferencing participation in meetings by members of a legislative body, without compliance with the requirements of Government Code section 54953(b)(3), subject to the existence of certain conditions; and

WHEREAS, a required condition is that a state of emergency is declared by the Governor pursuant to Government Code section 8625, proclaiming the existence of conditions of disaster or of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property within the state caused by conditions as described in Government Code section 8558; and

WHEREAS, a proclamation is made when there is an actual incident, threat of disaster, or extreme peril to the safety of persons and property within the jurisdictions that are within the District's boundaries, caused by natural, technological or human-caused disasters; and

WHEREAS, it is further required that state or local officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing, or, the legislative body meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health and safety of attendees; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors previously adopted a Resolution, Number 13-2021 on March 31, 2021, finding that the requisite conditions exist for the legislative bodies of Groveland Community Services District to conduct remote teleconference meetings without compliance with paragraph (3) of subdivision (b) of section 54953; and

WHEREAS, as a condition of extending the use of the provisions found in section 54953(e), the Board of Directors must reconsider the circumstances of the state of emergency that exists in the District, and the Board of Directors has done so; and

WHEREAS, emergency conditions persist in the District, specifically, a state of emergency remains active in that the Governor's State of Emergency Declaration, issued on March 4, 2020, has not been lifted; and

WHEREAS, the state and local officials have recommended social distancing in light of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors does hereby find that a state of emergency remains active in that the Governor's State of Emergency Declaration, issued on March 4, 2020, has not been lifted, and, the state and local officials have recommended social distancing in light of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic has caused, and will continue to cause, conditions of peril to the safety of persons within the District that are likely to be beyond the control of services, personnel, equipment, and facilities of the District, and desires to affirm a local emergency exists and re-ratify the proclamation of state of emergency by the Governor of the State of California; and

WHEREAS, as a consequence of the local emergency persisting, the Board of Directors does hereby find that the legislative bodies of Groveland Community Services District shall continue to conduct their meetings without compliance with paragraph (3) of subdivision (b) of Government Code section 54953, as authorized by subdivision (e) of section 54953, and that such legislative bodies shall continue to comply with the requirements to provide the public with access to the meetings as prescribed in paragraph (2) of subdivision (e) of section 54953; and

WHEREAS, the District has taken measures to ensure the public has ease of access to teleconference meetings of the Board of Directors by including detailed instructions on how to observe and participate and the direct meeting link on published agendas as well as detailed instructions for public comment submission.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF GROVELAND COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT DOES HEREBY RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Recitals. The Recitals set forth above are true and correct and are incorporated into this Resolution by this reference.

Section 2. Affirmation that Local Emergency Persists. The Board of Directors hereby considers the conditions of the state of emergency in the District and proclaims that a local emergency persists throughout the District, and state and local officials have recommended social distancing in light of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic.

Section 3. Re-ratification of Governor's Proclamation of a State of Emergency. The Board hereby ratifies the Governor of the State of California's Proclamation of State of Emergency, effective as of its issuance date of October 12, 2021

Section 4. Remote Teleconference Meetings. The GENERAL MANAGER and legislative bodies of Groveland Community Services District are hereby authorized and directed to take all actions necessary to carry out the intent and purpose of this Resolution including, continuing to conduct open and public meetings in accordance with Government Code section 54953(e) and other applicable provisions of the Brown Act.

Section 5. Effective Date of Resolution. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption and shall be effective until the earlier of (i) November 10, 2021 or such time the Board of Directors adopts a subsequent resolution in accordance with Government Code section 54953(e)(3) to extend the time during which the legislative bodies of Groveland Community Services District may continue to teleconference without compliance with paragraph (3) of subdivision (b) of section 54953.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of Groveland Community Services District, this 14th day of December 2021, by the following vote:

- AYES:
- NOES:
- ABSTAIN:
- ABSENT:

ATTEST:

Rachel Pearlman, Board Secretary

Janice Kwiatkowski, President - Board of Directors

CERTIFICATE OF SECRETARY

I, Rachel Pearlman, the duly appointed and acting Secretary of the Board of Directors of the Groveland Community Services District, do hereby declare that the foregoing Resolution was duly passed and adopted at a Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Groveland Community Services District, duly called and held on December 14, 2021.

DATED: _____