



TO: Port Commission
FROM: Holland MacLaurie, Port Director
DATE: September 19, 2022
SUBJECT: Approval of Resolution 22-21 – Reauthorizing Virtual Public Meetings in Accordance with Assembly Bill 361

Recommendation: Approve Resolution 22-21.

BACKGROUND

As a result of the continuing impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Santa Cruz Port Commission approved Resolution 22-12 (Attachment B), allowing the legislative body of the Port District to conduct teleconference meetings in accordance with modified rules authorized under Assembly Bill 361 (AB 361).

ANALYSIS

Pursuant to AB 361, once the initial resolution is adopted, a local agency may meet virtually for a maximum period of 30 days. Prior to expiration of the 30 day period, the local agency must renew its resolution in order to continue meeting virtually under the modified rules.

Resolution 22-21 is presented for approval to continue meeting virtually under the modified rules provided for in AB 361.

IMPACT ON PORT DISTRICT RESOURCES

There are no impacts associated with approval of this resolution.

ATTACHMENTS: A. Resolution 22-21 – Reauthorizing Virtual Public Meetings in Accordance with Assembly Bill 361
B. Resolution 22-12 – Authorizing the Santa Cruz Port Commission to Conduct Teleconference Meetings in Accordance with Assembly Bill 361 as a Result of the Continuing COVID-19 Pandemic State of Emergency

Santa Cruz Port District
Resolution 22-21
September 22, 2022

On the motion of _____

Duly seconded by _____

A resolution reauthorizing the Santa Cruz Port Commission to conduct teleconference meetings in accordance with Assembly Bill 361 as a result of the continuing COVID-19 pandemic state of emergency.

WHEREAS, all meetings of the Santa Cruz Port Commission are open and public, as required by the Ralph M. Brown Act (California Government Code Section 54950 – 54963), to ensure that any member of the public may attend, participate, and watch the District’s legislative body conduct business; and,

WHEREAS, on September 16, 2021, Governor Newsom signed into law Assembly Bill 361 (AB 361), which amended Government Code Section 54953 to permit legislative bodies subject to the Brown Act the ability to meet under modified teleconferencing rules if they comply with specific requirements set forth in the statute; and,

WHEREAS, under AB 361, a local agency may teleconference under the modified rules if the legislative body holds a meeting during a proclaimed state of emergency and state or local officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing; and

WHEREAS, on June 7, 2022, the Santa Cruz Port Commission held an initial teleconference meeting under AB 361 and adopted Resolution 22-12, finding that the requisite conditions exist for the Santa Cruz Port Commission to conduct remote teleconference meetings under modified rules.

WHEREAS, after its initial AB 361 teleconference meeting, a legislative body can continue to hold such teleconference meetings if the legislative body has reconsidered the circumstances of the state of emergency and determined that the state of emergency continues to directly impact the ability of the members to meet safely in person and that local officials continue to recommend measures to promote social distancing; and,

WHEREAS, the Santa Cruz Port Commission has reconsidered the circumstances of the current state of emergency and find that the COVID-19 pandemic continues to directly impact the ability of the Commission to meet safely in person and further finds that the Santa Cruz County Public Health Officer continues to recommend measures to promote social distancing; and,

WHEREAS, in the interest of public health and safety, due to the emergency caused by the spread of COVID-19, the Santa Cruz Port Commission deems it necessary to continue utilizing the modified teleconferencing rules set forth in AB 361 and authorizes remote meetings as set forth in the Resolution.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Santa Cruz Port Commission hereby RESOLVES, and ORDERS as follows:

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

Section 2. Acknowledgment of Governor’s Proclamation of a State of Emergency. The Board hereby acknowledges that the Governor of the State of California’s Proclamation of State of Emergency, as related to the COVID-19 pandemic, remains in effect.

Section 3. Remote Teleconference Meetings. The Port Director is authorized and directed to carry out the intent and purpose of this Resolution, including conducting open and public meetings in accordance with the modified teleconferencing rules as set forth in Government Code Section 54953(e) and other applicable provisions of the Brown Act.

Section 4. Effective Date of Resolution. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption and shall be effective until the earlier of (1) thirty days from adoption of this Resolution, or (2) 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 Santa Cruz Port Commission may continue to teleconference without compliance with paragraph 3 of subdivision (b) of Section 54953.

PASSED AND ADOPTED, by the Santa Cruz Port District Commission this 22nd day of September 2022, by the following vote:

AYES: _____

NOES: _____

ABSENT: _____

APPROVED BY:

Reed Geisreiter, Chair
Santa Cruz Port District Commission

Santa Cruz Port District
Resolution 22-12
June 7, 2022

On the motion of Commissioner Goddard

Duly seconded by Commissioner Gertler

A resolution authorizing the Santa Cruz Port Commission to conduct teleconference meetings in accordance with Assembly Bill 361 as a result of the continuing COVID-19 pandemic state of emergency.

WHEREAS, all meetings of the Santa Cruz Port Commission are open and public, as required by the Ralph M. Brown Act (California Government Code Section 54950 – 54963), to ensure that any member of the public may attend, participate, and watch the District's legislative body conduct business; and,

WHEREAS, on September 16, 2021, Governor Newsom signed into law Assembly Bill 361 (AB 361), which amended Government Code Section 54953 to permit legislative bodies subject to the Brown Act the ability to meet under modified teleconferencing rules if they comply with specific requirements set forth in the statute; and,

WHEREAS, under AB 361, a local agency may teleconference under the modified rules if the legislative body holds a meeting during a proclaimed state of emergency and state or local officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing; and

WHEREAS, on March 4, 2020, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Governor Newsom issued a Proclamation of State of Emergency pursuant to California Government Code section 8550 et seq., which remains in effect; and,

WHEREAS, on September 30, 2021, the Santa Cruz County Public Health Officer, Dr. Gail Newel, strongly recommended that legislative bodies in Santa Cruz County engage in physical / social distancing by meeting via teleconference as allowed by AB 361; and,

WHEREAS, after its initial AB 361 teleconference meeting, a legislative body can continue to hold such teleconference meetings if the legislative body has reconsidered the circumstances of the state of emergency and determined that the state of emergency continues to directly impact the ability of the members to meet safely in person and that local officials continue to recommend measures to promote social distancing; and,

WHEREAS, the Port Commission finds that there is a continuing threat of COVID-19 to the community and requiring all members of the legislative body to appear in-person at meetings presents greater risk to the health and safety of the meeting participants resulting from reduced social distancing, increased exposure for those who are immunocompromised or unvaccinated, and challenges associated with fully ascertaining and ensuring compliance with vaccination, face coverings, and other safety measures at such public meetings; and

WHEREAS, in the interest of public health and safety, due to the emergency caused by the spread of COVID-19, the Santa Cruz Port Commission deems it necessary to utilize the modified teleconferencing rules set forth in AB 361.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Santa Cruz Port Commission hereby RESOLVES, and ORDERS as follows:

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

Section 2. Acknowledgement of Governor's Proclamation of a State of Emergency. The Board hereby acknowledges that the Governor of the State of California's Proclamation of State of Emergency, as related to the COVID-19 pandemic, remains in effect.

Section 3. Remote Teleconference Meetings. The Port Director is authorized and directed to carry out the intent and purpose of this Resolution, including conducting open and public meetings in accordance with the modified teleconferencing rules as set forth in Government Code Section 54953(e) and other applicable provisions of the Brown Act.

Section 4. Effective Date of Resolution. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption and shall be effective until the earlier of (1) thirty days from adoption of this Resolution, or (2) 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 Santa Cruz Port Commission may continue to teleconference without compliance with paragraph 3 of subdivision (b) of Section 54953.

PASSED AND ADOPTED, by the Santa Cruz Port District Commission this 7th day of June, by the following vote:

AYES: Geisreiter, Gertler, Reed, Goddard

NOES: n/a

ABSENT: Smith

Approved by:



Reed Geisreiter, Chairman
Santa Cruz Port District Commission