

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CAPITOLA AND ON BEHALF OF COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES CREATED BY THE CITY COUNCIL PURSUANT TO CALIFORNIA GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54952(b) AUTHORIZING TELECONFERENCE MEETINGS IN COMPLIANCE WITH AB 361 (GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54953(e)) TO CONTINUE TO ALLOW MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO SAFELY PARTICIPATE IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT MEETINGS

WHEREAS, the City Council is committed to ensuring public access to observe and participate in local government meetings; and

WHEREAS, all meetings of the City Council and other legislative bodies created pursuant to Government Code Section 54952(b) are open and public, as required by the Ralph M. Brown Act, so that any member of the public may participate in local government meetings; and

WHEREAS, the recently adopted AB 361, codified at Government Code section 54953(e), makes provisions for remote teleconferencing participation in local government meetings, without compliance with the requirements of 54953(b)(3), during a Governor-proclaimed state of emergency and if the local legislative body determines, by majority vote, that as a result of the emergency, meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees, and

WHEREAS, on March 4, 2020, Governor Newsom proclaimed a State of Emergency due to the outbreak of respiratory illness due to a novel coronavirus (now known as COVID-19) and that State of Emergency is still in effect in the State of California; and

WHEREAS, on March 12, 2020, the Capitola City Council proclaimed the existence of a local emergency due to the worldwide spread of the coronavirus with Resolution No. 4168, pursuant to Section 8.08.020 of the Capitola Municipal Code and Section 8625 of the California Emergency Services Act in response to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 continues to threaten the health and lives of City residents; and

WHEREAS, the SARS-CoV-2 Delta Variant (Delta Variant) is highly transmissible in indoor settings; and

WHEREAS, on July 28, 2021, the California Department of Public Health issued guidance calling for the use of face coverings and stating that the Delta Variant is two times as contagious as early COVID-19 variants, leading to increasing infections, the Delta Variant accounts for over 80% of cases sequenced, and cases and hospitalizations of COVID-19 are rising throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, the Delta Variant has caused, and will continue to cause, conditions of imminent peril to the health safety of persons within the City; and

WHEREAS, on October 14, November 23, and December 9, 2021, January 13, February 10, and February 27, March 10, March 24, April 14, April 28, May 12 and May 26, June 9, June 23, and July 28, 2022, August 25, and September 8, September 22, October 13, October 27, November 10, November 22, December 8, 2022, January 12, and January 26, 2023, the City Council adopted a resolution proclaiming the need to meet by teleconference pursuant to Government Code Section 54953; and

WHEREAS, the City Council, acting as a legislative body pursuant to Government Code section 54952(a) and for the benefit of the commissions, committees and other bodies that were created by the City Council pursuant to Government Code section 54952(b) (collectively referred

to as “Legislative Bodies”), finds that the current conditions meet the circumstances set forth in Government Code section 54953(e)(3) to allow Legislative Bodies to continue to use teleconferencing to hold open and public meetings if the Legislative Bodies comply with the requirements set forth in Government Code section 54953(e)(2) to ensure the public can safely participate in and observe local government meetings.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Capitola that the City Council does hereby:

1. Recitals. The Recitals set forth above are true and correct and are hereby incorporated by this reference.

2. Find that Current Conditions Authorize Teleconference Public Meetings of Legislative Bodies. The City Council has reconsidered the circumstances of the state of emergency and finds that based on the California Governor’s continued declaration of a State of Emergency and current conditions, meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees, such that the conditions continue to exist pursuant to Government Code section 54953(e)(3) to allow Legislative Bodies to use teleconferencing to hold public meetings in accordance with Government Code section 54953(e)(2) to ensure members of the public have continued access to safely observe and participate in local government meetings.

3. Authorize Legislative Bodies to Conduct Teleconference Meetings. The Legislative Bodies are hereby authorized to take all actions necessary to carry out the intent and purpose of this Resolution, including conducting open and public meetings in accordance with Government Code section 54953(e)(2) and other applicable provisions of the Brown Act.

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing resolution was PASSED and ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Capitola on the 9th day of February, 2023, by the following vote:

AYES:
NOES:
ABSENT:
ABSTAIN:

Margaux Keiser, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Julia Moss, City Clerk