



County of Yolo

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- Financial Leadership
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- Financial Systems Oversight
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- Internal Audit
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Date: May 6, 2022

To: Debt Committee

From: Tom Haynes, Interim Chief Financial Officer

Re: Authorize Continued Remote Meetings

Recommended Action

Authorize remote (teleconference/videoconference) meetings by finding, pursuant to Assembly Bill 361, that (a) the COVID-19 pandemic state of emergency is ongoing, and (b) meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees.

Reason for Recommended Action/Background

The recommended action is required by Assembly Bill (AB) 361 to continue meeting remotely during a declared state of emergency. The Debt Committee has been meeting remotely pursuant to AB 361 since October 1, 2021, and before that under the Governor's emergency order. AB 361 amended the Brown Act to add simplified procedures that make it easier to hold remote meetings during a state of emergency proclaimed by the Governor, as per Government Code Section 54953(e) (a local emergency insufficient). To meet remotely during a proclaimed emergency, the legislative body must find either of the following circumstances is present: (a) state or local officials continue to impose or recommend measures to promote social distancing; or (b) as a result of the declared emergency, the legislative body finds by majority vote that meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees.

The Debt Committee has previously relied on the social distancing recommendations of the County Health Officer in adopting AB 361 finding. However, as in many other counties, the Yolo County Public Health Officer is no longer recommending social distancing, so the Debt Committee must therefore consider the "imminent risks" finding to continue meeting remotely. Staff believe the "imminent risks" finding is justified based on the following:

- As of April 22, 2022, the County Health Officer reported that community transmission of COVID-19 was increasing with a case rate of 7.1 per 100,000, up from 4.1 per 100,000 the week prior.
- Public meeting spaces in County buildings were not designed to ensure attendees can remain the necessary six feet apart to reduce the possibility of infection with the SARS-CoV-2 virus that causes COVID-19.
- Holding in-person meetings encourages community members to come to County facilities to participate in local government, and some members of the public or members of the Debt Committee may be at high risk for serious illness from COVID-19, or live with someone who is high risk.

Based on the factors above, staff believes that the Debt Committee can appropriately make the findings necessary to allow remote meetings pursuant to AB 361.