



City of Needles, California Request for City Council Action

CITY COUNCIL NPUA

Regular Special

Meeting Date: November 9, 2021

Title: California Assembly Bill 361; Brown Act--Abbreviated Teleconferencing Procedures

Background: On October 12, 2021, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 2021-61 proclaiming a local emergency, ratifying the proclamation of a State of Emergency by Executive Order N-09-21, and authorizing remote teleconference meetings of the legislative bodies of the City of Needles for the period of October 13, 2021 – November 12, 2021 pursuant to provisions of the Ralph M. Brown Act.

The primary purpose of California Assembly Bill 361 (Rivas) is to allow for California public agencies to continue holding public meetings remotely, using abbreviated teleconferencing procedures, during the COVID-19 state of emergency.

Pursuant to AB 361, if the state of emergency remains active, or state or local officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing, **in order to continue to teleconference using the abbreviated teleconferencing procedures, the local legislative bodies shall, not later than 30 days after teleconferencing for the first time under AB 361, and every 30 days thereafter, make the following findings by majority vote:**

- (A) The legislative body has reconsidered the circumstances of the state of emergency.
- (B) Any of the following circumstances exist:
 - (i) The state of emergency continues to directly impact the ability of the members to meet safely in person.
 - (ii) State or local officials continue to impose or recommend measures to promote social distancing.

Fiscal Impact: N/A

Recommended Action: Resolution No. 2021-64 proclaiming a local emergency, ratifying the proclamation of a State of Emergency by Executive Order N-09-21, and authorizing remote teleconference meetings of the legislative bodies of the City of Needles for the period of November 13, 2021 – December 13, 2021, pursuant to provisions of the Ralph M. Brown Act

Submitted By: City Clerk

City Management Review: Rice

Date: 11/3/21

Approved: <input type="checkbox"/>	Not Approved: <input type="checkbox"/>	Tabled: <input type="checkbox"/>	Other: <input type="checkbox"/>
			Agenda Item: <u>6</u>

RESOLUTION 2021-64

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEEDLES,
CALIFORNIA, PROCLAIMING A LOCAL EMERGENCY PERSISTS, RE-RATIFYING
THE PROCLAMATION OF A STATE OF EMERGENCY BY EXECUTIVE ORDER N-
09-21, AND RE-AUTHORIZING REMOTE TELECONFERENCE MEETINGS OF THE
LEGISLATIVE BODIES OF THE
CITY OF NEEDLES FOR THE PERIOD NOVEMBER 13, 2021 – DECEMBER 13, 2021,
PURSUANT TO PROVISIONS OF THE RALPH M. BROWN ACT**

WHEREAS, the City of Needles (the “City”) is committed to preserving and nurturing public access and participation in meetings of the City Council; and

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

WHEREAS, the Brown Act, Government Code section 54953(e), makes provisions 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 City’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 City Council previously adopted Resolution 2021-61 on October 12, 2021, finding that the requisite conditions exist for the legislative bodies of the City to conduct remote teleconference meetings without compliance with Government Code section 54953(b)(3); and

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

WHEREAS, emergency conditions persist in the City, specifically, on March 4, 2020, the Governor of the State of California proclaimed a State of Emergency to exist in California as a

result of the threat of COVID-19; despite sustained efforts the virus continues to spread and is impacting nearly all sectors of California; and

WHEREAS, on June 9, 2021, the California Department of Public Health issued updated public health directives related to physical distancing and face coverings effective June 15, 2021, based on guidelines issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; and

WHEREAS, the San Bernardino County Department of Health has recommended measures to promote social distancing. The current state and federal masking guidance recommend that vaccinated individuals wear face masks in public indoor settings. The state still requires unvaccinated individuals to wear masks indoors; and

WHEREAS, the City Council does hereby find that the ongoing risk posed by the highly transmissible COVID-19 virus will continue to cause conditions of peril to the safety of persons within the City which are likely to be beyond the control of services, personnel, equipment, and facilities of the City, and the City Council desires to proclaim a local emergency and 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 City Council does hereby find that the legislative bodies of the City shall continue to conduct their meetings without compliance with Government Code section 54953(b)(3), as authorized by Government Code section 54953(e), and that such legislative bodies shall continue to comply with the requirements to provide the public with access to the meetings as prescribed in Government Code section 54953(e)(2); and

WHEREAS, all meeting agendas stating meeting dates, times and the manner in which the public may attend and offer public comment by call-in option or internet-based service option shall be posted, at a minimum, on the City's website and at the City's main office.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE COACHELLA VALLEY MOSQUITO AND VECTOR CONTROL CITY 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 City Council hereby considers the conditions of the state of emergency in the City and proclaims that a local emergency persists throughout the City, and the ongoing risk posed by the highly transmissible COVID-19 virus has caused, and will continue to cause, conditions of peril to the safety of persons within the City; furthermore, the guidance of San Bernardino County Department of Health recommends physical distancing.

Section 3. Re-ratification of Governor's Proclamation of a State of Emergency.

The City Council hereby ratifies the Governor of the State of California's Proclamation of State of Emergency, effective as of its issuance date of March 4, 2020.

Section 4. Remote Teleconference Meetings.

The Mayor, the City Manager, and legislative bodies of the City are hereby authorized and directed 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) and other applicable provisions of the Brown Act.

Section 5. Effective Date.

This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption and shall be effective until the earlier of (i) December 13, 2021, or such time the City Council adopts a subsequent resolution in accordance with Government Code section 54953(e)(3) to extend the time during which the legislative bodies of the City may continue to teleconference without compliance with Government Code section 54953(b)(3).

Section 6. Certification.

The Clerk of the City Council shall certify as to the adoption of this Resolution and shall cause the same to be processed in the manner required by law.

PASSED, ADOPTED, AND APPROVED, this 9th day of November 2021, by the following vote:

AYES:
NOES:
ABSENT:
ABSTAIN:

Jeff Williams, Mayor

ATTEST:

Dale Jones, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

John O. Pinkney, City Attorney