

RESOLUTION NO.

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ARROYO GRANDE AUTHORIZING THE CONTINUANCE OF REMOTE TELECONFERENCE MEETINGS OF THE LEGISLATIVE BODIES OF THE CITY OF ARROYO GRANDE PURSUANT GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54953(e)**

**WHEREAS**, on March 4, 2020 Governor Newsom declared a State of Emergency in the State of California pursuant to Government Code Section 8625 as a result of the threat of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, subsequently, in March 2020, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Governor Newsom issued Executive Orders N-25-20 and N-29-20. These orders suspended certain elements of the Brown Act and specifically allowed for legislative bodies as defined by the Brown Act to hold their meetings entirely electronically with no physical meeting place. On June 11, 2021, Governor Newsom issued Executive Order N-08-21 which provided that the provisions in Executive Order N-29-20 suspending certain elements of the Brown Act would continue to apply through September 30, 2021; and

**WHEREAS**, on September 16, 2021 Governor Newsom signed AB 361, which added subsection (e) to Government Code section 54953 of the Brown Act, and 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 of AB 361 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**, in addition to the Governor's proclamation of a State of Emergency, on March 16, 2020 the former City Manager, in his capacity as the Director of Emergency Services, proclaimed a local State of Emergency as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic. The City Council ratified the proclamation at its regular meeting on March 24, 2020, and has continued to make determinations since that time that a local State of Emergency continues to exist in Arroyo Grande as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council has adopted a Resolution making findings in accordance with AB 361 and Government Code Section 54953(e) authorizing remote teleconference meetings on September 28, October 26, November 23, December 14, 2021, and January 25, 2022; and

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**WHEREAS**, COVID-19 cases in San Luis Obispo County continue to be a threat to public health. Evidence clearly indicates that the Omicron variant is far more transmissible than prior variants of the virus and that even fully vaccinated individuals can spread the virus to others; 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**, the City Council now desires to adopt a Resolution finding that the requisite conditions exist for the legislative bodies of the City of Arroyo Grande, as defined in the Brown Act, to conduct remote teleconference meetings without compliance with paragraph (3) of subdivision (b) of Government Code section 54953.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the City Council of the City of Arroyo Grande as follows:

1. The above recitals are true, correct and are incorporated herein by this reference.
2. In accordance with the requirements of Government Code Section 54953(e)(3), the City Council of the City of Arroyo Grande hereby finds and determines that it has reconsidered the circumstances of the State of Emergency and that the State of Emergency continues to exist and to directly impact the ability to meet safely in person due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and its continued spread in San Luis Obispo County and Arroyo Grande through the Omicron variant of SARS-CoV-2, which is far more transmissible than prior variants of the virus, and can be spread to others even by fully vaccinated individuals, and therefore holding meetings in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees.
3. The City Manager and legislative bodies of the City of Arroyo Grande 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 remote teleconferencing meetings in accordance with the requirements of Government Code section 54953(e) and other applicable provisions of the Brown Act.
4. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption and shall be effective for thirty (30) days after its adoption, subject to being extended for an additional 30 day period by the City Council's adoption of a subsequent resolution in accordance with Government Code section 54953(e)(3) to further extend the time during which the legislative bodies of the City of Arroyo may continue to teleconference without compliance with paragraph (3) of subdivision (b) of Government Code section 54953.

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On motion of Council Member \_\_\_\_\_, seconded by Council Member \_\_\_\_\_, and by the following roll call vote, to wit:

**AYES:**

**NOES:**

**ABSENT:**

The foregoing Resolution was approved this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of February, 2022.

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**CAREN RAY RUSSOM, MAYOR**

**ATTEST:**

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**JESSICA MATSON, CITY CLERK**

**APPROVED AS TO CONTENT:**

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**WHITNEY MCDONALD, CITY MANAGER**

**APPROVED AS TO FORM:**

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**TIMOTHY J. CARMEL, CITY ATTORNEY**