



**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** December 10, 2021

**TO:** Governing Board  
San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority

**FROM:** Amy Hutzal, Acting Executive Officer  
San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority

**SUBJECT: Resolution Authorizing Continued Remote Meetings during the COVID-19 State of Emergency**

Staff recommends that the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority adopt Resolution 84 authorizing the Governing Board, Oversight Committee, and Advisory Committee to meet remotely for an additional thirty days.

The Brown Act was recently amended to permit a local agency to continue to meet remotely during the COVID-19 State of Emergency if the agency makes a finding every thirty days that “the state of emergency continues to directly impact the ability of the members to meet safely in person.” Gov’t Code § 54953(e)(3). The Authority adopted a resolution on November 15, 2021, making the required finding and authorizing the Governing Board, Oversight Committee, and Advisory Committee to meet remotely for thirty days. A further resolution is required to extend this authorization for another thirty days.

Remote meetings are warranted because in-person meetings during the ongoing COVID-19 State of Emergency would present a significant safety risk to the members of the Board and Committees and to members of the public who may attend in-person meetings. Specifically:

- Public health officials have recently raised concerns about waning immunity among vaccinated members of the public, Catherine Ho, Behind California’s new tune on COVID boosters: fear of waning immunity and a winter surge, *San Francisco Chronicle* (Nov. 12, 2021);
- COVID-19 infection rates have begun to increase in California, and public health officials predict that there will be a surge in infections over the winter holiday season, Stefanie Dazio & Don Thompson, California prepares for possible winter pandemic surge, *San Francisco Chronicle* (Nov. 10, 2021); and
- Governor Newsom recently signed an Executive Order extending the COVID-19 State of Emergency until March 31, 2022, noting “the potential beginning of a new surge in COVID-19 cases,” Executive Order N-21-21.

**Recommendation**

Staff recommends that the Authority adopt Resolution 84 authorizing the Governing Board, Oversight Committee, and Advisory Committee to meet remotely for an additional thirty days.