



MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 28, 2022

TO: Governing Board
San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority

FROM: Amy Hutzal, 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 93 authorizing the Governing Board, Oversight Committee, and Advisory Committee to continue to meet remotely as permitted by the Ralph M. Brown Act (Brown Act).

The Brown Act permits a local agency to continue to meet remotely during the COVID-19 State of Emergency if the agency makes a finding 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 resolutions on November 15, 2021, December 10, 2021, January 26, 2022, and February 25, 2022, making the required finding and authorizing the Governing Board, Oversight Committee, and Advisory Committee to continue to meet remotely. A further resolution is required to extend this authorization.

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:

- Certain members of the Governing Board, Oversight Committee, and Advisory Committee belong to demographic groups that are at a high risk of severe COVID-19 illness;
- Although infection rates have dropped significantly since the height of the recent omicron wave, public health authorities continue to report hundreds of new cases in the Bay Area every day; and
- Recent experience with the delta and omicron variants suggests that a new COVID-19 variant could emerge in the near future, causing another spike in infection rates.

Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Authority adopt Resolution 93 authorizing the Governing Board, Oversight Committee, and Advisory Committee to continue to meet remotely as authorized by the Brown Act.