



**HUMBOLDT COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS**  
**Regional Transportation Planning Agency**  
**Humboldt County Local Transportation Authority**  
**Service Authority for Freeway Emergencies**  
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**AGENDA ITEM 8**  
HCAOG Board Meeting  
April 7, 2022

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DATE: March 23, 2022  
TO: Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)  
FROM: Beth Burks, Executive Director  
SUBJECT: **Discussion of Resuming In-Person Meetings**

### **STAFF REPORT**

#### **Contents:**

- Staff's Recommended Action
- Staff Summary

#### **Staff's Recommended Action:**

Discuss item and provide direction to staff about returning to in-person meetings.

#### **Staff Summary:**

Starting in April 2020 the HCAOG Board has met virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Originally, this was possible through Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-29-20, which suspended certain Brown Act requirements (Government Code Section 54953(b)(3)).

Prior to the expiration of Executive Order N-29-20 Assembly Bill 361 was signed into law. AB 361 authorizes a local agency to use teleconferencing without complying with the teleconferencing requirements imposed by the Brown Act when a legislative body of a local agency holds a meeting during a declared state of emergency, and when state or local health officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing, or during a declared state of emergency where the agency finds meeting in person would present imminent risk to the health or safety of attendees. This allowance is effective until January 1, 2024.

AB 361 requires a legislative body to make specified findings no later than 30 days after the first teleconferenced meeting pursuant to AB 361, and to make those findings every 30 days thereafter in order to continue to meet under these abbreviated teleconferencing procedures. The HCAOG Board has complied with this by adopting Resolution 21-24 (October 21, 2021), and every month thereafter voted to make the required findings.

With the end of State and County masking mandates and easing of restrictions regarding indoor gatherings, it is possible for the HCAOG Board to resume in person meetings. Continuing purely virtual meetings is also possible because there is still as statewide state of emergency declared and COVID precautions are still recommended.

Based on prior feedback from the Board, Staff recommends that the Board begin conducting hybrid meetings in the City of Eureka Council Chambers and continue to consider making the findings required under AB 361 each month. This approach offers maximum flexibility. It allows for Board members to participate in person or remotely if they need to. Similarly, the public would be able to participate in person or virtually. Making the AB 361 findings each month would also allow the Technical Advisory Committee and Social Service Technical Advisory Council to determine if it is best to meet in person or virtually, based on the needs of their membership.