

RESOLUTION NO. 2021921:

AB 361-Brown Act: Remote Meetings During a State of Emergency

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE MEINERS OAKS WATER DISTRICT PROCLAIMING A LOCAL EMERGENCY, RATIFYING THE PROCLAMATION OF A STATE OF EMERGENCY BY CA EXECUTIVE ORDER N-29-20 MARCH 2020, AND AUTHORIZING REMOTE TELECONFERENCE MEETINGS OF THE LEGISLATIVE BODIES OF MEINERS OAKS WATER DISTRICT FOR THE PERIOD SEPTEMBER 22, 2021 – OCTOBER 22, 2021 PURSUANT TO BROWN ACT PROVISIONS.

WHEREAS, the MEINERS OAKS WATER DISTRICT is committed to preserving and nurturing public access and participation in meetings of the Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS, all meetings of MEINERS OAKS WATER DISTRICT's legislative bodies are open and public, as required by the Ralph M. Brown Act (Cal. Gov. Code 54950 – 54963), so that any member of the public may attend, participate, and watch the District'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 District'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, such conditions now exist in the District, specifically, March 4, 2020 CA Governor 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, the Ventura County Public Health Officer issued order August 20, 2021 regarding the highly transmissible Delta Variant, recommends vaccinated and unvaccinated persons to mask and social distance through October 19, 2021, or until its extended, rescinded, superseded, or amended by the Health Officer; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors 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 District that are likely to be beyond the control of services, personnel, equipment, and

facilities of the District, and 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, the Board of Directors does hereby find that the legislative bodies of MEINERS OAKS WATER DISTRICT shall conduct their meetings without compliance with paragraph (3) of subdivision (b) of Government Code section 54953, as authorized by subdivision (e) of section 54953, and that such legislative bodies shall comply with the requirements to provide the public with access to the meetings as prescribed in paragraph (2) of subdivision (e) of section 54953; and

WHEREAS, all meeting agendas, meeting dates, times and manner in which the public may attend the meeting and offer public comment by call-in option or internet-based service option, are posted at a minimum, on the District website and physically outside the District Office.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF MEINERS OAKS WATER DISTRICT 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. Proclamation of Local Emergency. The Board hereby proclaims that a local emergency now exists throughout the District, and the ongoing risk posed by the highly transmissible COVID-19 virus, and, Ventura County Public Health orders for social distancing has caused, and will continue to cause, conditions of peril to the safety of persons within the District.

Section 3. Ratification of Governor's Proclamation of a State of Emergency. The Board 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 General Manager, Board Secretary and legislative bodies of MEINERS OAKS WATER DISTRICT 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 of Resolution. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption and shall be effective until the earlier of October 19, 2021, or such time the Board of Directors adopts a subsequent resolution in accordance with Government Code section 54953(e)(3) to extend the time during which the legislative bodies of MEINERS OAKS WATER DISTRICT may continue to teleconference without compliance with paragraph (3) of subdivision (b) of section 54953.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of MEINERS OAKS WATER DISTRICT, this 21 day of SEPTEMBER, 2021, by the following vote:

AYES: 5
NOES: 0
ABSENT: 0
ABSTAIN: 0