



Item #: 8

Project: Discussion/Action/Direction regarding Zoom Meetings

Meeting Date: Thursday December 14, 2023

Meeting Time: 08:30 a.m.

Location: El Centro City Council Chambers
1275 W. Main Street
El Centro, CA 92243



Executive Officer's Report

To: Commissioners
Maria Nava-Froelich, Chair (City)
Javier Moreno, Vice-Chair (City)
Michael W. Kelley (County)
Ryan E. Kelley (County)
David H. West (Public)

Alternate Commissioners
Robert Amparano (City)
Jesus E. Escobar (County)
Jose Landeros (Public)

From: Jurg Heuberger, Executive Officer
Paula Graf, Assistant Executive Officer

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Recommendation by the Executive Officer

- Recommendation #1:** Discontinue using Zoom for Commission Meetings effective January 1, 2024, as recommended by the Executive Officer.
- Recommendation #2:** Discontinue using Zoom for Commission Meetings as directed by the Commission.
- Recommendation #3:** Continue using Zoom as directed by the Commission and direct the Executive Officer to draft a Policy to be presented at the next meeting.

Report

Discussion:

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Governor Newsom issued Executive Orders lifting several requirements to allow agencies to hold public meetings while complying with shelter-in-place orders and social distancing recommendations.

In September 2021, the Governor signed AB 361, which incorporated those Executive Orders into the Brown Act.

Under AB 361, an agency could hold fully remote or hybrid teleconference meetings without meeting the access and notice requirements listed above, provided that: first, the Governor has declared a state of emergency, and second, either state or local officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing; or the legislative body finds that meeting in person would present imminent risks to health or safety of attendees.

Imperial LAFCO started to hold its meetings using Zoom in response to COVID-19 and consistent with the Governor's Executive Orders allowing teleconferencing. This allowed the Commission and the public to participate remotely.

Conclusion:

The COVID-19 State of Emergency ended on February 28, 2023, and staff are requesting the Commission, effective January 1, 2024, to discontinue using Zoom to hold Commission meetings. The meetings will continue to be audio-recorded for record-keeping and are available to the public upon request.

Recommendation by the Executive Officer

Recommendation #1: Discontinue using Zoom for Commission Meetings effective January 1, 2024, as recommended by the Executive Officer.