

RESOLUTION NO. 21-19

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE RAINBOW MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT AUTHORIZING REMOTE TELECONFERENCE MEETINGS IN ACCORDANCE WITH ASSEMBLY BILL 361

WHEREAS, COVID-19 (also known as the “Coronavirus Disease”) is a respiratory disease that has spread across the globe, with thousands of confirmed cases in California; and

WHEREAS, according to data from Johns Hopkins University, the COVID-19 pandemic has caused the death of more than 68,796 Californians as of October 1, 2021; and

WHEREAS, social distancing measures decrease the chance of spreading COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the Rainbow Municipal Water District is committed to preserving and fostering public access, transparency, observation, and participation in meetings of the Board of Directors and Committee meetings; and

WHEREAS, all meetings of the Board of Directors and Standing Committees are open and public as required by the Ralph M. Brown Act, Government Code sections 54950 – 54963, so that any member of the public may attend, observe, and participate in a meaningful way; and

WHEREAS, Government Section 54953 (b) (3) of the Brown Act allows a local legislative body to hold public meetings by teleconference and to make public meetings accessible telephonically or otherwise electronically to all members of the public seeking to attend and to address the local legislative body, as long as the following requirements are met:

1. Each teleconference location from which a member is participating is noticed on the agenda;
2. Each teleconference location is accessible to the public;
3. Members of the public must be able to address the body at each teleconference location;
4. At least one member of the legislative body must be physically present at the location specified in the meeting agenda; and
5. During teleconference meetings, at least a quorum of the members of the local body must participate from locations within the local body’s territorial jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, the Brown Act, as amended by AB 361 (2021), at Government Code section 54953(e) *et seq.*, allows for remote observation and participation in meetings by members of a legislative body and members of the public without compliance with the requirements of Government Code section 54953(b)(3), subject to certain conditions; and

WHEREAS, the initial required condition is a declaration of a state of emergency by the Governor pursuant to the California Emergency Services Act at 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 and within the boundaries of the Rainbow Municipal Water District, caused by conditions as described in Government Code section 8558; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's Proclamation of a State of Emergency includes area within the boundaries of the Rainbow Municipal Water District; and

WHEREAS, Government Code Section 54953(e)(3)(A-B) added by AB 361 provides an alternative to having public meetings in accordance with Government Code Section 54953(b)(3) when the Rainbow Municipal Water District has reconsidered the circumstances of the COVID-19 state of emergency and that the following circumstances exist:

1. The state of emergency as a result of COVID-19 continues to directly impact the ability of the members of Board of Directors and the members of the Standing Committees to meet safely in person; and
2. The State of California and the County of San Diego continue to recommend measures to promote social distancing.

WHEREAS, Government Code Section 54953(e) *et seq.* further requires that state or local officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing or the legislative body finds that meeting in person would present an imminent risk to the health or safety of attendees; and

WHEREAS, such conditions now exist in the Rainbow Municipal Water District's territorial boundaries in that (i) State and Local officials recommend social distancing measures and (ii) emergency conditions evidenced by COVID-19 and its variants create ongoing COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations, and deaths, such that COVID-19 continues to pose an imminent risk to the public; and

WHEREAS, the Rainbow Municipal Water District affirms that it will allow for observation and participation by Board Members, Committee members and the public via Zoom in an effort to protect the constitutional and statutory rights of all attendees; and

WHEREAS, Government Code Section 54953 (e)(3) requires that the Rainbow Municipal Water District review the need and make findings for continuing the teleconferencing as authorized by AB 361 at least once every thirty days until the Governor terminates the state of emergency.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE RAINBOW MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT HEREBY FINDS, DECLARES, AND RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The above recitals are true and correct and are incorporated herein by this reference.

Section 2. The Rainbow Municipal Water District finds that the state of emergency conditions related to COVID-19 as set forth in the Governor's Proclamation of Emergency are on-going.

Section 3. The Rainbow Municipal Water District further finds that state and county officials recommend social distancing conditions to prevent imminent risk to in-person meeting attendees.

Section 4. The Rainbow Municipal Water District hereby recognizes and affirms the existence and conditions of a state of emergency as proclaimed by the Governor and by state and local officials; and the Rainbow Municipal Water District affirms, authorizes, and proclaims the existence of a local emergency throughout its territorial boundaries.

Section 5. The Rainbow Municipal Water District finds that the state of emergency as a result of COVID-19 continues to directly impact the ability of members of the Board, Committees and the public to meet safely in person, and that COVID-19 continues to pose an imminent health risk to the public.

Section 6. The Rainbow Municipal Water District hereby authorizes the Board of Directors and Committee members to conduct their meetings without compliance with Government Code section 54953(b)(3), and to instead comply with the remote meeting requirements as authorized by Government Code section 54953(e) *et seq.*

Section 7. The Board President and Board Secretary are authorized and directed to take all actions reasonably necessary to carry out the intent and purpose of this Resolution, including, conducting open and public meetings remotely in accordance with Government Code section 54953(e) *et seq.*, and other applicable provisions of the Brown Act, for all Board of Directors and Standing Committee meetings.


Section 8. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption and shall be effective until either (i) thirty days after the adoption of this Resolution, or (ii) such time as the Rainbow Municipal Water District adopts a Subsequent Resolution in accordance with Government Code section 54953(e)(3) to extend the time during which the Board of Directors and Standing Committees may continue to meet remotely, without compliance with Government Code section 54953(b)(3), but otherwise as permitted by Government Code section 54953(e) *et seq.*

PASSED AND ADOPTED at a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Rainbow Municipal Water District held on the 26th day of October 2021, by the following vote:

AYES: Directors Gasca, Hamilton, Mack, and Moss
NOES: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTENTIONS: None


Hayden Hamilton, Board President

ATTEST:


Dawn Washburn, Board Secretary