



The Monterey County Health Officer has recommended and continues to recommend social distancing measures for meetings of legislative bodies, so the Planning Commission was able to meet remotely the first time after September 30, 2021 and for thirty days thereafter. The Commission made the findings at its meetings on November 10, December 1, and December 15, 2021, and January 12, February 9, March 9 and 30, April 27, May 25, June 29, July 27, August 24, September 14, October 12, and November 9, 2022, and on January 11, 2023 to continue to meet remotely.

The Commission must make the findings at least every 30 days in order to keep meeting remotely, or hold a special meeting to make the findings before meeting remotely again. The Commission will consider the findings at its regular meeting on February 8, 2023.

AB 361 is only effective during a declared state of emergency where social distancing measures are required or recommended, such as the Governor's COVID-19 proclamation of emergency. The Governor has indicated he intends to terminate that proclamation at the end of February 2023, unless circumstances otherwise require. Accordingly, legislative bodies will no longer be able to rely on AB 361 to meet remotely. Effective January 1, 2023, however, new legislation, AB 2449, amending the Brown Act will take effect that addresses remote meetings of legislative bodies. AB 2449 is more restrictive on remote participation by legislative body members, so it is likely that a majority of the Commissioners will be back to meeting in person in March 2023.

This action is not a project under CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15378(b)(5) because it is an organizational activity of government that will not result in a direct or indirect physical change in the environment.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:

County Counsel prepared the report. HCD concurs in the recommendation to make the finding to continue to meet remotely and continue meeting via teleconference.

Prepared by: Kelly L. Donlon, Assistant County Counsel

cc: Front Counter Copy; The Open Monterey Project (Molly Erickson); LandWatch (Michael DeLapa);