



Item #: 11

Project: Discussion/Action/Adoption of a Policy regarding Zoom Meetings

Meeting Date: Thursday November 16, 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

COMMISSIONERS

David H. West [Public]
Maria Nava-Froelich, Chair [City]
Javier Moreno, Vice-Chair [City]
Ryan E. Kelley [County]
Michael W. Kelley [County]

ALTERNATES

Jose Landeros [Public]
Robert Amparano [City]
Jesus E. Escobar [County]

REPORT DATE: November 3, 2023
FROM: Jurg Heuberger, Executive Officer
Paula Graf, Assistant Executive Officer
PROJECT: Discussion/Action/Adoption of a Zoom Policy

HEARING DATE: November 16, 2023 **TIME:** 08:30 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM #: 11

HEARING LOCATION: El Centro City Council Chambers, 1275 Main St.,
El Centro, CA 92243

RECOMMENDATION(S) BY THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER (In Summary & Order)

- OPTION #1:** Discontinue using Zoom for Commission Meetings effective January 1, 2024, as recommended by the Executive Officer.
- OPTION #2:** Discontinue using Zoom for Commission Meetings as Directed by the Commission.
- OPTION #3:** Continue to use Zoom as directed by the Commission and direct the Executive Officer to draft a Policy to be presented at the next regular 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, in response to COVID-19 and consistent with the Governor's Executive Orders allowing teleconferencing, started to hold its meetings using Zoom. This allowed the Commission and the public to participate remotely.

Analysis

The COVID-19 State of Emergency ended on February 28, 2023, and staff are requesting the Commission, effective January 1, 2024, 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 Executive Officer

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