



RESOLUTION 2023-01

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE KENSINGTON FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT PROCLAIMING A LOCAL EMERGENCY PERSISTS, RE-RATIFYING THE PROCLAMATION OF A STATE OF EMERGENCY BY GOVERNOR NEWSOM ON MARCH 4, 2020, AND RE-AUTHORIZING REMOTE TELECONFERENCE MEETINGS OF THE LEGISLATIVE BODIES OF THE KENSINGTON FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 11, 2023 THRU FEBRUARY 10, 2023 PURSUANT TO BROWN ACT PROVISIONS.

WHEREAS, the Kensington Fire Protection District is committed to preserving and nurturing public access and participation in meetings of the Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS, all meetings of Kensington Fire Protection 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 provision 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, the Board of Directors previously adopted previous resolutions finding that the requisite conditions exist for the legislative bodies of Kensington Fire Protection District to conduct remote teleconference meetings without compliance with paragraph (3) of subdivision (b) of section 54953; and

WHEREAS, as a condition of extending the use of the provisions found in section 54953(e), the Board of Directors must reconsider the circumstances of the state of emergency that exists in the District, and the Board of Directors has done so; and

WHEREAS, emergency conditions persist in the District, specifically, on March 4, 2020, Governor Newsom proclaimed a State of Emergency under the California Emergency Services Act due to COVID-19, which is still in existence; and

WHEREAS, on August 2, 2021, the Contra Costa County Health Officer issued a Health Order requiring the wearing of face coverings in workplaces and public settings due to the rise of the SARS-CoV-2 Delta Variant, which is still in effect and has been amended due to the Omicron Variant; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors does hereby find that the State of Emergency due to COVID-19 still exists; that many persons who regularly attend Board meetings are over the age of 65 and therefore considered particularly vulnerable to COVID-19, which has caused, and 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 therefore desires to affirm a local emergency exists and re-ratify the proclamation of state of emergency by the Governor of the State of California and the recommendation of social distancing by the Contra Costa County Health Officer; and

WHEREAS, as a consequence of the local emergency persisting, the Board of Directors does hereby find that the legislative bodies of Kensington Fire Protection District shall continue to 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 continue to 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, the District provides in the public notices and agendas for all public meetings the online and telephone options for participation in public meetings, protecting the right of the public to address their local officials and to participate in public meetings, and posts this information on the District's website, including instructions on how to access the public meeting remotely.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the board of directors of Kensington Fire Protection 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. Affirmation that Local Emergency Persists. The Board of Directors hereby considers the conditions of the state of emergency in the District and proclaims that a local emergency persists throughout the District, and that many persons who regularly attend Board meetings are over the age of 65 and therefore considered particularly vulnerable to COVID-19, which has caused, and 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 therefore desires to affirm the recommendation of social distancing by the Contra Costa County Health Officer.

Section 3. Re-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 and legislative bodies of Kensington Fire Protection District are hereby authorized and directed to take all actions necessary to carry out the intent and purpose of this Resolution including, continuing to conduct 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 from January 11, 2023, and shall be effective until the earlier of (i) February 10, 2023, 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 Kensington Fire Protection District may continue to teleconference without compliance with paragraph (3) of subdivision (b) of section 54953.

The foregoing resolution was duly adopted at a special meeting of the Kensington Fire Protection District on the 11th day of January 2023 by the following vote of the Board.

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

Julie Stein, President

Larry Nagel, Secretary