



RESOLUTION 21-08

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE KENSINGTON FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT MAKING FINDINGS AND DETERMINING A NEED TO CONTINUE HOLDING REMOTE MEETINGS BY TELECONFERENCE

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

WHEREAS, all meetings of the District’s Board 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 Board conduct its business; and

WHEREAS, Government Code section 54953(e) of the Brown Act, allows a legislative body to hold a teleconference meeting, without compliance with the requirements of Government Code section 54953(b)(3), subject to the existence of certain conditions; and

WHEREAS, in order to meet by teleconference under Government Code section 54953(e), the Governor must have proclaimed a state of emergency under the California Emergency Services Act (Govt. Code § 8625 et. seq.); the legislative body must reconsider the circumstances of the state of emergency; and the legislative body must find that the state of emergency continues to directly impact the ability of the members to meet safely in person and/or state or local officials continue to impose or recommend measures to promote social distancing; and

WHEREAS, On March 4, 2020, Governor Newsom proclaimed a State of Emergency declared by Governor Newsom 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

WHEREAS, many persons who regularly attend Board meetings are over the age of 65 and therefore considered particularly vulnerable to COVID-19; 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 has reconsidered the circumstances of the state of emergency; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board finds that State or local officials continue to impose or recommend measures to promote social distancing and that State of Emergency declared by Governor Newsom on March 4, 2020, continues to directly impact the ability of Board members, staff, and the public to meet safely in person; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board finds that because of the aforesaid declared State of Emergency, meeting in person would present an imminent risk to the health or safety of meeting attendees; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board authorizes and directs the General Manager to place on the Board's agenda, at least once monthly, reconsideration of the State of Emergency to determine whether circumstances warrant continuing to meet by teleconference under Government Code section 54953(e)(3); and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board authorizes and directs the General Manager to take all actions necessary to carry out the intent and purpose of this Resolution including conducting open and public meetings in accordance with Government Code section 54953(e) and other applicable provisions of the Brown Act.

The foregoing resolution was duly adopted at a special meeting of the Kensington Fire Protection District on the 13th day of October 2021 by the following vote of the Board.

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

Larry Nagel, President

Janice Kosel, Secretary