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**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the
Mound Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (“Agency”)
Board of Directors (“Directors”) will hold a
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
at 11:30 A.M. on Thursday, January 6, 2022**

*This is a special meeting of the Board of Directors called in accordance with Government Code 54956.
Other than the listed agenda items, no other business will be considered by the Board of Directors.*

To participate in the Board of Directors Special Board Meeting via Zoom, please access:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9997307537?pwd=dVg5WmFtTWRKRkt1dVpaaWZreDFjUT09>

Meeting ID: 999 730 7537 | Passcode: 20210106

To call into the meeting (audio only), call: (877) 853-5247 (US Toll-free)

Meeting ID: 999 730 7537

**MOUND BASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS SPECIAL BOARD MEETING AGENDA**

CALL TO ORDER 11:30 A.M.

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

2. ROLL CALL

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ITEMS NOT APPEARING ON THE AGENDA

In accordance with Government Code §54954.3; every notice for a special meeting shall provide an opportunity for members of the public to directly address the Board concerning any item that has been described in the notice for the meeting before or during consideration of that item. All comments are subject to a five-minute time limit.

4. MOTION ITEM

- 4a. Citing Mound Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency’s Resolution 2021-02 (adopted October 21, 2021), Subsequent Findings that the Governor’s Proclamation of a State of Emergency on March 4, 2020 relating to the COVID-19 virus remains in effect and the State of Emergency continues to directly impact the ability of the members to meet safely in person, and Authorizing remote teleconference meetings of the legislative bodies of Mound Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency for the period of January 6, 2022, through February 5, 2022, pursuant to Brown Act provisions**
Motion

The Board will, as provided in Resolution 2021-02, make the findings that the requisite conditions continue to exist for remote teleconference meetings of the Board of Directors without compliance with Government Code section 54953(b)(3), as authorized by Government Code section 54953(e), specifically (1) that the Governor’s proclaimed State of Emergency as a result of the threat of COVID-19 remains in effect and (2) the state of emergency continues to directly impact the ability of the members to meet safely in person.



Motion Item No. 4(a)

DATE: January 5, 2022

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Agency Counsel

SUBJECT: Citing Mound Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency’s Resolution 2021-02 (adopted October 21, 2021), Subsequent Findings that the Governor’s Proclamation of a State of Emergency on March 4, 2020 relating to the COVID-19 virus remains in effect and the State of Emergency continues to directly impact the ability of the members to meet safely in person, and Authorizing remote teleconference meetings of the legislative bodies of Mound Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency for the period of January 6, 2022, through February 5, 2022, pursuant to Brown Act provisions
Motion

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

As provided in Resolution 2021-02, make the findings that the requisite conditions continue to exist for remote teleconference meetings of the Board of Directors without compliance with Government Code section 54953(b)(3), as authorized by Government Code section 54953(e), specifically (1) that the Governor’s proclaimed State of Emergency as a result of the threat of COVID-19 remains in effect and (2) the state of emergency continues to directly impact the ability of the members to meet safely in person.

BACKGROUND:

Starting in March 2020, amid rising concern surrounding the spread of COVID-19 throughout communities in the state, California Governor Gavin Newsom issued a series of Executive Orders aimed at containing the novel coronavirus. These Executive Orders (N-25-20, N-29-20, N-35-20) collectively modified certain requirements created by the Ralph M. Brown Act (“the Brown Act”), the state’s local agency public meetings law.

On June 11, 2021, the Governor issued Executive Order N-08-21 which rescinds the aforementioned modifications made to the Brown Act, effective September 30, 2021. After that date, local agencies are required to observe all the usual Brown Act requirements status quo ante (as they existed prior to the issuance of the orders). Local agencies must once again ensure that the public is provided with access to a physical location from which they may observe a public meeting and offer public comment. Local agencies must also resume publication of the location of teleconferencing board members, post meeting notices and agendas in those locations, and make those locations available to the public in order to observe a meeting and provide public comment.

On September 16, the Governor signed AB 361 into law, effective immediately, which extends the flexibilities provided in the Governor’s prior executive order to local and state bodies to hold public meetings remotely beyond the executive order’s September 30, 2021, expiration date.

On September 20, the Governor signed an executive order (N-15-21) waiving the application of AB 361 until October 1, 2021, when the provisions of prior Executive Orders that established certain requirements for public agencies to meet remotely during the COVID-19 emergency will expire. The September 20 order makes clear that, until September 30, local agencies may conduct open and public remote meetings relying on the authority provided under prior Executive Orders (rather than AB 361). The revised Order also explicitly permits a local agency to meet pursuant to the procedures provided in AB 361 before October 1, so long as the meeting is conducted in accordance with the requirements of AB 361.

All local agencies are being asked to be aware that they may not conduct remote teleconference meetings pursuant to the authority in the Governor’s prior Executive Orders beyond September 30; after that date, all meetings subject to the Brown Act must comply with standard teleconference requirements (as they existed “pre-pandemic”) OR must comply with the newly enacted provisions of AB 361. The adoption of Resolution 2021-02 on October 21, 2021 provides the Agency with compliance as it relates to the newly enacted provisions of AB 361.

FISCAL SUMMARY:

There is no fiscal impact related to the approval of this motion.

ATTACHMENT: **Resolution 2021-02, adopted October 21, 2021**

Action: _____
Motion: _____ 2 nd : _____
J.Chambers: _____ C.Everts: _____ M.Mobley: _____ S.Rungren: _____ G.Shephard: _____

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MOUND BASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

RESOLUTION 2021-02

**A RESOLUTION OF THE MOUND BASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY
AGENCY AUTHORIZING THE REVISED USE OF TELECONFERENCING
FOR PUBLIC MEETINGS**

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE MOUND BASIN
GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY** as follows:

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of California (“Governor”) proclaimed a State of Emergency to exist as a result of the threat of COVID-19. (Governor’s Proclamation of a State of Emergency (Mar. 4, 2020).)

WHEREAS, the Governor’s Exec. Order No. N-25-20 (Mar. 12, 2020); Governor’s Exec. Order No. N-29-20 (Mar. 17, 2020); and Governor’s Exec. Order No. N-08-21 (Jun. 11, 2021) provided that local legislative bodies may hold public meetings via teleconferencing and make public meetings accessible telephonically or otherwise electronically to all members of the public seeking to observe and to address the local legislative body and waived the Brown Act provisions found in Govt. Code section 54953(b)(3) which require the physical presence of the members, the clerk, or other personnel of the body, or the public, as a condition of participation in, or quorum for, a public meeting, including:

- a) The requirement that state and local bodies notice each teleconference location from which a member will be participating in a public meeting.
- b) The requirement that each teleconference location be accessible to the public.
- c) The requirement that members of the public may address the body at each teleconference location.
- d) The requirement that state and local bodies post agendas at all teleconference locations.
- e) The requirement that, during teleconference meetings, at least a quorum of the members of the local body participate from locations within the boundaries of the territory over which the local body exercises jurisdiction.

WHEREAS, the provisions of Governor’s Exec. Order No. N-25-20 (Mar. 12, 2020); Governor’s Exec. Order No. N-29-20 (Mar. 17, 2020); and Governor’s Exec. Order No. N-08-21 (Jun. 11, 2021) expired on September 30, 2021 and will no longer remain in effect thereafter;

WHEREAS, the Center for Disease Control is currently contending with the Delta Variant of the COVID-19 virus and anticipates the development of potential other strains which may further impede public agency operations and prolong the need for social distancing requirements;

AND WHEREAS, recent legislation (A.B. 361) authorizes a local legislative body to use teleconferencing for a public meeting without complying with the Brown Act's teleconferencing quorum, meeting notice, and agenda requirements set forth in Government Code section 54953(b)(3), in any of the following circumstances:

- a) The legislative body holds a meeting during a proclaimed state of emergency, and state or local officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing.
- b) The legislative body holds a meeting during a proclaimed state of emergency for purposes of determining, by majority vote, whether as a result of the emergency, meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health and safety of attendees.
- c) The legislative body holds a meeting during a proclaimed state of emergency and has determined by majority vote pursuant to b) above that, as a result of the emergency, meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of the Mound Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency as follows:

Section 1. Incorporation of Recitals. All of the foregoing Recitals are true and correct and the Board so finds and determines. The Recitals set forth above are incorporated herein and made an operative part of this Resolution.

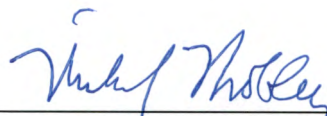
Section 2. Adoption of AB-361. The Board has determined by majority vote that, as a result of the emergency, meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees.

Section 3. Continued Implementation of AB-361. If the state of emergency remains active, or state or local officials have imposed measures to promote social distancing, the Board of Directors of the Mound Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency shall, in order to continue meeting subject to this exemption to the Brown Act, no later than 30 days after it commences using the exemption, and every 30 days thereafter, make the following findings by majority vote:

- a) The legislative body has reconsidered the circumstances of the state of emergency; *and*
- b) Either (1) the state of emergency continues to directly impact the ability of the members to meet safely in person; or (2) state or local officials continue to impose or recommend measures to promote social distancing.

[signature page follows]

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 21st day of October 2021.



Michael Mobley, Board Chair

ATTEST:



Bryan Bondy, Executive Director

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Joseph Hughes, Mound Basin Groundwater
Sustainability Agency General Counsel