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Consider finding, pursuant to AB 361 and in order for the Housing Advisory Committee to continue to meet remotely, that the COVID-19 pandemic state of emergency declared by Governor Newsom is still in effect; that the Housing Advisory Committee has reconsidered the circumstances of the state of emergency; and that the Monterey County Health Officer continues to recommend social distancing measures for meetings of legislative bodies.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Housing Advisory Committee find, pursuant to AB361, that the COVID-19 pandemic state of emergency declared by Governor Newsom is still in effect; the Housing Advisory Committee has reconsidered the circumstances of the state of emergency; and, the Monterey County Health Officer continues to recommend social distancing measures for meetings of the Housing Advisory Committee.

SUMMARY/DISCUSSION:

On September 16, 2021, Governor Newsom signed AB 361. This legislation amends the Brown Act to allow meeting bodies subject to the Brown Act to meet via teleconference during a proclaimed state of emergency in accordance with teleconference procedures established by AB 361 rather than under the Brown Act's more narrow standard rules for participation in a meeting by teleconference. AB 361 provides that if a state or local health official recommends social distancing, the Housing Advisory Committee may meet remotely after September 30, 2021, provided that within 30 days of the first meeting after September 30, and every 30 days thereafter, the Housing Advisory Committee finds 1) the Governor's proclaimed state of emergency is still in effect; 2) the Housing Advisory Committee has reconsidered the circumstances of the state of emergency, and 3) the Monterey County Health Officer continues to recommend social distancing measures for meetings of legislative bodies.

The Monterey County Health Officer has recommended social distancing measures for meetings of legislative bodies, so the Housing Advisory Committee was able to meet remotely the first time after September 30, 2021. To continue meeting, the Housing Advisory Committee must make the findings outlined above.

Accordingly, staff recommends making the appropriate findings. This action is required every 30 days to keep meeting remotely; a special meeting may be necessary for that purpose.

Prepared by: Anita Nachor Senior Secretary, (831) 755-5381

Approved by: Erik V. Lundquist, AICP, Director