



County of Monterey Military & Veterans Affairs Office



Meeting Minutes Military & Veterans Affairs Office (MVAO) VETERANS ISSUES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (VIAC) October 20th, 2022, Thursday, at 2:00 p.m.

<p>1. CALL TO ORDER/ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Call to Order: Sid Williams • Roll Call to Establish Quorum: Sid Williams 	<p><u>Committee Members Present:</u></p> <p>City of Seaside – Chair, Mayor Ian Oglesby Vice Chair – Dan Presser UVC – Mary Estrada UVC – John Gay UVC – Shane Strong MVAAC – Sid Williams City of Del Rey Oaks – Rick Johnson Veterans Families – Walan Chang</p>
<p>2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE</p>	<p>Led by: Chair, Mayor Ian Oglesby</p>
<p>3. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None received

4. BUSINESS ITEMS INFORMATION/ACTION
a. AB 361

<p>i. Consider the resolution presented on AB 361</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motion: Vice Chair, Dan Presser • Second: John Gay <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roll Call Vote: Unanimous – Ayes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Motion Carries
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Veterans Issues Advisory Committee of Monterey County
RESOLUTION OF THE VETERANS ISSUES ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF MONTEREY
FINDING THAT THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC STATE OF EMERGENCY DECLARED BY
GOVERNOR NEWSOM IS STILL IN EFFECT, HAS BEEN RECONSIDERED BY THE
THE COMMITTEE AND THE MONTEREY COUNTY HEALTH OFFICER CONTINUES TO
RECOMMEND SOCIAL DISTANCING MEASURES FOR MEETINGS OF LEGISLATIVE
BODIES

WHEREAS, on March 4, 2020, Governor Newsom issued a Proclamation of State of Emergency in response to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the proclaimed state of emergency remains in effect; and

WHEREAS, on March 17, 2020, Governor Newsom issued Executive Order N-29-20 that suspended the teleconferencing rules set forth in the California Open Meeting law, Government Code section 54950 et seq. (the "Brown Act"), provided certain requirements were met and followed; and

WHEREAS, on June 11, 2021, Governor Newsom issued Executive Order N-08-21 that clarified the suspension of the teleconferencing rules set forth in the Brown Act, and further provided that those provisions would remain suspended through September 30, 2021; and

WHEREAS, on September 16, 2021, Governor Newsom signed AB 361, which took effect immediately. AB 361 provides that a legislative body subject to the Brown Act may continue to meet using teleconferencing in accordance with the teleconference requirements of AB 361 instead of following the normal teleconferencing rules in the Brown Act, provided that the legislative body is meeting during the proclaimed state of emergency and the legislative body determines that meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees; and

WHEREAS, AB 361 further requires that every thirty (30) days after holding a first meeting via teleconference pursuant to AB 361, the legislative body reconsider the circumstances of the state of emergency and make certain findings in order to continue to meet via teleconference in accordance with the teleconference requirements of AB 361; and

WHEREAS, on September 20, 2021, Governor Newsom issued Executive Order N-15-21 that clarified that requirements related to public meetings of local legislative bodies set forth in Executive Order N-08-21 would continue to govern through September 30, 2021, so long as notice of the public meeting is provided and the public has the opportunity to observe and participate in the meeting as set forth in AB 361; and

WHEREAS, on September 22, 2021, the Monterey County Health Officer recommended social distancing measures for meetings of legislative bodies; and

WHEREAS, California Department of Public Health (“CDPH”) and the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”) caution that the Delta variant of COVID-19, Resolution re: AB 361 currently the dominant strain of COVID-19 in the country, is more transmissible than prior variants of the virus, may cause more severe illness, and that even fully vaccinated individuals can spread the virus to others resulting in rapid and alarming rates of COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/variants/delta-variant.html>); and

WHEREAS, other variants of COVID-19 exist, and it is unknown at this time whether other variants may result in a new surge in COVID-19 cases; and

WHEREAS, the CDC has established a “Community Transmission” metric with four tiers designed to reflect a community’s COVID-19 case rate and percent positivity; and

WHEREAS, due to the seriousness of the current pandemic situation, the CDPH has required that all unvaccinated persons wear facial coverings indoors, and the CDC and CDPH recommend that all persons, regardless of vaccination status, wear facial coverings indoors; and

WHEREAS, due to the seriousness of the current pandemic situation in the County of Monterey, the Monterey County Board of Supervisors adopted an indoor mask requirement for all persons regardless of vaccination status if certain criteria are met; and

WHEREAS, the Veterans Issues Advisory Committee of Monterey County (“Committee”) is a “legislative body” as defined by Government Code section 54952 of the Brown Act; and

WHEREAS, the Committee has been meeting via teleconference during the state of emergency in accordance with Executive Orders N-29-20 and N-08-21, including providing the opportunity for public observation and participation in Committee meetings; and

WHEREAS, the Committee has an important governmental interest in protecting the health, safety and welfare of those who participate in meetings of the Committee; and

WHEREAS, the Committee desires to continue to have the opportunity to meet via teleconference due to the imminent risks to the health and safety of attendees, with intent to periodically review this determination as required by AB 361; and

WHEREAS, this resolution is intended to enable the Committee to meet via teleconference during its September 22nd, 2022 meeting with such determination to be reconsidered thereafter in accordance with AB 361.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans Issues Advisory Committee of Monterey County as follows:

1. The recitals set forth above are true and correct.

2. The COVID-19 pandemic state of emergency declared by Governor Newsom is still in effect.
3. VIAC has reconsidered the circumstances of the state of emergency. Resolution re: AB 361
4. VIAC finds that the Monterey County Health Officer continues to recommend social distancing measures for meetings of the legislative bodies.
5. No later than thirty (30) days after VIAC holds its October 20th, 2022 meeting via teleconference pursuant to this resolution, the staff is directed to put an item on the Committee's agenda to reconsider the circumstances of the state of emergency and consider making the findings required by AB 361 in order to continue meeting via teleconference under its provisions.