County of Sonoma
State of California

Date: September 28, 2021

Item Number: _____

Resolution Number: _____

☐ 4/5 Vote Required

Concurrent Resolution of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Sonoma, Board of Directors of the Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District, Board of Directors of the Sonoma County Water Agency, Board of Commissioners of the Community Development Commission, and all Other Public Entities for which the Board of Supervisors Acts as the Board of Directors or Commissioners, the Sonoma Valley County Sanitation District (collectively referred to as "Board of Supervisors"), and on Behalf of Commissions and Committees Created by the Board of Supervisors Pursuant to Government Code Section 54952(b) Authorizing Teleconference Meetings in Compliance with AB 361 to Continue to Allow Members of the Public to Safely Participate in Local Government Meetings

Whereas, the Board of Supervisors is committed to ensuring public access to observe and participate in local government meetings; and

Whereas, all meetings of the Board of Supervisors and its other legislative bodies created pursuant to Government Code Section 54952(b) are open and public, as required by the Ralph M. Brown Act, so that any member of the public may participate in local government meetings; and

Whereas, the Brown Act, Government Code section 54953(e), makes provisions for remote teleconferencing participation in local government meetings, without compliance with the requirements 54953(b)(3), subject to the existence of certain conditions; and

Whereas, on March 4, 2020, Governor Newsom proclaimed a State of Emergency due to the outbreak of respiratory illness due to a novel coronavirus (a disease now known as COVID-

19) and that State of Emergency is still in effect in the State of California; and

Whereas, the Sonoma County Public Health Officer continues to recommend teleconferencing or social distancing during public meetings of all legislative bodies to protect the community's health against the spread of COVID-19; and

Whereas, the Board of Supervisors, acting as a legislative body pursuant to Government Code section 54952(a) and for the benefit of the commissions, committees and other bodies that were created by the Board of Supervisors pursuant to Government Code section 54952(b) (collectively referred to as "Legislative Bodies"), finds that the current conditions meet the circumstances set forth in Government Code section 54953(e)(3) to allow Legislative Bodies to continue to use teleconferencing to hold open and public meetings if the Legislative Bodies comply with the requirements set forth in Government Code section 54953(e)(2) to ensure the public can safely participate in and observe local government meetings.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved:

Section 1. Recitals. The Recitals set forth above are true and correct and are incorporated into this Resolution by this reference.

Section 2. Current Conditions Authorize Teleconference Public Meetings of Legislative Bodies. Based on the California Governor's continued declaration of a State of Emergency and the Sonoma County Public Health Officer's recommendation to continue teleconferencing or social distancing during public meetings, the Board of Supervisors finds that the conditions continue to exist pursuant to Government Code section 54953(e)(3) to allow Legislative Bodies to use teleconferencing to hold public meetings in accordance with Government Code section 54953(e)(2) to ensure members of the public have continued access to safely observe and participate in local government meetings.

Section 3. Authorize Legislative Bodies to Conduct Teleconference Meetings.   The Legislative Bodies are hereby authorized 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)(2) and other applicable provisions of the Brown Act.

Section 4. <u>Effective Date of Resolution</u>. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

Supervisors:

Gorin: Rabbitt: Coursey: Gore: Hopkins:

  Ayes: Noes: Absent: Abstain:

So Ordered.