



C I T Y O F H E R M O S A B E A C H
M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: September 14, 2021

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

FROM: Suja Lowenthal, City Manager

SUBJECT: 09/14/21 AGENDA, ITEM 14b - SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION FOR APPROVAL OF LETTER SUPPORTING ASSEMBLY BILL 361 (RIVAS, ROBERT): OPEN MEETINGS DURING DECLARED STATE OF EMERGENCY

On September 10, 2021, Assembly Bill 361 passed both the State Assembly and Senate with a two-thirds vote:

https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billVotesClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220AB361

The letter of support has been revised to address Governor Newsom to urge him to sign Assembly Bill 361 into law.



City of Hermosa Beach

Civic Center, 1315 Valley Drive, Hermosa Beach, CA 90254-3885

September 14, 2021

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
1303 10th Street, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: AB 361 (Rivas, Robert) Open Meetings. Local Agencies. Teleconferences.
Notice of SUPPORT (As amended on 9/3/2021)**

Dear Governor Newsom:

The City of Hermosa Beach is pleased to support AB 361, which would allow local agencies to meet remotely under modified Brown Act requirements during state of emergencies to continue to provide essential local services. Public access and participation remain a core value of local democracy, and the City of Hermosa Beach has risen to this challenge and are engaging and listening to the public in a new, digital environment.

The City of Hermosa Beach has incorporated technology to allow for operation of hybrid virtual/in-person meetings. Since holding virtual and hybrid meetings, attendance and participation at the City's public meetings has increased. AB 361 must be signed into law as a matter of urgency so that the City's Brown Act bodies can continue to provide essential services while prioritizing health and safety of our residents and ensuring government transparency, access, and public engagement.

Due to the increased spread of COVID-19 and the uncertainty that COVID-19 variants present, our city needs to retain the ability and flexibility to continue to conduct meetings in a safe manner. AB 361 would give our city the much-needed continued flexibility.

For these reasons, the City of Hermosa Beach supports AB 316.

Sincerely,

Justin Massey
Mayor of Hermosa Beach

cc: The Honorable Robert Rivas, California State Assembly Member, District 30
Jeff Kiernan, Cal Cities Regional Public Affairs Manager, jkiernan@calcities.org
League of California Cities, cityletters@calcities.org