

# CITY OF PALM DESERT STAFF REPORT

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MEETING DATE: October 27, 2022

PREPARED BY: Robert Hargreaves, City Attorney

REQUEST: MAKE FINDINGS TO SUPPORT THAT THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA CONTINUES IN A GOVERNOR-DECLARED STATE OF EMERGENCY AND THAT THE CITY MAY CONTINUE TO EMPLOY REMOTE TELECONFERENCING

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## **RECOMMENDATION:**

Find that the State of California continues in a Governor-declared state of emergency to combat the COVID epidemic, that state and local health officials are recommending social distancing, and consequently that the City Council and its other Brown-Act bodies may continue to employ remote teleconferencing under Government Code Section 54953(e).

## **BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS:**

AB 361 (Government Code Section 54953(e)) provides that a local agency may employ remote teleconferencing upon a finding by the governing board that certain circumstances exist, among those that there is a Governor-declared emergency and state or local officials are recommending social distancing. The City Council will need to make those findings each month in which it continues to implement remote teleconferencing.

The alternative is to revert to the preexisting Brown Act standards for teleconferencing which require that: (1) all teleconferencing locations be identified on the agenda; (2) agendas be posted at all teleconferencing locations; (3) all teleconferencing locations be open to the public; and (4) a majority of the City Council participate from locations within the City.

## **FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

There is no direct fiscal impact associated with this item.

## **REVIEWED BY:**

City Attorney:	<i>Robert W. Hargreaves, City Attorney</i>
City Manager:	<i>Todd Hileman, City Manager</i>

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