



**AGENDA  
REGULAR MEETING  
SAN BENITO COUNTY AIRPORT LAND USE COMMISSION**

**DATE:** Thursday, April 21, 2022  
4:00 P.M.

**LOCATION:** Via- Zoom

Attendance at the ALUC meeting is closed to the public per Executive Order N-29-30 and Assembly Bill 361 (AB 361). The public may join meeting by Zoom: <https://zoom.us/join> per the instructions provided at the end of the agenda:

**Meeting ID: 872-6280-9073**

**COMMISSIONERS:** Chair Ignacio Velazquez, Vice Chair Kollin Kosmicki  
Mary Vazquez Edge, Rolan Resendiz, and Peter Hernandez  
Alternates: San Benito County: Betsy Dirks;  
City of San Juan Bautista: Scott Freels; City of Hollister: Rick Perez

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*Persons who wish to address the Board of Directors must complete a Speaker Card and give it to the Clerk prior to addressing the Board. Those who wish to address the Board on an agenda item will be heard when the Chairperson calls for comments from the audience. Following recognition, persons desiring to speak are requested to advance to the podium and state their name and address. After hearing audience comments, the Public Comment portion of the agenda item will be closed. **The opportunity to address the Board of Director's on items of interest not appearing on the agenda will be provided during Section C. Public Comment.***

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**4:00 P.M. CALL TO ORDER:**

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**A. ACKNOWLEDGE** Certificate of Posting

**B. NOTICE OF TEMPORARY PROCEDURES FOR AIRPORT LAND USE COMMISSION MEETINGS**

(Please see Zoom instructions at the end of the agenda)

*Pursuant to California Governor Gavin Newsom's Executive Order N-29-20 issued on March 17, 2020, and Assembly Bill 361 (AB 361), relating to the convening of public meetings in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, attendance at the ALUC meeting is closed to the public. Additionally, members of the Airport Land Use Commission can attend the meeting via teleconference and to participate in the meeting to the same extent as if they were present.*

**C. PUBLIC COMMENT:** (Opportunity to address the Board on items of interest not appearing on the agenda. No action may be taken unless provided by Govt. Code Sec. 54954.2. **Speakers are limited to 3 minutes.**)

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

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*(These matters shall be considered as a whole and without discussion unless a particular item is removed from the Consent Agenda. Members of the public who wish to speak on a Consent Agenda item must submit a Speaker Card to the Clerk and wait for recognition from the Chairperson. Approval of a consent item means approval as recommended on the Staff Report.)*

1. **APPROVE** Airport Land Use Commission Draft Meeting Minutes Dated March 17, 2022 – Gomez

2. **ADOPT** Resolution 22-05 Authorizing Teleconferencing Options for the Airport Land Use Commission Meetings for the Period of April 23, 2022, through May 22, 2022 – Rivera

**Adjourn to ALUC Meeting on Thursday, May 19, 2022. Agenda Deadline is Tuesday, May 03, 2022 at 12:00 P.M**

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*In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), if requested, the Agenda can be made available in appropriate alternative formats to persons with a disability. If an individual wishes to request an alternative agenda format, please contact the Clerk of the Council four (4) days prior to the meeting at (831) 637-7665. The Council of Governments Board of Directors meeting facility is accessible to persons with disabilities. If you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the Clerk of the Council's office at (831) 637-7665 at least 48 ours before the meeting to enable the Council of Governments to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility.*

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**ZOOM INSTRUCTIONS:**

Members of the public are encouraged to participate in Board meetings in the following ways:

**1. Remote Viewing**

Members of the public who wish to watch the meeting can view the meeting online through Zoom. Instructions for participating via Zoom are included below.

**2. Written Comments & Email Public Comment**

Members of the public may submit comments via email by 5:00 PM. on the Wednesday prior to the Board meeting to the Clerk of the Board at [monica@sanbenitocog.org](mailto:monica@sanbenitocog.org). Regardless of whether the matter is on the agenda. Every effort will be made to provide Board Members with your comments before the agenda item is heard.

**3. Airport Land Use Commission meeting - Zoom Instructions for remote Participants:**

Each meeting will have a meeting ID, which is a unique number associated with an instant or scheduled meeting. Three ways to attend zoom meetings:

**1. Over the phone (Audio only):**

- (669) 900-6833 or (408) 638-0968.

**2. Open the Web-browser:**

- <https://zoom.us/join>

**3. Smart device Application:**

- Apple App store: <https://apps.apple.com/us/app/id546505307>

- Android App store: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=u.s.zoom.videomeetings>

**Zoom Audio Only (phone)**

If you are **calling in as audio-only**, please dial **(669) 900-6833 or (408) 638-0968**.

1. It will ask you to enter the **Meeting ID 872-6280-9073** followed by the **"#"** key, which can be found at the top page of the agenda. The meeting agenda can be found at: [http://www.sanbenitocog.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/ALUC\\_Packet\\_042122.pdf](http://www.sanbenitocog.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/ALUC_Packet_042122.pdf)
2. It will then ask for a **Participant ID**, press the **"#"** key to continue.
3. Once you enter the zoom meeting, you will automatically be placed on mute.
4. **Public Comment:** If you are using a phone, please press the **"\*9"** to raise your hand, zoom facilitator will unmute you when your turn arrives.

**Zoom on Web-browser or Zoom app on Tablet or Smartphone**

If joining through web-browser launch: <https://zoom.us/join> or launch the Zoom app on your Tablet or Smartphone

1. Select **"JOIN A MEETING"**
2. The participant will be prompted to enter **Meeting ID, 872-6280-9073** and name to join the meeting, which can be found at the top page of the agenda. The meeting agenda can be found at: [http://www.sanbenitocog.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/ALUC\\_Packet\\_042122.pdf](http://www.sanbenitocog.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/ALUC_Packet_042122.pdf)
3. You can launch audio through your computer or set it up through the phone. Follow instructions provided by Zoom.
4. **Public Comment:** Click **"Raise hand"** icon, the zoom facilitator will unmute you when your turn arrives.

**Public Comment Guidelines**

- If participating on zoom Once you are selected, you will hear that you have been unmuted: State your first name, last name, and county you reside in for the record.
- The Local Transportation Authority welcomes your comments.
- Each individual speaker will be limited to a presentation total of three (3) minutes.
- Please keep your comments, brief, to the point, and do not repeat prior testimony, so that as many people as possible can be heard. Your cooperation is appreciated.

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**Council of San Benito County Governments (COG)**

Local Transportation Authority • Airport Land Use Commission • Service Authority for Freeways & Expressways  
330 Tres Pinos Road, Suite C7 • Hollister, CA 95023 • Phone: 831-637-7665  
[sanbenitocog.org](http://sanbenitocog.org)

## CERTIFICATE OF POSTING

Pursuant to Government Code Section #54954.2(a) the Meeting Agenda for the Airport Land Use Commission on **April 21, 2022 at 4:00 P.M.** was posted at the following locations freely accessible to the public:

The front entrance of the Old San Benito County Courthouse, Monterey Street, Hollister, CA 95023, and the Council of Governments Office, 330 Tres Pinos Rd., Ste. C7, Hollister, CA 95023 at the following date and time:

On the **18th day of April 2022**, on or before **4:00 P.M.**

The meeting agenda was also posted on the Council of San Benito County Governments website, [www.sanbenitocog.org](http://www.sanbenitocog.org), under Meetings, ALUC, Meeting Schedule

I, Monica Gomez, swear under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

BY:   
\_\_\_\_\_  
Monica Gomez, Secretary II  
Council of San Benito County Governments

**San Benito County  
AIRPORT LAND USE COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
(Zoom Platform)**

**March 17, 2022 4:00 P.M.**

**MINUTES**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Chair Ignacio Velazquez, Vice Chair Kollin Kosmicki, Mary Vazquez Edge, Rolan Resendiz, and Peter Hernandez

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Administrative Services Specialist, Norma Rivera; Transportation Planner Regina Valentine; Transportation Planner, Veronica Lezama; Office Assistant, Griselda Arevalo; Secretary, Monica Gomez; Deputy County Counsel, Shirley Murphy

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Chair Velazquez called the meeting to order at 4:48 p.m.

**A. CERTIFICATE OF POSTING**

Motion made to acknowledge Certificate of Posting:

Motion: Mary Vazquez Edge                      Second: Kollin Kosmicki

Secretary Gomez called the roll call vote.

Director Vazquez Edge voted yes, Director Resendiz voted yes, Director Kosmicki voted yes, Director Hernandez voted yes, Chair Velazquez voted yes.

Motion carried:     5/0

Yes:                      Velazquez, Vazquez Edge, Resendiz, Kosmicki, Hernandez

No:                        None

Recused:                None

Abstention:            None

Absent:                  None

**B. NOTICE OF TEMPORARY PROCEDURES FOR AIRPORT LAND USE COMMISSION MEETINGS**

Pursuant to California Governor Gavin Newsom's Executive Order N-29-20 issued on March 17, 2020, relating to the convening of public meetings in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Additionally, members of the ALUC can attend the meeting via teleconference and to participate in the meeting to the same extent as if they were present.

Chair Velazquez reminded members of the public that an overview of temporary procedures (Zoom etiquette) for ALUC meetings was attached to the agenda.

**C. PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

1. **Approve** Airport Land Use Commission Draft Meeting Minutes Dated February 17, 2022 – Gomez
2. **Adopt** Resolution 22-04 Authorizing Teleconferencing Options for the Airport Land Use Commission Meetings for the Period of March 24, 2022, through April 22, 2022 – Rivera
3. **Land Use Consistency Determination** – Lezama
  - a. **FIND** Project Number 2021-14 (APN 050-010-0060) Proposed at 2990 San Felipe Road in the City of Hollister, **CONSISTENT** with the Hollister Municipal Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan Upon Compliance of the following Conditions of Approval:
    - *Condition 1: As a condition of project approval, the City of Hollister as the permitting agency, must have the Fire Marshal evaluate the possible need for special measures to further minimize hazards if struck by an aircraft.*
    - *Condition 2: As a condition of project approval, the applicant must confirm that the proposed landscaping and lighting plans will not include features (e.g., vegetation or light poles) that will create airspace obstructions. Additionally, if the airport owner finds that the vegetation becomes an airspace obstruction in the future, the property owner will be obligated to remove or trim the trees at the owner's expense. For this reason, an avigation easement will be required as a condition of project approval. The avigation easement will convey rights from the property owner to the airport owner (the City of Hollister) associated with heights of objects on the project property.*
    - *Condition 3: As a condition of project approval, any proposed storm water facilities shall comply with the requirements listed under item 2 of the Airspace Protection Policy 3.4 of this staff report.*
    - *Condition 4: The proposed bioretention areas indicate that they will be seeded, potentially as a means of masking open water. As a condition of project approval, ALUC staff requests a closer review of the engineering drawings to confirm that the design and drainage times associated with the proposed bioretention basins and confirm whether the bioretention areas will be vegetated to mask open water throughout the drainage period.*
    - *Condition 5: As a condition of project approval, exterior lighting must incorporate down-shielding in their designs to reflect light downward and away from the airport runways or taxiways or into the approach and departure paths. If, after construction, pilots make formal complaints of visual obstructions, the applicant will need to modify or remove offending lights to address the visual hazard.*
  - b. **APPROVE** Avigation Easement Dedication that Applies to the Airspace Above the Imaginary Plane Over the Property Associated with APN 050-010-0060 for Consideration of Approval by the City of Hollister as the Airport Proprietor (Attachment 11).
4. **Find** Project 2020-02 Associated with Assessor Parcel No. APN 051-110-038 Located at 172 McCloskey Rd. in the City of Hollister, **Consistent** with the Hollister Municipal Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan – Lezama

5. **Approve** Avigation Easement Dedication that Applies to the Airspace Above the Imaginary Plan Over the Property Associated with Property Crockers Lockers Hollister LLC (APN. 052-120-018) for Consideration of Approval by the City of Hollister as the Airport Proprietor (Attachment 2) – Lezama

There was no public comment on the Consent Agenda.

Motion made to approve the Consent Agenda:

Motion: Mary Vazquez Edge                      Second: Peter Hernandez

Secretary Gomez called the roll call vote.

Director Vazquez Edge voted yes, Director Resendiz voted yes, Director Kosmicki voted yes, Director Hernandez voted yes, Chair Velazquez voted yes.

Motion carried:     5/0

Yes:                      Velazquez, Vazquez Edge, Resendiz, Kosmicki, Hernandez  
No:                      None  
Recused:              None  
Abstention:          None  
Absent:                None

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business to discuss, Director Kosmicki motioned to adjourn at 4:49 p.m. Motion seconded by Director Hernandez.

Secretary Gomez called the roll call vote.

Director Vazquez Edge voted yes, Director Resendiz voted yes, Director Kosmicki voted yes, Director Hernandez voted yes, Chair Velazquez voted yes.

Motion carried:     5/0

Yes:                      Velazquez, Vazquez Edge, Resendiz, Kosmicki, Hernandez  
No:                      None  
Recused:              None  
Abstention:          None  
Absent:                None

**ADJOURN TO ALUC MEETING APRIL 21, 2022 AT 4:00 P.M.**



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## Staff Report

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To: Airport Land Use Commission  
From: Norma Rivera, Administrative Services Specialist Telephone: (831) 637-7665  
Date: April 21, 2022  
Subject: Assembly Bill 361 Teleconferencing Options For ALUC

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### Recommendation:

**ADOPT** Resolution 22-05 Authorizing Teleconferencing Options for the Airport Land Use Commission meetings for the Period of April 23, 2022, through May 22, 2022.

### Summary:

On September 16, 2021, the Governor signed Assembly Bill (AB) 361, a bill that codifies certain teleconference procedures that local agencies have adopted in response to the Governor's Brown Act-related Executive Orders. Specifically, AB 361 allows a local agency to continue to use teleconferencing under the same basic rules as provided in the Executive Orders under certain prescribed circumstances or when certain findings have been made and adopted by the local agency legislative body.

### Financial Considerations:

None.

### Discussion:

On June 11, 2021, Governor Newsom issued Executive Order N-08-21, amending his prior Executive Order N-29-20 and waiving certain provisions of the Brown Act relating to teleconferences/remote meetings by local agency legislative bodies. The Executive Order waived, among other things, the provisions of the Brown Act that otherwise required the physical presence of members of local agency legislative bodies or other personnel in a particular location as a condition of participation or as a quorum for a public meeting. These modifications remained in effect through September 30, 2021.

Under Assembly Bill (AB) 361, when the state of emergency lasts longer than 30 days, as is the case presently, the legislative body must make findings every 30 days to continue using the bill's exemption to the Brown Act teleconferencing rules. AB 361 mandates that the legislative body must find that there is a continuing need for teleconferencing due to dangers posed by the ongoing state of emergency. This means that local agencies will have to put an item on the public meeting agenda at least every thirty days to make findings regarding the circumstances of the emergency and to vote to continue relying upon the law's teleconference provisions.

To continue to meet under those modified rules after May 22, 2022 the Board will again need to reconsider the circumstances of the state of emergency and again make one of the additional findings required by AB 361.

Reducing the circumstances under which people come into close contact remains a vital component of the San Benito County and ALUC's COVID-19 response strategy. Local agency public meetings are an essential government function and the last 18 months have proven that the teleconferencing format protects public access while minimizing exposure to COVID-19.

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) caution that the Omicron variant of COVID-19 is spreading quickly throughout 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/omicron-variant.html>).

**Staff Analysis:**

Staff recommends that the Board adopt findings that conducting in-person meetings at the present time would present an imminent risk to the health and safety of attendees. A resolution to that effect and directing staff to return each 30 days to afford the Board the opportunity to reconsider such findings, is included herewith. If the Board adopts the proposed resolution, then it may continue to meet under the modified Brown Act teleconference rules of AB 361 through May 22, 2022.

Counsel Review: Yes

Supporting Attachment(s):

1. Resolution 22-05
2. Letter from San Benito County Health Officer





BEFORE THE SAN BENITO COUNTY AIRPORT LAND USE COMMISSION

A RESOLUTION OF THE SAN BENITO COUNTY AIRPORT )  
 LAND USE COMMISSION (ALUC) AUTHORIZING ) Resolution 22-05  
 CONTINUED REMOTE TELECONFERENCE MEETINGS )  
 OF THE SAN BENITO COUNTY AIRPORT LAND USE )  
 COMMISSION PURSUANT TO AB 361 )

**WHEREAS**, the San Benito County Airport Land Use Commission is committed to preserving and nurturing public access and participation in meetings of the Board of Directors; and

**WHEREAS**, the Brown Act, Government Code section 54953(e), makes provisions for remote teleconferencing participation in meetings by members of a legislative body, without compliance with the requirements of Government Code section 54953(b)(3), subject to the existence of certain conditions; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 4, 2020, Governor Gavin Newsom issued a Proclamation of State of Emergency in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, pursuant to his authority under the California Emergency Services Act, California Government Code section 8625; 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 4, 2021, Governor Newsom clarified that the "reopening" of California on June 15, 2021 did not include any change to the proclaimed state of emergency or the powers exercised thereunder; and

**WHEREAS**, on June 11, 2021, Governor Newsom issued Executive Order N-08-21, clarifying 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 Assembly Bill 361 (AB 361), which provides that a legislative body subject to the Brown Act may continue to meet without fully complying with the teleconferencing rules in the Brown Act, provided the legislative body determines that meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees, and further requires that certain findings be made by the legislative body every thirty (30) days; and

**WHEREAS**, California Department of Public Health (“CDPH”) and the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”) caution that the Omicron variant of COVID-19 is spreading quickly throughout 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/omicron-variant.html>); and

**WHEREAS**, on September 30, 2021, Dr. Ghilarducci, Interim San Benito County Public Health Officer, issued a recommendation on Social Distancing at public meetings of legislative bodies within San Benito County; and

**WHEREAS**, on January 5, 2022, Dr. Gellert, San Benito County Public Health Officer, issued an updated recommendation on continued Social Distancing at public meetings of legislative bodies within San Benito County, attached hereto as Exhibit “A”, and incorporated herein by this reference; and

**WHEREAS**, the San Benito County Airport Land Use Commission is a joint powers authority formed under the joint exercise of powers provisions of California Government Code Sections 6500-6522 and the California Code of Civil Procedure section 1240.140, among the County of San Benito, a political subdivision of the State of California, and the Cities of Hollister and San Juan Bautista, municipal corporations located in San Benito County; and

**WHEREAS**, the San Benito County Board of Supervisors is empowered by Article XI, section 7 of the California Constitution to take actions necessary to protect public, health, welfare, and safety within the County of San Benito; and

**WHEREAS**, at its regular meetings on October 12, 2021, November 9, 2021, November 23, 2021, December 14, 2021, January 25, 2022, February 22, 2022, and March 22, 2022, the San Benito County Board of Supervisors considered all information related to this matter, as presented at the public meetings of the Board of Supervisors identified herein, including any supporting reports by County Staff, and any information provided during public meetings, including but not limited to the current circumstances related to the state of emergency, and adopted Resolution Nos. 2021-128, 2021-140, 2021-148, 2021-160, 2022-04, 2202-21, and and 2202-38, making the findings and determinations required by AB 361; and

**WHEREAS**, the San Benito County Airport Land Use Commission has an important governmental interest in protecting the health, safety, and welfare of those who participate in meetings of the Airport Land Use Commission; and

**WHEREAS**, in the interest of public health and safety, as affected by the emergency caused by the spread of COVID-19, the San Benito County Airport Land Use Commission deems it necessary to find that a requirement to meet in person for meetings of the Airport Land Use Commission would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees, and thus, intends to invoke the provisions of AB 361 related to teleconferencing; and

**WHEREAS**, at its regular meetings on October 21, 2021, November 18, 2021, and December 16, 2021, special meeting on January 11, 2022, and regular meetings on January 20, 2022, February 17, 2022, and March 17, 2022, the San Benito County Airport Land Use Commission considered all information related to this matter, as presented at the public meetings of the Board of Directors identified herein, including any supporting reports by Airport Land Use Commission Staff, and any information provided during public meetings, including but not limited to the current circumstances related to the state of emergency, and adopted Resolution Nos. 2021-01, 2021-02, 2021-03, 2022-01, 2022-02, 2022-03 and 2022-04, making the findings and determinations required by AB 361; and

**WHEREAS**, the San Benito County Airport Land Use Commission has further considered all information related to this matter, as presented at the public meetings of the Board of Directors identified herein as of the date of this Resolution, including any supporting reports by Airport Land Use Commission's Staff, and any information provided during public meetings, including but not limited to the current circumstances related to the state of emergency, which continues to remain in effect; and

**WHEREAS**, as of the date of this Resolution, neither the Governor nor the California Legislature have exercised their respective powers, pursuant to California Government Code section 8629, to lift the state of emergency either by proclamation or by concurrent resolution in the state Legislature, and the proclaimed state of emergency remains in effect; and

**WHEREAS**, the continued local rates of transmission of the virus and variants causing COVID-19 are such that meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees of public meetings; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Directors of the San Benito County Airport Land Use Commission further finds that the state of emergency continues to directly impact the ability of the members to meet safely in person.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Directors of the San Benito County Airport Land Use Commission as follows:

1. Recitals. The Board of Directors hereby finds that the facts set forth in the Recitals to this Resolution are true and correct and are incorporated into this Resolution by this reference.
2. Proclamation of Local Emergency. The Board of Directors hereby proclaims that a local emergency continues to exist throughout the County, and social distancing orders are currently in place and needed to protect the health and safety of the citizens.
3. Consideration of Future Extensions of Resolution. As long as the State Emergency remains in effect or until directed otherwise by the Board of Directors, staff shall present to the Board at every meeting an item necessary to continue the findings required by AB 361.

4. Effective Date of Resolution. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption and shall be effective until the earlier of thirty (30) days from adoption of the Resolution or such time the Board of Directors adopts a subsequent Resolution in accordance with Government Code section 54953(e)(3) to extend the time during which the Airport Land Use Commission may continue to teleconference without compliance with paragraph (3) of subdivision (b) of section 54953.
  
5. Remote Teleconference Meetings. The staff and Counsel for the Airport Land Use Commission are hereby authorized and directed 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) and other applicable provisions of the Brown Act.

PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE SAN BENITO COUNTY AIRPORT LAND USE COMMISSION ON THIS 21<sup>ST</sup> DAY OF APRIL 2022, BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES:  
NOES:  
ABSENT:  
ABSTAIN:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ignacio Velazquez, Chair

APPROVED AS TO LEGAL FORM:  
SAN BENITO COUNTY COUNSEL'S OFFICE

Dated: April 14, 2022

By: Shirley L. Murphy  
Shirley L. Murphy, Deputy County Counsel

ATTEST:  
Mary Gilbert, Executive Director

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_

# EXHIBIT A

GEORGE GELLERT MD, MP, MPA  
HEALTH OFFICER

TRACEY BELTON  
AGENCY DIRECTOR



## SAN BENITO COUNTY

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY

**PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES**

Healthy People in Healthy Communities

January 5, 2022

CAO Ray Espinosa  
San Benito County Administration

Re: Recommendation on Social Distancing and Hybrid Meetings

Given the considerable impact on our community from the COVID-19 virus and the Delta and more recently the Omicron variant, I strongly urge all legislative bodies, including but not limited to the County, cities, and special districts, local commissions and committees, and subsidiary bodies, continue social distancing measures for public meetings, including offering, at the legislative body's discretion, a remote or hybrid format for public meetings. Social distancing and masking remain crucial strategies in our fight to prevent contagion. The conduct of public meetings in a remote or hybrid manner enables members of the community to participate from the comfort of their homes without having to risk contracting these viruses by attending in-person meetings.

In addition, these measures help contain the spread of the disease and protect the community. All events public gatherings, including public meetings, create environments where these virus variants can potentially spread among attendees and participants. However, when combined with social distancing and effective masking practices, along with continued efforts to increase vaccination uptake within San Benito County, a remote or hybrid format for meetings maximizes avenues for public access and input and minimizes the risk of infection for the public, agency staff, meeting presenters, and legislative body members as well.

If you have any questions regarding this recommendation, please do not hesitate to contact me.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George Gellert".

George Gellert MD, MPH, MPA  
Health Officer

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ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH  
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MEDICAL THERAPY UNIT  
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