



# *Camarillo City Council*

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## **AGENDA REPORT**

Date: May 11, 2022

To: Honorable Mayor and City Councilmembers

From: Greg Ramirez, City Manager

Submitted by: Kristy Buxkemper, City Clerk

Subject: Rescission of City Council Policy 1.17 – Teleconferencing

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## **BACKGROUND**

On January 26, 2005, the City Council adopted Policy 1.17 regarding teleconferencing, which established the purpose and guidelines for members of the City Council and other designated City Boards, Commissions, and Committees, to participate in the proceedings of a meeting by teleconference.

Councilmembers, in connection with their membership on City Council and its ancillary Boards and Commissions, often serve in official capacities in other public agencies and quasi-public organizations and may sometimes have scheduling conflicts due to the necessity to be elsewhere in service to the City or outside organizations. Teleconferencing allows Councilmembers the ability to participate remotely to meet their legislative obligations, in accordance with state law and pursuant to the Brown Act and Government Code Section 54953.

Teleconferencing has evolved greatly over the past few years, primarily due to advancements in technology, an increase in obligatory meetings and official duties, and out of necessity during COVID-related closures. Additionally, legislation has amended some teleconferencing restrictions with several bills still pending in the Assembly, such as AB 1944 (Lee) and AB 2449 (Rubio), which could further define teleconferencing regulations.

On September 16, 2021, Assembly Bill (AB) 361 was signed into law by the Governor and went into effect immediately as urgency legislation. The Bill waived certain provisions of the Brown Act in order to allow local agencies to continue to meet remotely during a State of Emergency. Furthermore, on September 21, 2021, the Ventura County Public Officer recommended that physical/social distancing measures continue to be practiced

throughout Ventura County to minimize the spread of COVID-19, a recommendation that remains in effect today.

The City Council has continued to adopt a resolution authorizing the continuation of the use of remote teleconference meetings under the provisions of Government Code Section 54953 and re-evaluates the findings every 30-days, as required by law. AB 361 will remain in effect until January 1, 2024 and provides guidelines for teleconferencing, strict procedures for the posting of agendas and notice of public meetings, as well as requirements to allow members of the public access to meetings and the opportunity to address the legislative body and provide public comment.

## **DISCUSSION**

At the request of Councilmember Craven, the Policy Committee reviewed Policy 1.17 and provided direction at the January 26, 2022 meeting for staff to bring back options to revise the policy.

At their meeting of April 28, 2022, the Policy Committee determined regulations set in place by The Brown Act and State Legislature to be appropriately restrictive, eliminating the need to have a separate City Council policy. The Policy Committee found City Council Policy 1.17 to be overly restrictive and unnecessary given current regulations and restrictions already in place.

The Policy Committee provided a recommendation to rescind Policy 1.17 - Teleconferencing, and requested it be brought forward to the City Council for final determination and potential rescission.

## **FISCAL IMPACT**

There is no budget impact as a result of this action.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

At the recommendation of the Policy Committee, rescind City Council Policy 1.17 pertaining to Teleconferencing.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

1. City Council Policy 1.17 - Teleconferencing

## **REFERENCE MATERIALS – AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW AT CITY HALL**

None