

**RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_**

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE WATER INFRASTRUCTURE FINANCING AUTHORITY AUTHORIZING REMOTE TELECONFERENCE MEETINGS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS UNDER THE RALPH M. BROWN ACT**

**WHEREAS**, the Water Infrastructure Financing Authority (the “Authority”) is committed to preserving and fostering public access and participation in meetings of the Board of Directors (the “Board”), as required by the Ralph M. Brown Act (Gov. Code § 54950 et seq.) (the “Brown Act”), so that any member of the public may attend and participate as the bodies conduct the public’s business; and

**WHEREAS**, the Brown Act contains special provisions for remote teleconference participation in meetings when the Governor has declared a state of emergency pursuant to Government Code section 8625, and either state or local official have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing, or an in-person meeting would present imminent risks to the health and safety of attendees; and

**WHEREAS**, such conditions now existing with the County of Santa Barbara (the “County”). On March 4, 2020, Governor Gavin Newsom issued a Proclamation of a State of Emergency for the COVID-19 pandemic. The County Health Officer has issued numerous Health Orders regarding safety protocols during the COVID-19 pandemic, including Health Officer Order No. 2021-10.6, effective December 3, 2021, which orders all individuals in the County– whether vaccinated or unvaccinated – to wear a face covering at all times in all indoor public settings, and while inside any business, with limited exemptions, and recommends that businesses make face coverings available to individuals entering the business. Further, the County Health Officer and Public Health Director issued a Health Official AB 361 Social Distance Recommendation, dated September 28, 2021, encouraging remote teleconference options for public meetings as an effective and recommended social distancing measure to facilitate public participation while protecting participants and others from the COVID-19 disease. The latest County order and recommendation were made necessary by the rise in the more contagious and easily spread Delta variant of the COVID-19 virus throughout the nation, and specifically within the County; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board finds that the current situation with regard to COVID-19, and particularly the Delta and Omicron variants, is causing, and will continue to cause, risks to the safety of persons within the County and finds that the Board shall conduct its meetings with remote teleconference participation in the manner authorized by Government Code Section 54953, subdivision (e) and in compliance with the requirements to provide public access in Government Code Section 54953, subdivision (e)(2); and

**WHEREAS**, this Resolution is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to the “common sense” exemption to environmental review under Section 15061 subdivision (b)(3) of Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations (CEQA Guidelines) because remote teleconference meetings during a declared state of emergency do not have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment.

**NOW THEREFORE, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS DOES HEREBY RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:**

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

**Section 2.** Remote Teleconference Meetings. The Board shall conduct their meetings with remote teleconference participation in the manner authorized by Government Code Section 54953, subdivision (e), and in compliance with the requirements to provide public access in Government Code Section 54953, subdivision (e)(2).

**Section 3.** Effective Date. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption and shall be effective until the earlier of January 21, 2022, or such time as the Board adopts a resolution in accordance with Government Code Section 54953, subdivision (e)(3) to extend the time during which meetings may continue to be held via remote teleconference in compliance with that section.

I certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the Board of Directors of the Water Infrastructure Financing Authority at a regular meeting held December 22, 2021.

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President

Attest:

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Secretary of the Board