

From: [Annemarie](#)
To: [Peters, Sarah](#); [CDD User](#)
Cc: [Miller, Tabatha](#)
Subject: public comment item 21-517 7A 9-29-2021
Date: Tuesday, September 28, 2021 9:07:50 PM

In regards to:

Receive Report and consider Adoption of Planning Commission Resolution Making the Legally Required Findings to Authorize the Conduct of Remote "Telephonic" Meetings During the State of Emergency

Dear Planning Commission members,

I sent an e-mail yesterday to the City Council with the following text:

Dear Council members,

Does it mean that it is not possible anymore to attend live meetings? Is that due to our governor? Do Councils have a chance to decide on that or not?

Thanks, Annemarie Weibel

Text:

This legislative body finds that as a result of the emergency, meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees.

I understand that the City Council or the Planning Commission has the option to go back to in-person or hybrid meetings if they want to, but adopting the resolution allows the City to continue to hold online meetings without having to post the agendas at every location where City Council members are participating from and having them open to the public for public comments at those locations as well.

AB 361, which is the new law that allows these changes, eliminated the requirement to have an in-person public comment location or locations but the City Council needed to adopt this resolution and for that matter the Planning Commission needs to adopt this resolution in order to allow continued online meetings.

How come people who sign up with the City find out today on 9-28 at 3:04pm about tomorrow's 6pm Planning Commission meeting? Are the Brown Act guarantees of proper noticing on hold as well? I realize that the vote needs to happen before October 1. At least the City Council gave 4 days notice.

Meetings were only held at Town Hall until 7-7-2020 and then again from 5-10-2021 until 8-16-2021.

Personally I like the option of participating from home rather than having to go to Town Hall for meetings.

I am although concerned that we are eliminating people's input who do not have access to a TV, a computer, or a telephone that they can be

connected to until the City allows them to make public comments. Also some people do not have the ability to connect via fast speed internet, or do not have the skills necessary to deal with zoom.

It is my understanding that public comments used to be included in the City Council agendas if they were received by 3pm the day of the meeting. I believe that was changed and will now only be reflected the next day.

You might remember that some people in favor of the Grocery Outlet were very concerned that some City Council members only attended the meeting via zoom.

There are many important meetings where public participation is crucial for the outcome like public hearings, issues about land use, etc.

I am concerned that by having a State of Emergency until December 31, 2023 and potentially no onsite meetings until then we are potentially creating a situation where the public falls asleep while contractors are continuing to plan and build, new City Council members get elected, new Planning Commissioners chosen, etc.

I am concerned about the state of a democracy when the government keeps making decisions that affect all of us, and instructs everyone to stay at home.

Sincerely, Annemarie Weibel