



AGENDA ITEM 8D

MEETING: March 15, 2023
TO: Humboldt LAFCo Commissioners
FROM: Colette Santsche, Humboldt LAFCo
SUBJECT: Status of Meeting Location
Staff will provide an overview of the current meeting location and receive direction from the Commission as to the suitability of the meeting space or any change in location, as necessary.

BACKGROUND

Since March 2020, Humboldt LAFCo has conducted its public meetings via Zoom/teleconference, consistent with the Governor's Executive Orders and AB 361, which modified meeting rules allowing remote meeting access during a Governor issued state of emergency. The Commission has adopted a resolution at each LAFCo meeting authorizing LAFCo to conduct teleconference meetings in accordance with AB 361. On October 17, 2022, the Governor announced that the COVID-19 State of Emergency would end on February 28, 2023. After this date, the Commission will need to adhere to the new laws regarding remote participation for meetings.

AB 2449 was recently signed into law and went into effect on January 1, 2023. This law makes changes to the Brown Act regarding remote participation of members of a governing body. Under the new law, less than a majority of members of the governing body may attend the meeting remotely for "just cause" or "emergency circumstances". For some public agencies this means a return to fully in person meetings with no remote participation option. However, the Commission has decided to hold hybrid meetings going forward in order to increase public access for residents of Humboldt County that live far away from the typical meeting location in Eureka.

DISCUSSION

At the January 18, 2023 Regular Commission Meeting, commissioners voted to hold hybrid meetings at the City of Eureka Council Chambers located at 531 K Street in Eureka. This location can accommodate 7 members on the dais, staff seating for 6, and a total room capacity of 147. No special training is required to operate technology for meetings and one staff member is able to run the hybrid meeting options. Regular Commission meetings can be held at this location until such time the Commission chooses to change the location of meetings.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Commission discuss the suitability of the current meeting location and provide direction to staff regarding in-person meetings as necessary.