



Tri-Valley San Joaquin Valley
REGIONAL RAIL AUTHORITY

AGENDA – BOARD OF DIRECTORS SPECIAL MEETING
December 7, 2022 at 2:00 p.m. via teleconference

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19) ADVISORY AND MEETING PROCEDURE

This meeting will be held via teleconference in accordance with the Brown Act and Government Code § 54953(e), as a precaution to protect the health and safety of staff, officials, and the general public. The Board of Directors will not be physically in attendance, but will be available via video conference.

The regular meeting facilities for the meetings of the Board of Directors are currently closed to the public. Consequently, there will be no physical location for members of the public to participate in the meeting. We encourage members of the public to access the meeting online using the instructions listed on the agenda. Online attendees will have the opportunity to speak during Public Comment.

If you would like to submit public comment via email, please do so by 5:00 p.m. the day before the meeting to comments@valleylinkrail.com. Please include “Public Comment December 7, 2022” and the agenda item in the subject line. In the body of the email please include your full name. Public comments submitted via email will be posted online will be read during Public Comment and will be subject to the regular two-minute time restriction.

This Board of Directors meeting will be conducted on the web-video communication platform Zoom. To view and/or participate in this meeting, members of the public will need to either download Zoom from the website zoom.us. It is recommended that anyone wishing to participate in the meeting complete the download process before the start of the meeting. To listen without viewing, members of the public may also join the meeting by calling in via telephone. A live stream will also be available on our YouTube channel without the ability to make public comment. All public comments will be subject to the regular two-minute time restriction.

There will be zero tolerance for any person addressing the Board making profane, offensive and disruptive remarks, or engaging in loud, boisterous, or other disorderly conduct, that disrupts the orderly conduct of the public meeting.

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How to listen and view meeting online:

- From a PC, Mac, iPad, iPhone or Android device click the link below:
<https://zoom.us/j/93548110883>
Password: **ValleyLink**
- To supplement a PC, Mac, tablet or device without audio, please also join by phone:
Dial: 1 (669) 900-6833
Webinar ID: 935-4811-0883
Password: **898381**

To comment by video conference, click the “Raise Your Hand” button to request to speak when Public Comment is being taken on the Agenda item. You will then be unmuted when it is your turn to make your comment for up to 2 minutes. After the allotted time, you will be muted.

- Livestream online at: [Valley Link Rail YouTube Channel](#)

No option to make Public Comment on YouTube live stream.

How to listen via telephone to the meeting:

- For audio access to the meeting by telephone, use the dial-in information below:
Dial: 1 (669) 900-6833
Webinar ID: 935-4811-0883
Password: **898381**

*Please note to submit public comment via telephone dial *9 to raise your hand. The meeting’s host will be informed that you would like to speak. If you are chosen, you will be notified that your request has been approved and you will be allowed to speak. You will then press *6 to unmute yourself. Comments are limited to up to 2 minutes at the discretion of the board chair. After the allotted time, you will be muted by the host.*

To submit written comments:

- Send public comments prior to the meeting by email, to comments@valleylinkrail.com

If you are submitting public comment via email, please do so by 5:00 p.m. the day before the meeting to comments@valleylinkrail.com

Please include “Public Comment – December 7, 2022” and the agenda item to which your comment applies in the subject line. In the body of the email please include your full name. A list of the public comments submitted will be read during Public Comment and letters will be posted on the Authority’s website along with other meeting material.

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1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance
2. Roll Call of Members
3. Public Comments:
Members of the public may address the Board on any issues not listed on the agenda that are within the purview of the Authority. Comments on matters that are listed on the agenda may be made at the time the Board is considering each item. Time limits on public comments may be established by the Chair.
4. Consent Agenda – **ACTION**
Recommend approval of all items on Consent Agenda as follows:
 - a. Resolution R21-2022 Declaring that Agency meetings will continue to be held via teleconference.
5. Directors' Discussion
Comments, Questions and Agenda Requests
6. Next Meeting Details: December 14, 2022
7. Adjourn

Upon request, the Tri-Valley-San Joaquin Valley Regional Rail Authority will provide written agenda materials in appropriate alternative formats, or disability-related modification or accommodation, including auxiliary aids or services, to enable individuals with disabilities to participate in public meetings. A speech-to-text option (live transcription) is now available on all Zoom meetings. Live transcription currently only supports English and the accuracy of the feature depends on many variables, such as but not limited to: background noise, volume and clarity of the speaker's voice, lexicons and dialects. Requests for any other reasonable accommodation should be submitted in writing, and must include; your name, mailing address, phone number and brief description of the requested materials and the preferred alternative format or auxiliary aid or service at least 2 days before the meeting. Requests should be sent to: comments@valleylinkrail.com.



STAFF REPORT

SUBJECT: Resolution R21-2022 Declaring that Agency Meetings Will Continue To Be Held Via Teleconference

FROM: Kevin Sheridan, Executive Director/CEO

DATE: December 7, 2022

Action Requested

Staff requests that the Board of Directors (Board) adopt a resolution declaring that agency meetings will continue to meet via teleconference to ensure the health and safety of the public.

Background/Discussion

On March 4, 2020, Governor Newsom declared a State of Emergency to make additional resources available, formalize emergency actions already underway across multiple state agencies and departments, and help the State prepare for a broader spread of COVID-19. On March 17, 2020, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Governor Newsom issued Executive Order N-29-20, which suspended certain provisions of the Ralph M. Brown Act in order to allow local legislative bodies to conduct meetings electronically without a physical meeting place.

On June 11, 2021, Governor Newsom issued Executive Order N-08-21, which among other things, rescinded his prior Executive Order N-29-20, effective October 1, 2021. At that point, agencies would have transitioned back to public meetings held in full compliance with the preexisting Brown Act teleconference rules. Since the Governor issued Executive Order N-08-21, the Delta variant has emerged, causing a spike in cases throughout the state. As a result, the Governor's proclaimed State of Emergency remains in effect, and state and local officials, including San Joaquin Public Health Services, the California Department of Public Health and the Department of Industrial Relations, have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing.

On September 16, 2021, Governor signed Assembly Bill (AB) 361 into law, effective October 1, 2021, to allow agencies to use teleconferencing for public meetings during proclaimed state of emergencies without requiring the teleconference locations to be accessible to the public or a quorum of the members of the legislative body of the agency to participate from locations within the boundaries of the agency's jurisdiction. AB 361 will sunset on January 31, 2024.

Under AB 361, a local agency will be allowed to meet remotely without complying with prior Brown Act teleconference requirements when:

- The local agency holds a meeting during a state of emergency declared by the Governor, and either
 - State or local health officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing, or
 - The legislative body finds that meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees.

As discussed above, state and local officials continue to recommend social distancing. Therefore, Valley Link can continue to conduct meetings via teleconference, as long as it adheres to the following emergency requirements under Government Code Section 54953(e)(2), added by AB 361:

1. The legislative body gives notice and posts agendas as otherwise required by the Brown Act, including directions for how the public can access the meeting.
2. The legislative body does not take formal action on any item whenever there is a disruption in the meeting broadcast.
3. The public is allowed to provide comment in real time.
4. The legislative body allows time during a public comment period for members of the public to register with any internet website required to submit public comment.

For upcoming teleconference meetings, the Board can continue to follow the AB 361 requirements by declaring every 30 days that it has reconsidered the circumstances of the state of emergency and either (1) the state of emergency continues to directly impact the ability of the members to meet safely in person, or (2) state or local officials continue to impose or recommend measures to promote social distancing. These findings can be made through the consent calendar.

Fiscal Impact

There is no fiscal impact associated with this action.

Recommended Action

Adopt the attached resolution declaring that meetings of the Tri-Valley-San Joaquin Valley Regional Rail Authority will continue to be held via teleconference in accordance with Assembly Bill 361 and the provisions of Government Code Section 54953(e).

Attachments

1. Resolution R21-2022



RESOLUTION NO. R21-2022

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**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE TRI-VALLEY-SAN JOAQUIN
VALLEY REGIONAL RAIL AUTHORITY DECLARING THAT AGENCY MEETINGS WILL
CONTINUE TO BE HELD VIA TELECONFERENCE**

WHEREAS, on March 4, 2020, Governor Newsom declared a State of Emergency to make additional resources available, formalize emergency actions already underway across multiple state agencies and departments, and help the State prepare for a broader spread of COVID-19.; and

WHEREAS, on March 17, 2020, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Governor Newsom issued Executive Order N-29-20, which suspended certain provisions of the Ralph M. Brown Act in order to allow legislative bodies to conduct meetings electronically without a physical meeting place; and

WHEREAS, on June 11, 2021, Governor Newsom issued Executive Order N-08-21, which specified that Executive Order N-29-20 would remain in effect through September 30, 2021, at which point it would expire; and

WHEREAS, on September 16, 2021, the Governor signed Assembly Bill 361 into law as urgency legislation that goes into effect on October 1, 2021, amending Government Code Section 54953 of the Brown Act to allow legislative bodies to continue to meet remotely during a proclaimed state of emergency where state or local officials have recommended measures to promote social distancing; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's proclaimed State of Emergency remains in effect, and state and local officials, including San Joaquin County Public Health Services, the California Department of Public Health and the Department of Industrial Relations, have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that, in order to ensure the health and safety of the public, meetings of the Tri-Valley-San Joaquin Valley Regional Rail Authority will continue to be held via teleconference in accordance with Assembly Bill 361 and the provisions of Government Code Section 54953(e).

APPROVED AND PASSED, this 7th day of December, 2022.

Veronica Vargas, Chair

ATTEST:

Kevin Sheridan, Executive Director/CEO