



Agenda Report

January 13, 2025

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council
FROM: Office of the City Attorney
SUBJECT: **FINDINGS TO AUTHORIZE REMOTE MEETING ON JANUARY 13, 2025 PURSUANT TO THE BROWN ACT**

RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that the City Council:

1. Find that the action proposed herein is not a “project” subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 21065 and within the meaning of Section 15378(b); and
2. Find that the Director of Disaster Emergency Services issued a Declaration of a Local Emergency – Windstorms and Fires on January 8, 2025; and
3. In accordance with Government Code section 54953(e)(1), find that as a result of the ongoing emergency, meeting in person at the January 13, 2025 City Council Special Meeting would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees.

BACKGROUND:

On January 7, 2025, extraordinary windstorm conditions and destructive fires (“Eaton Fire”) caused widespread damage to critical infrastructure, structures, and roads throughout the City that prompted evacuation orders. On January 8, 2025, the City Manager issued a Declaration of Local Emergency in accordance with Chapter 2.370 of the Pasadena Municipal Code (“Declaration”). The state of emergency is presently in effect.

The City has sustained major damage and continues to be threatened by the windstorms and fires. Preliminary information indicates numerous structures either damaged or destroyed. In addition, the wildfire smoke and ash are impacting the air quality of the City. Wildfire smoke contains fine particles which are respiratory irritants, and when inhaled deeply, can affect the lungs and the heart. Exposure to high concentrations of fine particles can cause persistent cough, runny nose, phlegm, wheezing, and difficulty

breathing. Moreover, the South Coast Air Quality Management District rates the air quality in the City as “unhealthy”.

In accordance with Government Code section 54953(e)(1) and as a result of the ongoing emergency, meeting in person at the January 13, 2025 City Council Special Meeting would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees.

ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:

CEQA excludes, from environmental review, actions that are not “projects” as defined by CEQA Guidelines Section 21065 and within the meaning of Section 15378(b). Sections 21065 and 15378(b) define a project as an action which may cause either a direct physical change in the environment, or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment. Section 15378 excludes from the definition of “project” Organizational or administrative activities of governments that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment. The actions proposed herein, to authorize remote meetings, is an administrative activity, and therefore is not a “project” as defined by CEQA. Since the action is not a project subject to CEQA, no environmental document is required.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The recommended action will have no immediate fiscal impact.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Michele Beal Bagneris
MICHELE BEAL BAGNERIS
City Attorney/City Prosecutor

Concurrence:


MIGUEL MÁRQUEZ
City Manager

Prepared by:

/s/ Arnold F. Lee
Arnold F. Lee
Acting Chief Assistant City Attorney