

Midcoast Community Council

An elected Advisory Council to the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors

representing Montara, Moss Beach, El Granada, Princeton, and Miramar

PO Box 248, Moss Beach, CA 94038-0248 | midcoastcommunitycouncil.org

Michelle Weil | **Claire Toutant** | **Dave Olson** | **Len Erickson** | **Gregg Dieguez** | **Jill Grant** | **Dan Haggerty**
Chair Vice-Chair Secretary Treasurer

Date: July 14, 2021
To: Gavin Newsom, Governor of California
Josh Becker, California State Senator
Marc Berman, California State Assemblymember
Kevin Mullin, California State Assemblymember
From: Midcoast Community Council
Subject: Continuation of Brown Act modifications in order to continue web-assisted meetings

The Midcoast Community Council is an elected Municipal Advisory Committee in a semi-rural area of San Mateo County. During the pandemic, we have learned to conduct productive meetings remotely through zoom and other platforms. Our ability to continue this is scheduled to end on September 30 when the Governor's orders expire.

We urge you to continue current modifications to Brown Act requirements so that we can continue remote and/or hybrid meetings effectively.

We ask this for two reasons.

First, the level of participation and attendance at the meetings has risen remarkably while they have been held remotely. The community is more engaged and finds meetings and materials more accessible online than in person. Officials from the County and other entities are also more available to participate than they might be if they had to travel at night to our relatively remote location.

Secondly, a number of the MCC members have people in their lives who remain at risk of COVID infection. The only in-person meeting area available to us is poorly ventilated and cannot safely accommodate the number of people who are currently participating in on-line meetings. There is no way to ensure that attendees at meetings are vaccinated and a number of people who currently attend remote meetings would feel less comfortable attending an in-person meeting. Given the rapid evolution of new COVID variants, even vaccinated people are at some risk and we note that preventative measures have been reinstated at the State Capitol. Public health considerations should dictate that web-based meetings continue to be an option.

We ask that you extend the current Brown Act modifications to allow us to continue to meet in the way that works best for our community.

MIDCOAST COMMUNITY COUNCIL

s/Michelle Weil, Chair