

Planning Department

June 21, 2021

Attention: Community Planning Group Chairs and Vice Chairs

Subject: Community Planning Group In-Person Meeting Guidance

Reference: March 13 and March 25, 2020 Letters: Community Planning Group Meetings as it relates to COVID-19
April 17, 2020 Letter: City Council action for Temporary Amendments of Council Policy 600-24 in response to the COVID-19 Emergency

Background

The California Governor's Executive Orders N-25-20 and N-29-20, issued on March 12 and 17, 2020, respectively, suspended provisions of the Brown Act related to teleconferencing in response to the COVID-19 Emergency. On April 14, 2020, the City Council voted unanimously to approve the proposed temporary amendments of Council Policy 600-24. Within Council Policy 600-24, there are aspects of the annual March elections process and Brown Act meeting requirements that were impacted or changed due to the Governor's Executive Orders.

The Governor's Executive Order N-08-21, issued on June 11, 2021, stated that the following provision within Executive Order N-25-20, Paragraph 1 shall remain in place and shall have full force and effect through June 30, 2021, upon which time it will expire: All residents are to heed any orders and guidance of state and local public health officials, including but not limited to the imposition of social distancing measures, to control the spread of COVID-19.

The Governor's Executive Orders N-07-21 nor N-08-21 did not address Executive Order N-29-20 regarding the Brown Act. On June 2, 2021, the Governor announced that Executive Order N-29-20 will remain in place until further notice.

In-Person Meeting Guidance

On June 15, 2021, the State ended restrictions on physical distancing, capacity limits on businesses, and the county tier system. As stated in Council Policy 600-24, Community Planning Groups (CPGs) are private organizations. As such, individual CPGs can determine their timing for conducting in-person public meetings. CPGs that decide to return to in-person public meetings should follow the State's guidance for continuing COVID-19 safety measures regarding wearing masks and honoring social distancing. CPGs can continue to meet virtually consistent with Executive Order N-29-20 until further notice.

City Staff Attendance

The City has begun to take steps to reopen various City facilities as the region shows signs of recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. As we proceed, we will continue to follow the Cal/OSHA COVID-19 Prevention Emergency Temporary Standards (ETS).

The City Clerk's Office has begun to offer Public Information Center Service in the CAB lobby (acceptance of summons and subpoenas, appeals, pickup and drop-off of records) for walk-in service. The City Administration Building (CAB) is open to visitors who have pre-scheduled meetings with City officials. Additionally, the City Treasurer's Office in the lobby of Civic Center Plaza will continue to offer appointments for limited in-person services.

Over the next few months, we will be carefully planning safe ways to expand our in-person services at additional City facilities, including libraries and recreation centers. Public meetings have not resumed on the 12th Floor of City Administration Building and will continue to be held virtually. Staff are not currently meeting with CPGs or stakeholder groups in person. This may change in the near future and additional information will be provided at that time.

Resources

<https://www.gov.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/6.11.21-EO-N-07-21-signed.pdf>

<https://www.gov.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/6.11.21-EO-N-08-21-signed.pdf>

<https://www.gov.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/3.12.20-EO-N-25-20-COVID-19.pdf>

<https://www.gov.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/3.17.20-N-29-20-EO.pdf>

<https://covid19.ca.gov/safely-reopening/>

<https://www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/coronavirus/ETS.html>

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Tait Galloway, Program Manager at tgalloway@sandiego.gov or 619-533-4550.

Sincerely,



Mike Hansen

Director, Planning Department

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cc: Jeff Sturak, Deputy Chief Operating Officer
Randy Wilde, Policy Advisor, Mayor's Office