

From: [MJ Lopatin](#)
To: [Angel Rodriguez](#)
Subject: Public Comment NCLA Agenda Item #1 on March 2, 2022
Date: Monday, February 28, 2022 10:41:02 PM

Dear NCLA Commissioners,

I urge you to vote No on Resolution 22-02 at your upcoming March 2nd special meeting. It is not true that “circumstances described under previously adopted resolutions continue to exist” and “the Authority continues to need to be able to meet remotely due to present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees”.

While meeting remotely was both safer and convenient during the heart of the pandemic, you can no longer justify it now by calling our present circumstances a local state of emergency with imminent risk. The CDC, state, and now the county have all said the 85% of us in the county who are vaccinated can go inside to stores, libraries, offices, restaurants, sporting events, etc, without masks or numeric limits (starting March 2nd). To declare and vote that you still can't meet in person in our county now due to the “imminent risk to the health and safety of attendees” is simply no longer true, and would cause a total loss of trust with the public.

You are a public Authority, and we really appreciate all the work you do. You need to begin meeting again in person in public as you do that work, as the Brown Act requires. AB 361 allows you to meet remotely when you are at imminent risk, but thankfully, all health officers and authorities are saying you no longer are.

Some of the current facts that are ignored in the Whereas section of this resolution, and which have dramatically changed the circumstances:

- The State of California removed the indoor mask mandate February 16th and the County Health Officer announced removing it March 2nd, the very day of your meeting and this vote, for all vaccinated individuals.
- New CDC guidelines on February 25th removed the recommendation to mask indoors in Santa Clara County, since our risk is deemed “Medium”
- 90% of our eligible county residents (age 5+) are vaccinated and 85% of all county residents are vaccinated and thus can go mask-less indoors.
- The State of California Health Dept announced on February 28th the removal of the mask mandate for even for schools as of March 12th
- Los Altos and Los Altos Hills have some of the lowest cumulative Covid-19 case rates in the entire county (6,869-7,786/100,000). Milpitas is twice our rate (12,920/100,000), Morgan Hill almost 3 times our rate (17,800/100,000), and Gilroy almost 4 times (23,183/100,000), to compare to other county library sites.

There is no longer a local state of emergency. You are not at imminent risk at a meeting, and while we can all choose to continue wearing masks, we are no longer in health circumstances requiring that. I hope to see you in person at your next meeting face-to-face, or at least mask-to-mask. Please vote No on this resolution.

Sincerely,
MJ Lopatin