



State of Louisiana

JOHN BEL EDWARDS
GOVERNOR

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR – COASTAL ACTIVITIES

CERTIFICATION OF INABILITY TO MEET IN PERSON DUE TO COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY FOR THE SCIENCE ADVISORY GROUP OF THE LOUISIANA CLIMATE INITIATIVES TASK FORCE

In accordance with La. R.S. 42:17.1 and Executive Proclamations Number 168 JBE 2020, this notice shall serve as a certification of the Science Advisory Group of the Louisiana Climate Initiatives Task Force inability to otherwise operate in accordance with the Louisiana Open Meetings Law as a result of the COVID-19 public health emergency. The Science Advisory Group will provide for attendance and quorum at its essential government meeting on December 11, 2020, via video conference. Pursuant to La. R.S. 42:17.1, the Advisory Group must meet because:

- 1) Matters that, if they are delayed, will cause curtailment of vital public services or severe economic dislocation and hardship. The Science Advisory Group is tasked with helping to identify and formulate recommendations for reducing the state's net greenhouse gas ("GHG") emissions. These recommendations will "reduce the greenhouse gas emissions that are driving up global temperatures, raising sea levels, and increasing risks that threaten our health and safety, quality of life, economic growth, and vital habitats and ecosystems." Executive Order JBE 2020-18. Because the Advisory Group plays a critical role in the state's effort to reduce GHG emissions and because time is of the essence in realizing these emissions reductions, its continued function during this pandemic is essential, and failing to timely meet would result in the curtailment of vital public services or severe economic dislocation and hardship.
- 2) Matters that are critical to continuation of the business of the public body and that are not able to be postponed to a meeting held in accordance with the other provisions of this Chapter due to a legal requirement or other deadline that cannot be postponed or delayed by the public body. Executive Order JBE 2020-18 sets a February 1, 2021, deadline for an interim report of the Climate Initiatives Task Force and a February 1, 2022, deadline for a final report of the Climate Initiatives Task Force. In order to fulfill the deadlines mandated in Executive Order JBE 2020-18, the Committee operations cannot be postponed to after the COVID-19 public health emergency.

Considering the foregoing, and in accordance with La. 42:17.1 and Executive Proclamations 168 JBE 2020, the Board's meeting on Friday, December 11, 2020, at 11:00 a.m. will be held via video conference and in a manner that allows for observation and input by members of the public, as set forth in the Notice posted no later than Thursday, December 10, 2020. All public comments received before and during the meeting will be properly identified and acknowledged during the meeting.

Certified this 10th day of December, 2020.

Virginia Burkett

Co-Chair

[Signature]

Co-Chair