

TRI-CITY REGIONAL SANITARY DISTRICT OPEN MEETING RULES OF DECORUM

Purposes

The purposes of the following Rules of Decorum are as follows:

- To ensure that open meetings of the Tri-City Regional Sanitary District (District) are conducted in a way that allows the business of the District to be effectively conducted.
- To ensure that members of the public who attend meetings of the District can be heard in a fair, impartial and respectful manner.
- To ensure that meetings of the District are conducted in a way that is open to all viewpoints, yet free from abusive, distracting or intimidating behavior.
- To ensure that the expectations of public decorum at open meetings of the District are understood by persons attending the meetings.

The Board chair has the authority to enforce the Rules of Decorum.

Rules for Members of the Public

Members of the public shall not engage in any of the following in the meeting room during a District meeting:

- Shouting, unruly behavior, distracting side conversations or speaking out when a District board member or another person of the public is talking.
- Interruption of any Board member, staff, consultant or member of the public while speaking.
- Defamation, intimidation, personal affronts, profanity, or threats of violence against a District board member, a board advisor or another person of the public.
- Audible use of phones, pagers, radios, computers or other electronic equipment.
- Booming, hissing, foot stomping, parading, singing or other similar behavior that impedes or disrupts the orderly conduct of the meeting.

Failure to comply with these Rules will result in removal from the meeting.

Rules for Speakers

Members of the public attending a District meeting who wish to ask questions or make public comments will, before the meeting, legibly complete the Public Comment Sign-In Sheet provided at the meeting, affirming that they have read, understand, and agree to abide by the Rules of Decorum. At the appointed time on the agenda, the Board chair will invite those who have signed up to stand and share their questions/comments as follows:

- Your full name and mailing/e-mail address.
- Topic on which you wish to speak.
- Limit questions/comments to 3 minutes. This time period may be changed by the Board chair.
- Address all questions/comments to the Board chair.
- Do not expect District board members or board advisors to respond to your comments during the meeting.
- District board members and board advisors will not reply to questions/comments which are not on the agenda.
- Responses to your questions/comments may be posted, as appropriate, on the TRSDWastewater.org website within seven working days following the meeting.
- Repetitious questions/comments about the same issue will be considered "out-of-order" and not considered for future board response.
- Be civil and courteous with your language. Insults, profanity, use of vulgar language or gestures, or other inappropriate behavior are not allowed.
- Refrain from personal attacks and/or threats directed towards the District board members, advisors, other speakers or fellow attendees.
- Failure to follow these rules will result in the termination of the privilege of commenting.

Note: The information province herein was abstracted from on-line sites published by Ashville, North Carolina and San Marcos, Texas.