

### **Thank you for making a public comment during the SEPRD Public Meeting**

The goal of public meetings is to allow members of the public to observe and listen to their elected representatives while they conduct the District's business. The SEPRD's Board of Directors ("Board") also uses these meetings to engage with the community we serve in order to serve you better, and we value your questions and concerns. However, it is also imperative that we maintain a respectful and productive environment that allows all voices to be heard.

The following Rules of Decorum ("Rules") define the District's expectations for public comment during SEPRD Public Meetings.

1. The Board of Directors ("Board") will make all reasonable efforts to provide a Public Comment period during each meeting but is not required to do so unless a public hearing is specifically required by law. The Board may remove the Public Comment period from the agenda when a majority of the Board agrees that doing so is necessary to ensure timely and efficient completion of District business.
2. The SEPRD Board President or presiding officer ("President") shall have the sole discretion to enforce these Rules, except that any three directors may vote to override the decision of the President.
3. Members of the public may speak only during the Public Comment period as stated on the Board agenda, and only when specifically recognized by the President.
4. A person may speak only if they have signed up to speak in accordance with these Rules. Speaker substitutions are not allowed.
5. Speakers may speak one time during a Public Comment period unless specifically requested to speak again by the President.
6. Each speaker shall have three (3) minutes to address the Board. The President may, in his or her discretion, increase or decrease this time allocation.
7. A speaker may not share or relinquish any unused time to another speaker.
8. Speakers shall refrain from personal attacks and/or threats directed towards the members of the Board, SEPRD staff, or other members of the public. This includes unsubstantiated allegations or similarly libelous statements. These Rules shall apply to

any public comments submitted in written form and read into, or requested to be read into, the record.

9. Speakers shall be civil and courteous in their language and presentation. Insults, profanity, use of vulgar language or gestures or other inappropriate behavior are not allowed.
10. Interrupting a speaker during his or her allotted speaking time is not allowed. This includes comments, questions, jeering, or other interruptions directed at other members of the public, at a specific board member, or during a conversation between or among board members during the meeting.
11. The Board will allow each speaker who is in compliance with these Rules to finish his or her remarks, but will not engage in dialogue with the speaker or other members of the audience during the Public Comment period. The President may, however, request that SEPRD Staff follow up with a speaker after the meeting or provide additional information to the Board at a later date, or the Board may agree to address a speaker's comments at a later date.
12. Failure to obey these Rules may result in the forfeiture of the remaining speaking time. Continued speaking when asked to stop by the President, or continued or repeated violations of these Rules, may result in ejection from the meeting. Any member of the public who does not leave the meeting when asked to do so may be treated as a trespasser and be removed by law enforcement personnel.

I have read and agree to the Rules of Decorum for Public Comment:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_