

Public Comment at Board Meetings

All Board meetings, with the exception of executive sessions, will be open to the public. The Board invites ESD community members to attend Board meetings to become acquainted with the program and operation of the ESD. The public has a right to attend public meetings held in open session, and may be invited to share comments, ideas and opinions with the Board during designated times on the agenda. The Board may conduct a meeting without public comment.

Individuals with hearing, vision or speech impairments will be given an equal opportunity to participate in Board meetings and submit written comments to the Board. Individuals requesting assistance, aids or accommodations are encouraged to notify the ESD at least 48 hours prior to the Board meeting with the request, consistent with Board policy BD/BDA – Board Meetings.

Procedures for Oral Public Comment

The Board establishes the following procedures for public comment at Board meetings held in open session. The information will be accessible and available to all patrons accessing or attending such a Board meeting.

1. Public comment is limited to its designated place on the agenda and while time allows.
2. A person wishing to provide public comment, if an opportunity is provided by the Board during a meeting open to the public, will complete and submit the Intent to Speak card, when in person, and by the website form, when attending virtually, to the Board secretary at least one hour prior to the Board meeting.¹ To provide pre-recorded video comment that is original content, related to LBL business, and by the person submitting the comment, submit the electronic form and send the video file to the Board Secretary by 12:00 PM the day of the Board meeting. A request to give public comment in-person or electronically does not guarantee time will be available.
3. A person speaking during the public comment portion of the meeting may comment on a topic not on the published agenda.
4. A person speaking during the public comment portion of the meeting should state their name, whether they are a resident of the ESD, and, if speaking for an organization, the name of the organization. A spokesperson should be designated to represent a group with a common purpose.
5. A person giving public comment is limited to an established time limit of three minutes. Statements should be brief and concise. If a person has more comments than time allows or is unable to comment due to time constraints, the person is encouraged to submit additional written comments to the Board through the ESD office as directed.

¹ When in-person attendees are allowed to provide oral comment, virtual attendees will be afforded the same opportunity.

6. Inquiries from the public during the designated portion of the agenda will not generally be responded to immediately by the Board chair, and may be referred to the Superintendent for reply at a later date.
7. Topics raised during the public comment portion may be considered for inclusion as agenda items at future Board meetings.

Comments Regarding Staff Members

A person speaking during the designated portion of the agenda for public comment may offer objective criticism of ESD operations and programs. The Board will not hear comments regarding any individual ESD staff member. The Board chair will direct the visitor to the procedures in Board policy KL - Public Complaints for consideration of a legitimate complaint involving a staff member. Any association contract governing the employee's rights will be followed. A commendation involving a staff member should be sent to the Superintendent, who will forward it to the employee and Program Director.

END OF POLICY

Legal Reference(s):

[ORS 165.535](#)
[ORS 165.540](#)

[ORS 192.610 - 192.690](#)
[ORS 334.100](#)

Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, 42 U.S.C. §§ 12101-12213 (2018); 29 C.F.R. Part 1630 (2020); 28 C.F.R. Part 35 (2020).

Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008, 42 U.S.C. §§ 12101-12133 (2018).

Baca v. Moreno Valley Unified Sch. Dist., 936 F. Supp. 719 (C.D. Cal. 1996).

Leventhal v. Vista Unified Sch. Dist., 973 F. Supp. 951 (S.D. Cal. 1997).

Oregon House Bill 2560 (2021).