

**SOUTH PLACER MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT POLICIES**

<b>Policy Name:</b>	<b>5016 – PUBLIC COMMENT VIA REMOTE PARTICIPATION AT BOARD MEETINGS</b>		
<b>Approval Authority:</b>	SPMUD BOARD OF DIRECTORS	<b>Adopted:</b>	06/27/24
<b>Resolution No.</b>	24-17	<b>Revised:</b>	

**PURPOSE**

This Policy shall govern the use of teleconferencing and other means of remote participation (e.g. Zoom or Microsoft Teams) for public participation and comment during Meetings of the South Placer Municipal Utility District Board of Directors and allow for the discontinuation of oral public comments from remote public participants during Public Meetings.

**POLICY STATEMENT**

**Section 1.           General**

In accordance with Board Policy 5070 – Rules of Order for Board and Committee Meetings, Public Hearings allow for public participation and comment. The District welcomes and encourages public participation during its Board meetings. The District will continue to offer some form of virtual attendance and public comment option in addition to in-person attendance; however, the District will not tolerate unwanted, disruptive intrusion into a virtual meeting. The use of language at a public meeting that is hateful, harassing, or bullying in nature is prohibited. While a Zoom or other remote meeting session is in progress, an individual’s participation may be shut down by the host if the user is providing inappropriate or disruptive comments or provides comments and refuses to identify themselves.

**Section 2.           Policy**

The Board shall continue to accept public comment in compliance with the Ralph M. Brown Act and procedures of decorum as established by the Board Policies and District Sewer Code and/or as adopted by the South Placer Municipal Utility District Board of Directors. For purposes of this Policy, public comment shall include the submission of written comments to the Board Clerk in advance of public meetings and, when called on pursuant to procedures established by the Board of Directors, oral comments made by members of the public physically in attendance at meetings of the Board.

The Board may accept “other forms of public comment,” via remote participation, which shall include emails to the Board Clerk in advance of public meetings, video/teleconferencing applications or platforms including, but not limited to, Zoom, telephonic devices, or any other web-based media, application, or platform during meetings open to the public. Individuals providing virtual public comments who are being disruptive, using language that is hateful, harassing, or bullying in nature, or who provide public comment but refuse to identify themselves will receive a verbal warning of their violation of this policy. Individuals who do not immediately correct the conduct will be promptly removed from the virtual meeting. Any person removed from a virtual meeting shall not be allowed to reenter for the remainder of the meeting.