

# CYPRESS BLACK BAYOU RECREATION & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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Cypress Black Bayou Recreation and Water Conservation's Board of Commissioners does hereby amend and replace its current procedures governing public participation at its public meetings and, pursuant to La. Rev. Stat. § 42:12(D), does hereby adopt the following rules and restrictions regarding public comments at its public meetings as follows:

Purpose: The primary purpose of the Open Meetings Law, La. R.S. 42:11 *et seq.*, and the constitutional provision ensuring the right of citizens to participate in the deliberations of public bodies is to protect citizens from secret decisions made without any opportunity for public input. In furtherance of this policy, a public comment period is provided to give the public an opportunity to be heard on agenda items before any action is taken. However, the public comment period is not an opportunity for any member of the public to attempt to harass, intimidate, or interrogate any member of the public body or any other member of the public, and such conduct will not be tolerated.

Rule 1: Public comments during a public meeting of the Board shall be heard in accordance with the procedures outlined below.

Rule 2: Individuals who desire to make a public comment concerning an agenda item during a public meeting shall be required to complete a public comment card at the beginning of each meeting, which shall include the name, address, and telephone number of the individual, the agenda item the public comment is related to, and whether the individual is speaking in support of or against that agenda item.

Rule 3: At the beginning of each meeting, the President may announce a reminder that individuals who desire to make a public comment concerning an agenda item, but who have not yet completed a public comment card, must complete a public comment card at that time.

Rule 4: Public comments concerning agenda items may also be submitted prior to the meeting via email to [ccarroll@cypressblackbayou.com](mailto:ccarroll@cypressblackbayou.com). In order for the public comment to be read into the record of the meeting, the public comment must be received by the District at least two (2) hours prior to the scheduled meeting time and must include the name, address, and telephone number of the individual

submitting the public comment. The District reserves the right to refuse to read into the record any public comment that uses profane, disparaging, or otherwise inappropriate language.

Rule 5: Public comments will be grouped according to the agenda item. Prior to taking any action on an agenda item, those individuals who submitted a public comment card related to that agenda item will be called upon to speak, and any public comments related to that agenda item that were timely and properly submitted prior to the meeting will be read into the record of the meeting.

Rule 6: Each individual will be limited to one (1) comment per agenda item and three (3) minutes per comment. Public comments will be limited to agenda items.

Rule 7: The President shall maintain orderly conduct of the meetings and shall have the right to eject any person from the public meeting who disrupts the orderly proceedings of the Board or does not adhere to the time limit to speak after being notified his/her time to speak has expired.