

# Code of Conduct

May 5, 2022



# BACKGROUND

- JPB meetings are subject to the Brown Act:
  - Guarantees the public's right to attend and participate in meetings of local legislative bodies
  - Permits governing bodies to adopt codes of conduct to preserve decorum and provide for the orderly conduct of in-person meetings and meetings held via teleconference

# CONDUCT AT PUBLIC MEETINGS

- Must permit public criticism to be freely expressed at Board and Committee meetings
- May decline to take public comment on topics that are not within the subject matter jurisdiction of the agency
- May remove disruptive individuals from meetings in order to preserve order in a meeting

# PROPOSED CODE OF CONDUCT

- Establish expectations for conduct at meetings in order to promote productivity and efficiency while fostering public participation in Board and Committee meetings
- Provide guidance and rules for public comment
- Authorize Chair of Board/Committee to sanction speaker(s) if conduct:
  - Disrupts orderly conduct of a meeting or
  - Interferes with the Board's ability to conduct its business
- Remain consistent with Brown Act requirements

# REVISIONS TO EARLIER DRAFTS

- Reviewed by WPLP Committee and Citizens Advisory Committee
- Revised to clarify that:
  - Chair of Board/Committee has discretion to permit more than 2 minutes/speaker for public comment
  - Standing during in-person meetings is permitted but prohibited in aisles and in doorways for safety reasons
  - Purpose of Code is to ensure safe and welcoming environment where all members of public may fully participate