



Rules of Decorum at Public Meetings

I.

PURPOSE

Clean Power Alliance of Southern California (CPA) desires to safeguard participation in its Public Meetings.

These rules are intended to preserve the right of freedom of expression while addressing conduct which disrupts, disturbs or otherwise impedes a Public Meeting (as defined below) of the CPA.

II.

DEFINITIONS

1. “**CPA**” means the Clean Power Alliance of Southern California.
2. “**Board**” means the Board of Directors of CPA.
3. “**Governing Body**” means the Board, or committees, boards, or commissions that may be established by the Board, from time to time, pursuant to Section 5.9 of the Joint Powers Agreement.
4. “**Joint Powers Agreement**” is the agreement establishing CPA made and entered into as of June 27, 2017 and as amended from time to time.
5. “**Meeting Room**” means a location used as a limited public forum for conducting a Public Meeting of CPA, including any areas designated to accommodate an overflow of attendees.
6. “**Presiding Officer**” means the Chair or duly authorized acting Chair presiding over a Public Meeting of any CPA Governing Body.
7. “**Public Meeting**” means CPA meetings conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Ralph M. Brown Act (Government Code § 54950, et seq.).
8. “**Sergeant-At-Arms**” is the person designated by the Presiding Officer to carry out the orders and instructions given by the Presiding Officer for the purpose of maintaining order and decorum at a Public Meeting.

III.

DUTIES AND POWERS OF THE PRESIDING OFFICER

1. Duties and Powers of the Presiding Officer. The Presiding Officer’s duties and powers include:
 - a. Directing and presiding over the Meeting Room, including over public comments, in compliance with CPA’s Public Comment Policy.

- b. Preserving order and decorum; preventing disruptions; ordering the removal from the Meeting Room any person whose continues disorderly or disruptive conduct after warnings as set forth below; and ordering the Meeting Room be cleared.
- c. Assuring that attendees in a Meeting Room are limited to a number which can be accommodated by the seating facilities or standing in an area designated for standing members, provided that the number of attendees in a Meeting Room will not exceed any legal capacity limits.

IV.

DECORUM GOVERNING PUBLIC MEETINGS

1. Decorum. A Public Meeting must be conducted in an orderly and expeditious manner while maintaining discourse and deliberation in a civil, respectful, and cordial manner.
2. Disruption at a Public Meeting. No person may engage in conduct that disrupts a Public Meeting. The following are examples of potentially disruptive conduct:
 - a. Disorderly, contemptuous, slanderous, profane, abusive remarks or utterances toward any member of the Governing Body, CPA staff, or member of the public, resulting in disruption of the Public Meeting.
 - b. A breach of the peace; disruptive, boisterous, loud or threatening conduct; or violent disturbance, resulting in disruption of the Public Meeting.
 - c. Disobedience of any lawful order of the Presiding Officer, which includes an order to be seated; to remove items that obstruct the view of other audience members, impede ingress or egress, or obstruct the aisles or passage ways; or to refrain from addressing the Governing Body, resulting in disruption of the Public Meeting.
 - d. Any other conduct which results in disruption of the Public Meeting.
3. Enforcement Protocols.
 - a. Warning. The Presiding Officer will identify the disruptive activity and request that a person cease and desist from the disruptive activity.
 - b. Removal.
 - i. If, after receiving a warning from the Presiding Officer, a person persists and continues to disrupt the meeting, the Presiding Officer may order that person to leave the Meeting Location.
 - ii. If such person does not remove himself or herself, the Presiding Officer or upon a majority vote of those members present at the Public Meeting, may order the Sergeant-at-Arms to remove that person from the Meeting Room.
 - iii. Any person so removed will be excluded from further attendance at the Public Meeting from which he/she has been removed, unless permission to attend is granted by the Presiding Officer or upon a motion adopted by a majority vote of the Governing Body, and such exclusion shall be executed by the Sergeant-at-Arms upon being directed by the Presiding Officer.
 - iv. In addition, CPA may disallow any person who has repeatedly been removed on the basis of violating Section III.3, above, from attending a Public Meeting from which she/he has been removed for up to three (3) Public Meetings. The period of prohibition from attending a particular CPA

Public Meeting will be determined by the Presiding Officer, or the Governing Body upon a majority vote, based on the number and severity of prior incidents of disruptive conduct.

V.

RESERVATION OF RIGHTS

Nothing in these Rules preclude CPA from taking any additional lawful action where warranted. These Rules are not intended to be an exhaustive list of all rights or actions CPA may take or that are available to CPA. No action or inaction by CPA will constitute an implied or express waiver of any provision of these Rules. CPA expressly reserves all rights.