

Public Testimony

Public comments will be allowed at Council meetings on all agenda items requiring final action and on all agenda items at Scientific and Statistical Committee and Advisory Panel meetings. Both oral and written comments may be submitted.

The Chairman or presiding officer will schedule public comments at an appropriate time during the meeting that is consistent with the orderly conduct business. During the time allocated for each major Council meeting agenda item, the Council Chairman will seek comments from the public. Generally, this opportunity will occur after the Council has discussed the action items and once motions have been made and are under consideration.

Individuals offering comments must provide their name and affiliation, and identify the subject of the discussion. Council members may ask questions of individuals addressing the Council.

Limits on Comments The Chairman may defer or limit public comment on Council meeting agenda items on which no final action is being taken to future oversight committee meetings, public hearings and/or to the Council meeting at which final action will be taken. Where constrained by available time, the Chairman or the presiding officer may limit public testimony in a reasonable manner by: a) requesting that individuals avoid duplication of prior testimony; b) requiring persons with similar concerns to select a spokesman; and/or; c) setting a time limit on individual comments.

Written Materials Written comments received at the Council office three business days before the Council meeting date will be copied and distributed to the Council prior to the meeting. Anyone unable to provide written comments within this timeframe and wishing Council members to have paper copies of the information should provide 35 copies to the Council staff for distribution to members. If distribution to the Council is not essential, submission of a single copy is sufficient for the record.

All written information submitted to the Council must include a statement of the source and date of such information. Any oral or written statement must also include a brief description of the background and interests of the person in the subject of the oral or written statement.

Public Input at Other Meetings At meetings of the Council's oversight committees or other working groups, the extent of public comment taken will be at the discretion of the Chairman or presiding officer.

