Committee Discussion

Item

• PROCEDURES FOR PRESENTATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS, COMMITTEE DISCUSSIONS, AND COMMITTEE VOTES DURING MEETINGS
Structure for Public Comments

• Open Meeting Act requires a public comment period for decision-making items but the Committee can place time limits on public comments.

• Other Boards at Cal/EPA place time limits on speakers (3 minutes is common).
  – Some publish limits in advance

• Similar rules with federal advisory committees.
Public Comments Cont.

- Keeping related speakers together provides for more coherent presentations.
- Discussion questions:
  - Did the committee like the approach used for public comments at today’s meeting?
  - Should speakers be allowed to “cede” their allotted time to others?
  - Should time limits for comments be set in advance or based on the number of requests to comment?
Voting

• Current practice is a voice/showing of hands.
• Some Federal advisory committee’s are using a ballot-voting procedure.
• Written ballot would be similar to the questions the Chair orally asks at the meetings.
• Votes are still publicly tallied – not a secret voting process.
QUESTIONS?

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