

# Your voice matters!

A go-to guide on how to make a public comment



## Where can I make a public comment?

### CA Fish and Game Commission

Visit: <https://fgc.ca.gov/Meetings>

### Ocean Protection Council

- Register through their website to make a comment

Visit: <https://opc.ca.gov/meetings/>

#### Here's a tip:

Sign up for agency newsletters to stay up to date!

## Pre-Meeting Checklist

- Review meeting agenda on agency website
- Prepare public comment
- Ask a trusted source to review comment
- Practice and time yourself
- Request accommodations if needed

## How do I write a comment?

### 1. Introduce yourself!

Begin with a "good morning" or "good afternoon." State your name, who you are representing (if applicable), and your background (if applicable).

### 2. State your main point.

What do you want to achieve? Why did you choose to make a public comment? What are you advocating for or against? Summarize this in a sentence or two, and include the agenda number or item (if applicable).

### 3. Use supporting evidence.

This can mean different things! You can state your personal observations, voice the opinions of your community members, or cite credible data sources. Provide some sort of proof to back up your point.

### 4. Call to action.

Restate your main point and ask decision makers to take a certain action.

### 5. Thank the commissioners.

Conclude by thanking the decision-makers for their time and consideration.



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## Why should I make a public comment?

### 1. Speak up for environmental concerns.

- Our environment can't advocate for itself, but you can!

### 2. You don't need to be an expert... just be you!

- Your perspective is valuable and brings something unique to the table.

### 3. Help shape the future.

- You can help shape regulations that will impact generations to come.

## How do I make a public comment...

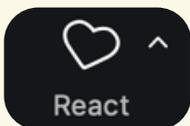
### Online?

Join the queue once they announce the agenda item you'd like to speak on. If you are making a comment on something that is not an agenda item, do so during the "General Comment" period.

- If calling in, press \*9
- If on zoom, raise your hand

Click on "React" at the bottom tab

Click "Raise hand"



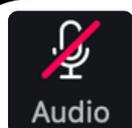
### In-Person?

Speaker cards should be filled out at the beginning of the meeting. If you are making a comment on something that is not an agenda item, indicate that on your card.



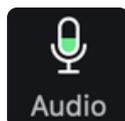
### Here's a tip:

Make sure you are unmuted when you are speaking! Check the bottom left corner of your screen.



vs.

unmuted



## Remember...

Decision-makers and agency staff are people too! Don't be intimidated, but remember to always be respectful. They want to hear from you!