Public comments in an open meeting play a crucial role in fostering transparency, accountability, and democratic participation. Public comments serve as a valuable feedback mechanism, ensuring the SILC is informed about the community's needs and sentiments. In essence, incorporating public comments enriches decision-making by incorporating a wider array of viewpoints, ultimately leading to more informed and equitable outcomes.

These guidelines provide a framework for how the SILC conducts the public comment period that is organized, respectful, and focused on relevant topics.

* Any member of the public wishing to speak on an item not on the agenda should let the Chairperson know during the public comment period.
* Each public comment should not exceed 3 minutes. If you require an accommodation, please inform the Chair and your time for comment will be extended if needed to allow you to communicate your message.
* Agenda items will be discussed in their turn and the public will have the opportunity to comment on each item.
* Please use respectful and courteous language at all times. The SILC uses the [**Rules by Which to Meet Peacefully document**](https://calsilc.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/340/2021/02/Rules-by-Which-to-Meet-Peacefully.docx) as a guide.
* Written comments may be submitted in addition to or instead of oral comments. Written comments may be sent to [**SILC@calsilc.ca.gov**](mailto:SILC@calsilc.ca.gov).
* The public comment period is not a question-and-answer session but an opportunity for individuals to express their views on items which may be of importance to the SILC.
* Presenters and/or SILC Members who are addressed by members of the public during public comment period may thank the speaker for the comment, but should not engage in a “back and forth” dialog. Public comments are intended for people to share their ideas and feedback, not to have a dialog.