



**LOS OSOS COMMUNITY  
ADVISORY COUNCIL**

## **LOS OSOS COMMUNITY ADVISORY COUNCIL Standards and Code of Conduct, Article XI Bylaws Adopted 12-10-2020**

These Standards and Code of Conduct, Bylaws Article XI are applicable to all LOCAC related meetings and activities. These standards apply to everyone present—LOCAC Council Members, LOCAC and Public Committee members, agency representatives and public participants. **LOCAC member below refers to both Council members and appointed Public committee members.**

Section 1: LOCAC is a place where all community members, regardless of race, gender, religion, socio economic status, ability and/or citizen status, may participate in safe community dialogue, and/or voice an opinion without fear of intimidation, slanderous behavior and/or bullying.

LOCAC represents the people of Los Osos and holds high standards for positive civic engagement, encouraging respectful, courteous, and thoughtful discussion of ideas and opinions, while setting clear boundaries for unacceptable behavior.

Section 2: Everyone, the Public and the Council included, will be held accountable to the same high standards of civil dialogue, engaging with integrity, collegiality and mutual respect. Not adhering to any of the standards in this Code of Conduct is cause for LOCAC members to be removed from the Council/Committee or likewise is cause for a member of the public to be asked to leave a meeting.

We are establishing a Code of Conduct where discussions are defined by respect, confidentiality when required, civil dialogue, cooperation and community building assuming positive intent and sincere listening.

Behavior unacceptable or non-compliant to this code, are grounds for removal, including but not limited to slander, name calling, disruptive and interruptive comments, bullying, derogatory, sexism, racist comments and/or hate speech as well as eye rolling, audible heavy sighs and whispered comments.

Section 3: LOCAC members will make attendance at all meetings of the Council or Committee a high priority and will be prepared to discuss the issues and business on the agenda. Each member is asked to notify the Chairperson if he/she/they intend to be

absent. LOCAC members will leave their personal preferences out of Council discussions and will support actions of the Council even when they do not personally support the action taken. It is the LOCAC member's obligation to ensure that decisions made reflect independent thinking free of peer influence, while taking into account community input. Putting the interests of the Community above personal interests is the goal.

Section 4: LOCAC members will adhere to Bylaws and Policies and Procedures. It is the Chairperson's responsibility to uphold the Bylaws and ensure Policies and Procedures are being followed at all meetings. A LOCAC member may also request review of any person that is not adhering to set guidelines laid out in this document. A LOCAC member who is found not to have adhered to the Standards and Code of Conduct during his/her/their tenure as a Council member will be given a warning. If a second warning is needed, the LOCAC member may be removed from their position by a majority vote of their respective body, excluding the vote of the member in question. This discussion may be initiated by anyone on the Council or Committee and it would be expected to be scheduled for a closed session.

Section 5: A public participant that does not adhere to this code during a Council or Committee meeting will be given a warning. If a second warning is needed, the participant will be asked to leave the meeting. The Chair, by his/her/their own decision or at the suggestion of a Council/Committee member and majority vote of the Council/Committee, has the right to remove any person not adhering to the Standards and Code of Conduct or to shut a meeting down if conduct gets out of hand. Agenda items not finished or addressed will be moved to the next regularly scheduled meeting.

*I agree to abide by these Standards and Code of Conduct as established in the LOCAC Bylaws and act to uphold their intent.*

*Print Name:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Signature:* \_\_\_\_\_ *Date:* \_\_\_\_\_