

Code of Conduct for Metro Advisory Bodies



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EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
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Amend Title 5 (Ethics) of Metro's Administrative Code to include the attached "Metro Advisory Bodies Code of Conduct" (Attachment A), applicable to all members of Metro's advisory bodies.



- The Ethics Dept. conducted extensive research across many jurisdictions in California to inform standards set in the proposed Code. As an example, many of the general principles mirror the Bay Area Rapid Transit's (BART) advisory body code.
- State law directs the Chief Ethics Officer to create agency Codes of Conduct subject to Board approval.
- The Ethics Dept. has met with, and answered questions from, advisory body leadership on the proposed Code.



- LA Metro’s advisory bodies provide important input and advice to Metro staff and the Board of Directors on a range of policy, planning, operational, and community issues.
- Currently, there is no unified, formal Code of Conduct that applies consistently across all Metro advisory bodies, in the same manner as Codes applicable to other Metro groups (contractors, lobbyists, employees, service councils, and Board Members).
- Further, and most significant, misconduct by advisory body members can inhibit and disrupt important advisory functions and subject Metro staff and advisory body members to unwarranted, unwelcome, and problematic behavior that creates risk and liability for Metro.



The proposed Code of Conduct will:

- Establish clear expectations for professionalism.
- Affirm Metro's commitment to nondiscrimination.
- Address abusive conduct by requiring respectful treatment and prohibiting egregious verbal attacks.
- Clarify expectations regarding confidential information.
- Define appropriate use of Metro resources.
- Provide a process for suspension and removal of members who violate the Code.
- Assign the Ethics Officer responsibility for advising on ethical issues and questions involving interpretation and application of the Code – something advisory bodies have historically requested.

