

Encouraging Public Input

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With Input from

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The Mediation Process

- The goal of mediation is to facilitate effective communication between disputing parties so that THEY can develop a fully informed, mutually acceptable resolution.
- Confidential
- Voluntary Participation

When is Mediation Appropriate ?

- Mediation works best when the parties have a longstanding relationship and anticipate an ongoing relationship.
- Decision making power is present
- Parties are able to advocate for their own needs and interests
- Room for negotiation with relative power balance

When is Mediation Inappropriate?

- When the decisions should or must be made in public (e.g. "Sunshine laws")
- When the decision will establish a precedent
- When the power imbalance between the parties is so extreme that it cannot be effectively overcome
- When a private decision would result in "manifest injustice"

"Stakeholder" Engagement Process

The Role of the Oklahoma State University Institute for Dispute Resolution

- Mission is to update the *Comprehensive Water Plan* for the Water Resources Board
- Develop agendas and strategies for moving toward consensus
- Conduct a series of feedback sessions for public input in hopes of developing broad-based support (2 to 4 hour meetings)
- Project to be completed within 3 years

“Stakeholder” Engagement Process

The Role of the OSU Institute for Dispute Resolution

- Provide facilitated assistance (neutrals)
- Provide technical assistance (experts)
- Provide process advice (procedures)
- Provide a process that is...

FAIR, INCLUSIVE & TRANSPARENT

For additional information:

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