

HGSD Proposed Rule Amendments

1) Rule 1.1 is amended by inserting a new subsection (aa) and relettering all subsequent subsections to read as follows:

aa. “Platted Subdivision” means a tract of land divided in two or more parts to lay out lots of less than five acres where:

1. a written depiction of the lots, blocks, and reserves created by the division of the property has been approved and recorded in the Official Public Records of Real Property of either Harris County or Galveston County; and

2. the written depiction includes streets, alleys, squares, parks, or other parts of the tract intended to be dedicated to public use or for the use of purchasers or owners of lots fronting on or adjacent to the streets, alleys, squares, parks, or other parts.

2) Rule 5.8(a) is amended to read as follows:

- a. **Single-Family Dwelling Wells Excluded:** A well with a casing diameter of less than five inches that serves only a single-family dwelling is excluded from the permit requirements of these Rules. Serving only a single-family dwelling means the well supplies groundwater for domestic use inside one home located on property that does not have an available alternative water supply. Domestic use includes water used inside the home for any purpose and may also include use outside the home for landscape irrigation, irrigating a garden or providing water to domestic livestock. A new well to be located on property that has an available alternative water supply and is located inside a platted subdivision does not qualify for this exemption and must obtain a drilling and operating permit in accordance with Rule 5.2.

3) Section 2 is amended by adding Rule 2.6 to read as follows:

RULE 2.6. Rules of Procedure, Conduct, and Decorum at Meetings of the Board of Directors:

- a. All Regular, Special, and Emergency Board Meetings will be called and conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Texas Open Meetings Act, Chapter 551, Government Code.
- b. Regular, Special and Emergency Board Meetings are open to the public and to representatives of the press and media. Closed Board meetings (“Executive Sessions”) are not open to the public or the press and only those individuals expressly requested or ordered to be present are allowed to attend Executive Sessions.
- c. Public participation at Board meetings is limited to that of observers unless the Board requests that a member of the public to address the Board or unless the person who wishes to address the Board submits a completed Public Participation Form prior to the beginning of the meeting. The Public Participation Form must list each agenda item the person wishes to address or any item the person would like the Board to consider adding to a future agenda. A sample of the Public Participation Form is attached hereto as Exhibit "A."

- d. The Presiding Officer of the meeting may limit the total amount of time each member of the public has to address the Board. The time limit, if any, must be announced at the beginning of the meeting.
- e. Profane, insulting or threatening language directed toward any person or racial, ethnic, or gender slurs or epithets will not be tolerated during public comments. These Rules do not prohibit public criticism of the District, including criticism of any act, omission, policy, procedure, program, or service. Violation of these rules may result in the following sanctions:
 - 1. cancellation of a speaker's remaining time;
 - 2. removal from the Board meeting;
 - 3. such other civil or criminal sanctions as may be authorized under the Constitution, Statutes and Codes of the State of Texas.
- f. These rules of procedure, conduct and decorum shall also apply to public hearings.