



Transparency Position

Transparency saves costs and opens the door to a more informed public.

By making paperless and available online documents, agendas, financials, etc. of a Special Purpose District, such government entities save tax dollars in reducing printing/paper costs, speeding up record requests, and facilitating secondary education platforms for communicating on “What is a Special Purpose District” and all its attended parts. Transparency allows for faster operations, faster response times to emergencies, and an overall more efficient district.

Regardless of diverging viewpoints on what our Founding Fathers intended with openness and access of government & public information, we at Triton assert that when a district adopts policies, goals, or board directions towards transparency, that District is taking their public going concern to the next level; benefiting the taxpayer with access and improved understanding of *what* and *how* the District is doing. From a Public Policy position, this openness makes for a smoother relationship with the public in general removing any perception of hidden data or agendas. From a practical perspective, saving hard costs on printing and record maintenance, as well as saving personnel time in data gathering, is just common sense. Further, by having the data in a more malleable form, the possibilities of various studies, statistical analysis, and quality control of operations, is endless.

Most public get a raw or altered impression of their local district often due to simple misunderstandings of the basic definitions of terms used: “What is a MUD?”, “What is a Lift Station?”, “What District am I in?” etc. Through openness and transparency, Districts are encouraged to educate the public and define their terms. Education is not limited to bond elections, but go as far as basic pamphlets and booklets that can be disseminated to primary and secondary schools as part of civics classes, and as part of publications and columns in HOA/neighborhood emails. Once a public is better informed on *what* their District is doing, they can make a better informed decision (which garners their support and encourages their District) with regard to future election items. All this further encourages growth in the District as more and more public are on the same page of understanding.

In a time of crisis, having the means to rapidly communicate fast with information and data prepared & publicly consumable, is now vital. It is not practical to send water drinking hazards by mail only—that more often than not will be invaled by the time it arrives. Districts MUST have a means for the Board and operations to communicate in a flood event what streets and areas of the neighborhood are closed, and what services are down—including estimates of how long they might be. Emergency Alerts and other communication tools are only possible when the District is open, transparent, and available to its public.

We at Triton support all legislative efforts toward transparency for Special Purpose Districts.