

## Federal Housing Finance Board

## § 907.14

### § 907.13 Consideration and Final Decisions.

(a) *Consideration by Board of Directors.* The Board of Directors may consider a Petition and render a decision:

(1) Solely on the basis of the written record; or

(2) At a regularly scheduled meeting or a meeting convened specifically for the purpose of considering the Petition. Consideration of a Petition at a meeting shall be governed by the procedures described in § 907.14.

(b) *Final Decision.* The Board of Directors shall render a Final Decision on the issue(s) presented in a Petition or Request to Intervene that has been accepted for consideration, based upon consideration of the entire record of the proceeding. The terms and conditions of the Final Decision shall bind the parties as to any issue(s) presented in the Petition or Request to Intervene and decided by the Board of Directors. The decision of the Board of Directors is a final decision for purposes of obtaining judicial review or as otherwise provided by law.

(c) *Time periods.* Subject to extension by such additional time as may reasonably be required, the Board of Directors shall render a Final Decision within 120 calendar days of the date the Petition is received in a form deemed by the Managing Director to be in compliance with the requirements of § 907.10 or, if the Petition has been the subject of a request under § 907.12(d), within 120 calendar days of receipt of a response from the Petitioner deemed by the Managing Director to complete the information necessary for the Board of Directors to consider the Petition.

(d) *Transmittal of Final Decision.* The Secretary to the Board shall transmit the Final Decision of the Board of Directors to all parties to the submission.

[64 FR 30883, June 9, 1999, as amended at 65 FR 8257, Feb. 18, 2000]

### § 907.14 Meetings of the Board of Directors to consider Petitions.

(a) *Full and fair opportunity to be heard.* Any meeting of the Board of Directors to consider a Petition shall be conducted in a manner that provides the parties a full and fair opportunity to be heard on the issues accepted for consideration. Any such meeting shall

be conducted so as to permit an expeditious presentation of such issues.

(b) *Participation in meeting.* (1) The presence of a quorum of the Board if Directors is required to conduct a meeting under this section. Members of the Board of Directors are deemed present if they appear in person or by telephone.

(2) An act of the Board of Directors requires the vote of a majority of the members of the Board of Directors voting at a meeting at which a quorum of the Board of Directors is present.

(3) A Final Decision may be reached by a vote of the Board of Directors after the meeting at which the Petition has been considered. Only those members of the Board of Directors present at the meeting at which the Petition was considered may vote on issues presented in the Petition and accepted for consideration. A vote of the majority of the members of the Board of Directors eligible to vote and voting shall be an act of the Board of Directors.

(c) *Chairperson—(1) Presiding officer.* The Chairperson, or a member of the Board of Directors designated by the Chairperson, shall preside over a meeting of the Board of Directors convened under this section.

(2) *Authority of the Chairperson.* The Chairperson shall have all powers and discretion necessary to conduct the meeting in a fair and impartial manner, to avoid unnecessary delay, to regulate the course of the meeting and the conduct of the parties and their counsel, and to discharge the duties of a presiding officer.

(3) *Board of Directors may overrule the Chairperson.* Any member of the Board of Directors may, by motion, challenge any action, finding, or determination made by the Chairperson in the course of the meeting, and the Board of Directors, by majority vote, may overrule any action, finding or determination of the Chairperson.

(d) *Meeting may be closed.* A party may request that the meeting, or portion thereof, be closed to public observation. A request to close a meeting shall be processed in accordance with the requirements of the Government in the Sunshine Act (5 U.S.C. 552b) and the Finance Board's implementing regulation (12 CFR part 912).

(e) *Location of meeting.* Unless otherwise specified, all meetings of the Board of Directors will be held in the Board Room of the Finance Board at 1777 F Street, NW., Washington, DC, at the time specified in the notice of meeting issued pursuant to 12 CFR 912.6.

(f) *Presentation of issues—(1) Stipulations.* Subject to the Chairperson's discretion, the parties may agree to stipulations of law or fact, including stipulations as to the admissibility of exhibits, and present such stipulations at the meeting. Stipulations shall be made a part of the record of the proceeding.

(2) *Order of presentation.* The Chairperson shall determine the order of presentation of the issues, testimony of any witnesses, presentation of any other information or document, and all other procedural matters at the meeting.

(g) *Record.* The meeting shall be recorded and transcribed. Transcripts of the proceedings shall be governed by 12 CFR 912.5(c). The Petition and all supporting documentation shall be made a part of the record, unless otherwise determined by the Chairperson. The Chairperson may order the record corrected, upon motion to correct, upon stipulation of the parties, or at the Chairperson's discretion.

(h) *Admissibility of documents and testimony.* (1) The Chairperson has discretion to admit and make a part of the record documents and testimony that are relevant, material, and reliable, and may elect not to admit documents and testimony that are privileged, unduly repetitious, or of little probative value.

(2) The Board of Directors shall give such weight to documents and testimony admitted and made part of the record as it may deem reasonable and appropriate.

(3) The Chairperson may admit and make a part of the record, in lieu of oral testimony, statements of fact or opinion prepared by a witness. The admissibility of the information contained in the statement shall be subject to the same rules as if the testimony were provided orally.

(i) *Official notice.* All matters officially noticed by the Chairperson shall appear on the record.

(j) *Exhibits and documents—(1) Copies.* A legible duplicate copy of a document shall be admissible to the same extent as the original.

(2) *Exhibits.* Witnesses may use existing or newly created charts, exhibits, calendars, calculations, outlines, or other graphic materials to summarize, illustrate, or simplify the presentation of testimony. Subject to the Chairperson's discretion, such materials may be used with or without being admitted into the record.

(3) *Identification.* All exhibits offered into the record shall be numbered sequentially and marked with a designation identifying the sponsor. The original of each exhibit offered into the record or marked for identification shall be retained in the record of the meeting, unless the Chairperson permits substitution of a copy for the original.

(4) *Exchange of Exhibits.* One copy of each exhibit offered into the record shall be furnished to each of the parties and to each member of the Board of Directors. If the Chairperson does not fix a time for the exchange of exhibits, the parties shall exchange copies of proposed exhibits at the earliest practicable time before the commencement of the meeting to consider the Petition. Parties are not required to exchange exhibits submitted as rebuttal information before the meeting commences if submission of the exhibits is not reasonably certain at that time.

(5) *Authenticity.* The authenticity of all documents submitted or exchanged as proposed exhibits prior to the meeting shall be admitted unless written objection is filed before the commencement of the meeting, or unless good cause is shown for failing to file such a written objection.

(k) *Sanction for obstruction of the proceedings.* The Board of Directors may impose sanctions it deems appropriate for violation of any applicable provision of this subpart or any applicable law, rule, regulation, or order, or any dilatory, frivolous, or obstructionist

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conduct by any witness or counsel during the course of a meeting.

[64 FR 30883, June 9, 1999, as amended at 65 FR 8257, Feb. 18, 2000]

### § 907.15 General provisions.

(a) *Waiver of requirements.* The Managing Director may waive any filing requirement or deadline in this subpart for good cause shown. The Managing Director shall provide prompt notice of any such waiver to the Board of Directors.

(b) *Actions of the Managing Director subject to the authority of the Board of Directors.* The Board of Directors may overrule any action by the Managing Director under this subpart.

(c) *Withdrawal.* At any time prior to the issuance by the Managing Director of a Notice of Board Consideration pursuant to § 907.12(g), an authorized representative of a Petitioner may withdraw the Petition, or an authorized representative of an Intervenor may withdraw the Request to Intervene, by filing a written request to withdraw with the Secretary to the Board. Only the Board of Directors may grant a request to withdraw after issuance by the Managing Director of a Notice of Board Consideration pursuant to § 907.12(g). Unless otherwise agreed, withdrawal of a Petition or Request to Intervene shall not foreclose a Petitioner from resubmitting a Petition, or an Intervenor from submitting a Request to Intervene, on the same or similar issues.

(d) *Settlement agreement.* (1) At any time during the course of proceedings pursuant to this subpart, the Finance Board shall give Petitioners and Intervenor the opportunity to submit offers of settlement when the nature of the proceedings and the public interest permit. With the approval of the Managing Director, an authorized representative of a Petitioner or Intervenor may enter into a proposed settlement agreement with the Finance Board disposing of some or all of the issues presented in a Petition or Request to Intervene.

(2) No proposed settlement agreement shall be final until approved by the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall consider any proposed settlement agreement within 30 calendar days of receiving a notice of the

proposed settlement agreement. If the Board of Directors disapproves or fails to approve a proposed settlement agreement within 30 days, the proposed settlement agreement shall be null and void and the previously filed Petition or Request to Intervene shall be considered in accordance with this subpart.

(3) A settlement agreement approved by the Board of Directors shall be deemed final and binding on all parties to the agreement. At the time a proposed settlement agreement becomes final, a Petition or Request to Intervene previously filed by a party to the agreement shall be deemed withdrawn as to all issues resolved in the agreement, and the parties to the agreement shall be estopped from raising objection to those issues or to the terms of the settlement agreement.

(e) *No rights created; Finance Board not prohibited.* Nothing in this subpart shall be deemed to create any substantive or discovery right in any party. Nothing in this subpart shall limit in any manner the right of the Finance Board to conduct any examination or inspection of any Bank or the Office of Finance, or to take any action with respect to a Bank or the Office of Finance, or its directors, officers, employees or agents, otherwise authorized by law.

(f) *Exhaustion requirement.* When seeking a Case-by-Case Determination of any matter or review by the Board of Directors of any Supervisory Determination, a Bank or the Office of Finance shall follow the procedures in this subpart as a prerequisite to seeking judicial review. Failure to do so shall be deemed to be a failure to exhaust all available administrative remedies.

(g) *Improper conduct prohibited.* No party shall, by act or omission, unduly burden or frustrate the efforts of the Board of Directors to carry out its duties under the laws and regulations of the Finance Board. A Petitioner or Intervenor shall confine its communications with the Board of Directors, or any individual member thereof, concerning issues raised in a pending Petition, to written communications for inclusion in the record of the proceeding, filed with the Secretary to the Board.