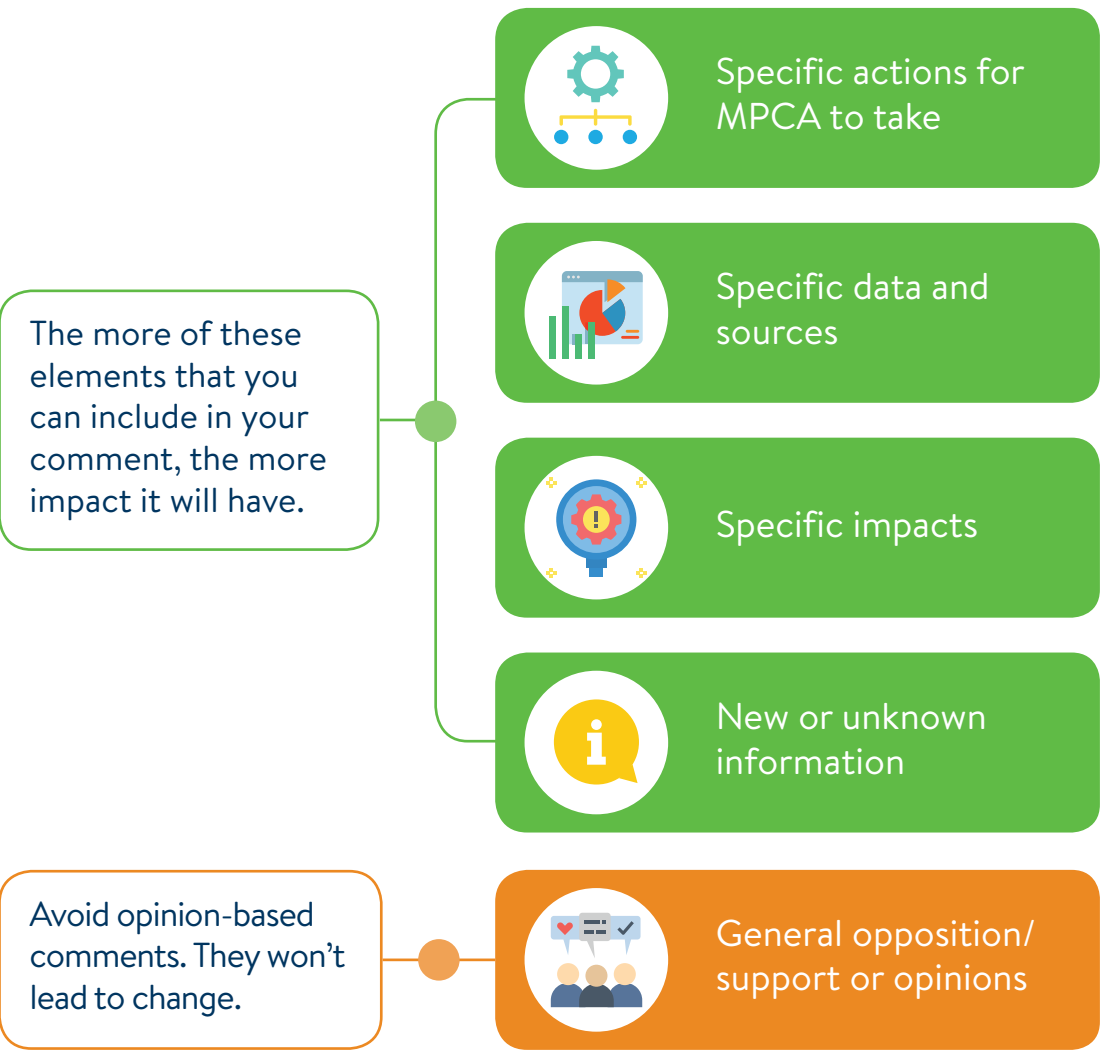


Effective public comments

How to make your voice heard



Anatomy of an effective public comment

Your interest in the project or permit

Reasons supporting your position. Use data and facts. Be specific.

Specific actions or changes to make

I am interested in project XYZ because it will affect our economy and our water quality. The project will bring needed jobs to my community, but must also protect our natural resources.

The project will discharge wastewater into Muddy Fish Stream, which is already known to not meet water quality standards for total suspended solids. In the permit application, **monitoring data shows total suspended solids measured at 125 mg/L, 100 mg/L, and 225 mg/L** in Muddy Fish Stream.

The project also involves construction in Muddy Fish Stream, but the **application does not list any best management practices (BMPs) or controls to reduce or eliminate excess sediment** resulting from the work.

To make sure that we benefit economically from the project without making the water quality in Muddy Fish Stream worse, **the agency should include a total suspended solids effluent limit** in the permit that protects water quality.

The agency should also require the use of silt curtains or require that construction occur during winter conditions to prevent excess sediment from making water quality worse.

Comments that are less effective

Missing: specific data and suggested changes to the project

Do not permit the project because it will harm the environment, and our most important job is to protect our ecosystems for future generations.

Important things to remember



Good comments can **improve the final permit.**



The permit process is to **make sure a project can comply with environmental laws**, not to stop the project.



Comments should be **fact and data based.**



Comments are not votes. Approval is not based on the number of comments for or against the permit.