

**RESOLUTION 2019-16**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
OF THE BEAUMONT-CHERRY VALLEY WATER DISTRICT  
REVISING THE DISTRICT'S POLICIES AND PROCEDURES MANUAL  
PART II – APPLICABLE TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND DISTRICT STAFF**

**WHEREAS**, on March 18, 2009 the Board of Directors of the Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District adopted Resolution 2009-05, establishing a Policy and Procedures Manual applicable to Board of Directors and District staff; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Directors desires to maintain a strong commitment to its responsibilities as a Board and as individual Board members, serving the best interests of the community and providing essential services while representing the people who elected its members; and

**WHEREAS**, at its meeting on July 23, 2018, the Personnel Committee of the Board of Directors directed staff to review, revise and update the District's Policies and Procedures Manual; and

**WHEREAS**, after significant review and discussion, the Personnel Committee has recommended for adoption the proposed revisions and amendments to the District's Policies and Procedures Manual Part II attached hereto as Exhibit A to the Board of Directors; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Directors has reviewed and considered the said revisions and amendments to the BCVWD Policies and Procedures Manual Part II attached as Exhibit A, and finds the revised policy relevant and acceptable, and deems said policy to be in the best interest of the District,

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Directors of the Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District that the Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District Policies and Procedures Manual Part II is hereby revised and amended in its entirety, and replaced with the content of Exhibit A, Part II – Applicable to Board of Directors and District Staff, attached hereto, provided that if any provision contained in Part II as revised in Exhibit A to this Resolution is in conflict with then current state or federal legislative or case law, that legislative or case law shall prevail and shall be followed.

**ADOPTED** this 18th day of December, 2019, by the following vote:

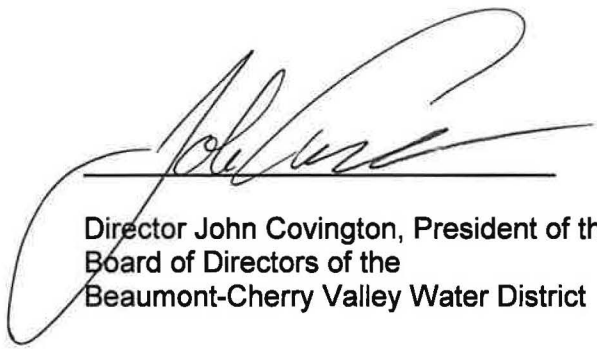
AYES: Covington, Hoffman, Ramirez, Slawson, Williams

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

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Director John Covington, President of the  
Board of Directors of the  
Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District

ATTEST:



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Director Andy Ramirez, Secretary to the  
Board of Directors of the  
Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District

Attachment: EXHIBIT A - BCVWD Policies and Procedures Manual – Part II Revision

## **EXHIBIT A - BCVWD Policies and Procedures Manual – Part II Applicable to Board of Directors and District Staff (Revision 00/00/2019)**

### **1. BASIS OF AUTHORITY**

- A. **Authority.** The Board of Directors is the legislative body and unit of authority within the District. Apart from his/her normal function as a part of this unit, Directors have no individual authority. As individuals, Directors may not commit the District to any policy, act, or expenditure.

Directors do not represent any fractional segment of the community, but are, rather, a part of the body that represents and acts for the community as a whole. Routine matters concerning the operational aspects of the District are delegated to District staff members.

### **2. MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

- A. **Information.** Directors shall thoroughly prepare themselves to discuss agenda items at meetings of the Board of Directors. Information may be requested from staff or exchanged between Directors before meetings.
- i. Information exchanged before meetings shall be distributed through the General Manager, and all Directors will receive all information being distributed.
  - ii. Copies of information exchanged before meetings shall be available at the meeting for members of the public in attendance, and shall also be provided to anyone not present upon their request.
- B. **Conduct.** Directors shall at all times conduct themselves with courtesy to each other, to staff, and to members of the audience present at Board meetings.
- C. **Comments.** Directors shall defer to the chairperson for conduct of meetings of the Board, but shall be free to question and discuss items on the agenda. All comments should be brief and confined to the matter being discussed by the Board.
- D. **Pertinence.** Directors may request for inclusion into minutes brief comments pertinent to an agenda item only at the meeting that item is discussed (including, if desired, a position on abstention or dissenting vote).

- E. **Conflict of Interest.** Directors shall abstain from participating in consideration on any item involving a personal or financial conflict of interest. Unless such a conflict of interest exists, however, Directors should not abstain from the Board's decision-making responsibilities.
- F. **Information.** Requests by individual Directors for substantive information and/or research from District staff will be channeled through the General Manager.

### 3. COMMITTEES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- A. **Ad Hoc Committees.** The Board President shall appoint such ad hoc committees as may be deemed necessary or advisable by himself/herself and/or the Board. The duties of the ad hoc committees shall be outlined at the time of appointment, and the committee shall be considered dissolved when its final report has been made.
- B. **Standing Committees.** The following shall be standing committees of the Board:
  - i. Personnel Committee; and
  - ii. Finance and Audit Committee.
- C. **Appointment.** The Board President shall appoint and publicly announce the members of the standing committees for the ensuing year no later than the Board's regular meeting in January.
- D. **Oversight.** The Board's standing committees may be assigned to review District functions, activities, and/or operations pertaining to their designated concerns, as specified below. Said assignment may be made by the Board President, a majority vote of the Board, or on their own initiative. Any recommendations resulting from said review should be submitted to the Board in writing.
  - i. All meetings of standing committees shall conform to all open meeting laws (e.g., "Brown Act") that pertain to regular meetings of the Board of Directors.
- E. **Personnel.** The Board's standing Personnel Committee shall be concerned with the functions, activities, operations, compensation and welfare of District staff.
- F. **Finance and Audit.** The Board's standing Finance and Audit Committee shall be concerned with the financial management of the District, including the preparation of

an annual budget and major expenditures.

#### 4. BOARD PRESIDENT

- A. **Rights.** The President of the Board of Directors shall serve as chairperson at all Board meetings. He/she shall have the same rights as the other members of the Board in voting, introducing motions, resolutions and ordinances, and any discussion of questions that follow said actions.
- B. **Responsibilities.** Responsibilities of the Board President include:
- i. Sign all instruments, act, and carry out stated requirements and the will of the Board;
  - ii. Sign the minutes of the Board meeting following their approval;
  - iii. Appoint and disband all committees, subject to Board ratification;
  - iv. Call such meetings of the Board as deemed necessary and giving proper notice;
  - v. Coordinate the preparation of meeting agendas with the General Manager
  - vi. Confer with the General Manager or designee on crucial matters which may occur between Board of Directors meetings;
  - vii. The orderly conduct of all Board meetings;
  - viii. Serve as spokesperson for the Board; and
  - ix. Perform other duties as authorized by the Board.
- C. **Absence.** In the absence of the President, the Vice President of the Board of Directors shall serve as chairperson over all meetings of the Board. If the President and Vice President of the Board are both absent, the remaining members present shall select one of themselves to act as chairperson of the meeting.

#### 5. BOARD MEETINGS

- A. **Regular Meetings.** Regular meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held on the second Wednesday and fourth Thursday of each calendar month at 6:00 p.m. in the meeting room at 560 Magnolia Avenue, Beaumont, California, 92223-2258. The date, time and place of regular Board meetings may be reconsidered annually at the annual organizational meeting of the Board.
- B. **Special Meetings and Workshops.** Special Meetings and Workshops of the Board of Directors may be called by the Board President or by a majority of the Board.

- i. All Directors shall be notified of a Special Board Meeting and/or Workshop and the purpose or purposes for which it is called. Said notification shall be in writing, received by them at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to the meeting.
  
- C. **Adjourned Meetings.** A majority vote by the Board of Directors may terminate any Board meeting at any place in the agenda to any time and place specified in the order of adjournment, except that if no Directors are present at any regular or adjourned regular meeting, the General Manager may declare the meeting adjourned to a stated time and place, and he/she shall cause a written notice of adjournment to be given to those specified in the subparagraph above.
  
- D. **Annual Organizational Meeting.** The Board of Directors shall hold an annual organizational meeting at its regular meeting in December. At this meeting the Board will elect a President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer from among its members to serve during the coming calendar year, and will appoint a staff member recommended by the General Manager as the Board's Recording Secretary.
  
- E. **Agenda Order.** The President of the meetings described herein shall determine the order in which agenda items shall be considered for discussion and/or action by the Board.
  
- F. **Public Involvement.** The President and the General Manager shall ensure that appropriate information is available for the audience at meetings of the Board of Directors, and that physical facilities for said meetings are functional and appropriate.

## 6. BOARD MEETING AGENDAS

- A. **Agenda.** The General Manager, in cooperation with the Board President and/or Vice President, shall prepare an agenda for each regular and special meeting of the Board of Directors in accordance with the Ralph M. Brown Act.
  
- B. **Public Requests.** Any member of the public may request that a matter directly related to District business be placed on the agenda of a regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Directors, subject to the following conditions:
  - i. The request must be in writing and be submitted to the General Manager together with supporting documents and information, if any, at least ten (10) business days prior to the date of the meeting;

- ii. No matter which is legally a proper subject for consideration by the Board in closed session will be accepted under this policy; and
  - iii. The Board of Directors may place limitations on the total time to be devoted to a public request issue at any meeting, and may limit the time allowed for any one person to speak on the issue at the meeting.
- C. **Director Requests.** Any Director may request that a matter directly related to District business be placed on the agenda of a regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Directors. The request must be in writing and submitted to the Board President and General Manager together with supporting documents and information, if any, by noon at least six (6) working days prior to the date of the next scheduled regular meeting.
- D. **Testimony.** This policy does not prevent the Board from taking public testimony at regular and special meetings of the Board on matters which are within the jurisdiction of the Board but not on the agenda.
- i. The Board shall not discuss or take action on such matters at that meeting.
  - ii. The Board may:
    - a. Respond briefly to statements / questions from the public
    - b. Ask a question for clarification
    - c. Make a brief announcement
    - d. Make a brief report on his / her activities
    - e. Provide a reference to staff or other sources for information
    - f. Request staff report back at a later meeting, or
    - g. Direct staff to place the matter on a future agenda (subject to Section 000)
- E. **Notice.** At least seventy-two (72) hours prior to the time of all regular meetings, an agenda, which includes but is not limited to all matters on which there may be discussion and/or action by the Board, shall be posted conspicuously for public review at the District office. If the District maintains a website, the agenda shall be posted on the website for public information at the same time.
- i. The posting of agendas and notices will be governed by the provisions of the Brown Act (Government Code 54950 et. seq.)
  - ii. The agenda for a special meeting shall be posted at least twenty-four (24) hours before the meeting.

## 7. BOARD MEETING CONDUCT

- A. **Policy.** Meetings of the Board of Directors shall be conducted by the President in a manner consistent with the policies of the District. Section 11 "Rules of Order for Board and Committee Meetings", shall be used as a general guideline for meeting protocol.

- B. **Timing.** All Board meetings shall commence at the time stated on the agenda and shall be guided by same.
- C. **Conduct.** The conduct of meetings shall, to the fullest possible extent, enable Directors to:
- i. Consider problems to be solved, weigh evidence related thereto, and exercise sound judgment in the business efforts of the District; and,
  - ii. Receive, consider and take any needed action with respect to reports of accomplishment of District operations; and
  - iii. Deal always in an ethical, honest, straightforward, open and above-board manner with the community, the General Manager, and District staff.
- D. **Public Comment.** Provisions for permitting any individual or group to address the Board concerning any item on the agenda of a special meeting, or to address the Board at a regular meeting on any subject that lies within the jurisdiction of the Board of Directors, shall be as follows:
- i. Three (3) minutes may be allotted to each speaker. Attendees may not assign their allotted time to another speaker.
  - ii. No disruptive conduct shall be permitted at any Board meeting. Persistence in disruptive conduct shall be grounds for summary termination, by the President, of that person's privilege of address.
- E. **Disruption.** Willful disruption of any of the meetings of the Board of Directors shall not be permitted. If the President finds that there is in fact willful disruption of any meeting of the Board, he/she may order the disrupting parties out of the room and subsequently conduct the Board's business without them present.

After clearing the room of disruptive individuals, the President may permit those persons who, in his/her opinion, were not responsible for the willful disruption to remain in the meeting room.

## 8. BOARD ACTIONS AND DECISIONS

- A. **Actions.** Actions by the Board of Directors include but are not limited to the following:



- i. Adoption or rejection of regulations or policies;
  - ii. Adoption or rejection of a resolution;
  - iii. Adoption or rejection of an ordinance;
  - iv. Approval or rejection of any contract or expenditure;
  - v. Approval or rejection of any proposal which commits District funds or facilities, including employment and dismissal of the General Manager, and the classification and compensation plan; and,
  - vi. Approval or disapproval of matters that require or may require the District or its employees to take action and / or provide services
- B. **Majority.** Action can only be taken by the vote of the majority of the Board of Directors. Action may be taken by a vote of a majority of a quorum attending a Board meeting, unless a greater number of votes is required to pass the action due to the application of state or federal law.
- C. **Quorum.** Three (3) Directors represent a quorum for the conduct of business.
- i. Abstention. A member abstaining in a vote is considered as absent for that vote. A member abstaining due to a conflict of interest does not count towards a quorum.
    - a. **Example.** If three (3) of five (5) Directors are present at a meeting, a quorum exists and business can be conducted unless the abstention is due to a conflict of interest. However, if one (1) Director abstains on a particular action and the other two (2) cast "aye" votes, no action is taken because a majority of the Board did not vote in favor of the action.
    - b. **Example.** If an action is proposed requiring a two-thirds (2/3) vote and two (2) Directors abstain, the proposed action cannot be approved because four (4) of the five (5) Directors would have to vote in favor of the action.
    - c. **Example.** If a vacancy exists on the Board and a vote is taken to appoint an individual to fill said vacancy, three (3) Directors must vote in favor of the appointment for it to be approved. If two (2) of the three (3) Directors present abstain, the appointment is not approved.

- D. **Directions.** The Board may give directions that are not formal action. Such directions do not require formal procedural process. Such directions include the Board's directives and instructions to the General Manager.
- i. The President shall determine by consensus a Board directive and shall state it for clarification. Should any two (2) Directors challenge the statement of the President, a voice vote may be requested.
  - ii. A formal motion may be made to place a disputed directive on a future agenda for Board consideration, or to take some other action (such as refer the matter to the General Manager for review and recommendation, etc.).
  - iii. Informal action by the Board is still Board action and shall only occur regarding matters that appear on the agenda.
  - iv. The Board shall act collectively and not individually become involved in the day-to-day operation of the District.
  - v. Individual Board members may follow up on direction given to the General Manager.
  - vi. The General Manager or assigned staff shall make every effort to communicate a definitive answer in a timely manner.

## 9. ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS

- A. **Attendance.** Members of the Board of Directors shall attend all regular and special meetings of the Board unless there is cause for absence.
- B. **Punctuality.** Each member shall be in his or her respective seat at the hour set for each regular meeting and at the time set for any special or adjourned meeting. If a member arrives after a meeting convenes, the recording secretary shall note his or her arrival time in the minutes and the Board member shall be deemed present.
- C. **Absences.** If any member of the Board is unable to attend a meeting, the Board member shall, if possible, notify the Board President or the Board Secretary prior to the meeting.

## 10. MINUTES OF BOARD MEETINGS

- A. **Minutes.** Staff acting in his/her capacity as "Recording Secretary" shall keep minutes of all regular and special meetings of the Board.
- i. Copies of a meeting's minutes shall be distributed to Directors as part of the information packet for the next regular meeting of the Board, at which time the Board will consider approving the minutes as presented or with modifications. Once approved by the Board, the official minutes shall be kept on archival paper in a fire resistant room.
  - ii. Unless directed otherwise, an audio recording of regular and special meetings of the Board of Directors will be made providing that no such recording shall be made of any closed session of the Board of Directors. The device upon which the recording is stored shall be kept for a minimum of 100 days in a fireproof vault or in fire-resistant room or locked cabinet. Members of the public may inspect recordings of Board meetings without charge on a playback device that will be made available by the District.
  - iii. Motions, resolutions or ordinances shall be recorded in the minutes as having passed or failed and individual votes will be recorded. All resolutions and ordinances adopted by the Board shall be numbered consecutively, starting new at the beginning of each year. In addition to other information that the Board may deem to be of importance, the following information (if relevant) shall be included in each meeting's minutes:
    - a. Date, place and type of each meeting;
    - b. Directors present and absent by name;
    - c. Administrative staff present by name;
    - d. Call to order;
    - e. Time and name of late arriving Directors;
    - f. Time and name of early departing Directors;
    - g. Names of Directors absent during any agenda item upon which action was taken;
    - h. Summary record of staff reports;
    - i. Summary record of public comment regarding matters not on the agenda, including names of commentators;
    - j. Approval of the minutes or modified minutes of preceding meetings;
    - k. Approval of financial reports;
    - l. Complete information as to each subject of the Board's deliberation;
    - m. Record of the vote of each Director on every action item;
    - n. Resolutions and ordinances described as to their substantive content and sequential numbering;
    - o. Record of all contracts and agreements, and their amendment, approved by the Board;

- p. Approval of the annual budget;
- q. Approval of all polices, rules and/or regulations;
- r. Approval of all dispositions of District assets;
- s. Approval of all purchases of District assets; and
- t. Time of meeting's adjournment.

## 11. RULES OF ORDER FOR BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- A. **Policy.** Action items shall be brought before and considered by the Board by motion in accordance with this policy. These rules of order are intended to be informal and applied flexibly. The Board prefers a flexible form of meeting and, therefore, does not conduct its meetings under formalized rules (Robert's Rules of Order).
  
- B. **Point of Order.** If a Director believes order is not being maintained or procedures are not adequate, then he/she should raise a point of order - not requiring a second - to the President. If the ruling of the President is not satisfactory to the Director, then it may be appealed to the Board. A majority of the Board will govern and determine the point of order.
  
- C. **Obtaining the Floor.** Any Director desiring to speak should address the President and, upon recognition by the President, may address the subject under discussion.
  
- D. **Motions.** Any Director, including the President, may make or second a motion. A motion shall be brought and considered as follows:
  - i. A Director makes a motion; another Director seconds the motion; and the President states the motion.
  
  - ii. Once the motion has been stated by the President, it is open to discussion and debate. After the public in attendance has had an opportunity to comment, and after the matter has been fully debated, the President will call for the vote.
  
  - iii. Any Director may move to immediately bring the question being debated to a vote (following public input), thus suspending any further debate. The motion must be made, seconded, and approved by a majority vote of the Board.
  
- E. **Secondary Motions.** Ordinarily, only one (1) motion can be considered at a time and a motion must be disposed of before any other motions or business is considered. There are a few exceptions to this general rule, though, where a secondary motion

concerning the main motion may be made and considered before voting on the main motion.

- i. **Motion to Amend.** A main motion may be amended before it is voted on, either by the consent of the Directors who moved and seconded, or by a new motion and second.
- ii. **Motion to Table.** A main motion may be indefinitely tabled before it is voted on by motion made to table, which is then seconded and approved by a majority vote of the Board.
- iii. **Motion to Postpone.** A main motion may be postponed to a certain time by a motion to postpone, which is then seconded and approved by a majority vote of the Board.
- iv. **Motion to Refer to Committee.** A main motion may be referred to a Board committee for further study and recommendation by a motion to refer to committee, which is then seconded and approved by a majority vote of the Board.
- v. **Motion to Close Debate and Vote Immediately.** As provided above, any Director may move to close debate and immediately vote on a main motion.
- vi. **Motion to Adjourn.** A meeting may be adjourned by motion made, seconded, and approved by a majority vote of the Board before voting on a main motion.

F. Decorum.

- i. The President shall take whatever actions are necessary and appropriate to preserve order and decorum during Board meetings, including public hearings.
- ii. The President may also declare a short recess during any meeting.

G. **Amendment of Rules of Order.** By motion made, seconded and approved by a majority vote, the Board may, at its discretion and at any meeting:

- a. Temporarily suspend these rules in whole or in part;

- b. Amend these rules in whole or in part; or,
- c. Both.

## 12. TRAINING, EDUCATION AND CONFERENCES

A. **Policy.** The Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District takes its stewardship over the use of limited public resources seriously. Public resources should only be used when there is a substantial benefit to the District.

- i. Educational conferences and professional meetings are considered to provide substantial benefit. Members of the Board of Directors are encouraged to attend educational conferences and professional meetings when the purposes of such activities are to improve District operation. Hence, there is no limit as to the number of Directors attending a particular conference or seminar when it is apparent that their attendance is beneficial to the District. Such benefits include:
  - a. The opportunity to discuss the community's concerns with state and federal officials;
  - b. Participating in regional, state and national organizations whose activities affect the District;
  - c. Attending educational seminars designed to improve officials' skill and information levels;
  - d. Promoting public service and morale by recognizing such service.
- ii. "Junkets" (a tour or journey for pleasure at public expense), however, will not be permitted.

B. **Expenses.** It is the policy of the District to encourage Board development and excellence of performance by reimbursing actual expenses incurred for tuition, travel, lodging and meals as a result of training, educational courses, participation with professional organizations, and attendance at local, state and national conferences associated with the interests of the District.

- i. Staff as assigned by the General Manager is responsible for making arrangements for Directors for conference and registration expenses.
- ii. Reimbursement shall include expenses for meals, lodging, authorized incidentals (see Section 14H) and travel. All expenses for which reimbursement is requested by Directors, or which are billed to the District

by Directors, shall be submitted to the assigned staff member within 30 days of the incurred expense on a District-supplied Expense Form, together with original, valid receipts in accordance with State law.

- iii. Attendance by Directors of seminars, workshops, courses, professional organization meetings, and conferences shall be approved by the Board of Directors prior to incurring any reimbursable costs.
  - iv. Expenses to the District for Board of Directors' training, education and conferences should be kept to a minimum by utilizing recommendations for transportation and housing accommodations put forth, if any, by the event sponsor and by:
    - a. Utilizing hotel(s) recommended by the event sponsor in order to obtain discounted rates or using other less expensive nearby lodging.
    - b. Directors traveling together whenever feasible and economically beneficial.
    - c. Requesting reservations sufficiently in advance, when possible, to obtain discounted air fares and hotel rates.
- C. **Notice.** A Director shall not attend a conference or training event for which there is an expense to the District, if it occurs after the Director has announced his/her pending resignation, or if it occurs after an election in which it has been determined that the Director will not retain his/her seat on the Board. A Director shall not attend a conference or training event when it is apparent that there is no significant benefit to the District.
- D. **Reimbursement.** Upon returning from seminars, workshops, conferences, etc., where expenses are paid and/or reimbursed by the District, Directors will either prepare a written report for distribution to the Board or make a verbal report during the next regular meeting of the Board. Said report shall detail what was learned at the session(s) that will be of benefit to the District. Materials from the session(s) may be delivered to the District office to be included in the District library for the future use of other Directors and staff.

### 13. REMUNERATION / DIRECTOR PER DIEM FEES

- A. **Assignment.** The Board President may appoint one of the Board members as liaison to

attend any meeting on a regular basis.

- B. **Remuneration.** Members of the Board of Directors shall be eligible to receive a “per diem” for each day of service rendered as an officer of the Board. The “per diem” amount shall be established by the Board and be consistent with applicable state law.
- C. **Limit.** Per diem compensation is limited to no more than 10 days per month.
- D. **Attendance.** For purposes of this section, attendance includes:
  - i. Physical presence at the majority of a meeting, event, conference or occurrence listed in subdivision D (below), unless presence for a lesser period is authorized by the Board President, or, for a committee meeting, by the committee chair;
  - ii. Participation by teleconference at the majority of a meeting pursuant to California Government Code 54953;
  - iii. Participation in an approved home study or online Ethics course to meet the requirements of Government Code Sections 53234-53235.5 when participation has been authorized by the Board President.
- E. **Eligibility.** Matters of District Business eligible for per diem shall include, but not be limited to:
  - 1. General Board Member Preapproved Activities/Events. The following activities/events are preapproved for all Board members:
    - a. Board and Committee Meetings

All regular and special board meetings and committee meetings for appointed members
    - b. Conferences
      - (1) ACWA and ACWA-JPIA conferences, trainings and webinars and ACWA Region 9 meetings
      - (2) CSDA Conferences, trainings and webinars
    - c. Other Agencies



(1) San Geronio Pass Water Agency Board or Committee meetings.

(3) Beaumont Basin Watermaster

(4) City of Beaumont

Any official city meeting.

(5) City of Banning

Any official city meeting

(6) LAFCO meetings in which District business is discussed or affected as part of the LAFCO agenda

d. Training Seminars

(1) State mandated ethics training

a. The entire two-hour course counts as ONE day of service, even if the coursework is completed over more than one 24-hour period.

(2) State mandated sexual harassment training

a. The entire course counts as ONE day of service, even if the coursework is completed over more than one 24-hour period.

(3) Brown Act training

2. Specific Board Member Authorization

The following activities/events are preapproved for Board members designated to represent the District by the Board President.

- a. ACWA Committees
- b. Meetings of a legislative body of another government agency, or an official event sponsored by another government agency, when attendance has been authorized by the President,
- c. Meetings with members of the legislative executive or judicial branch of the state or federal government when attendance is directed by the President,
- d. Meetings with the General Manager, District Counsel, or Board President on matters of District business
- e. Other meetings or events for Board members appointed by the President to attend such meeting or event on behalf of the District

3. Other Activities/Events, Authorization

Board members may seek authorization to attend other functions that constitute the performance of official duties, including, but not limited to, tours of Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District facilities, tours of other agency facilities, dedication ceremonies, open houses, groundbreaking ceremonies, receptions for officials, retirement celebrations for other agency officials, anniversary celebrations, ribbon-cutting ceremonies, legislative roundtables, public hearings, project update meetings, meetings of ACWA Regions 1 through 10, and association dinners and lunches. Board members desiring to attend events of this nature should obtain approval from the Board in order to receive a per diem and expense reimbursement.

4. New Board Members Orientation

New Board members may receive one (1) per diem and expense reimbursement for an orientation program that meets the following criteria:

- a. Is part of a planned orientation schedule

- b. The orientation meeting is at least two (2) hours in duration
- c. The per diems for this purpose must be claimed during the first two (2) ~~six (6)~~ months of service on the Board
- d. New Board members may also attend a formal harassment awareness training seminar for District employees

F. Non-authorized Activities/Events

The following activities/events are not eligible for per diem or expense claims:

- a. Retirement receptions for Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District employees/Board members
- b. Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District picnics or other social functions

- G. **Travel.** Per diem shall include travel days to and from business meetings as appropriate. Board members shall not count travel to meetings within the Counties of Riverside or San Bernardino as a reimbursable per diem travel day.
- H. **Requests.** In the event that circumstances prevent the per diem request from being considered in the manner described herein, a Director may submit a request to the Board for a per diem for having attended a meeting or conference with the understanding that the Board may or may not approve the request.
- I. **Reports.** A Director who requests compensation ("per diem") for attendance at a meeting other than a regular, special, or committee meeting of the Board shall provide a brief report of the meeting to the Board at a regular meeting of the Board of Directors following the meeting that was attended. If multiple Board members attended, a joint report may be made.
- J. **Review.** Directors' per diem fees shall be reviewed by the Board annually in October of each year with said increase (if any) to be effective January 1 of the next calendar year.

## 14. PAYMENT OF EXPENSES INCURRED ON DISTRICT BUSINESS

- A. **General.** Directors may be allowed actual and necessary travel, meals, lodging and other actual and necessary incidental expenses incurred in the performance of official business of the District as approved by the Board. Such business may include: a meeting at which the interest of the District is the major purpose of the meeting, or attending a conference of an organization as authorized in this Manual, or by Board action, or otherwise representing the District at an approved civic or community function. The expenses incurred by reason of attendance at such meeting, conference, or other function may be reimbursed by the District in accordance with the rules set forth in this Section. In the event that circumstances prevent an expense reimbursement request from being considered in the manner described herein, a Director or employee may submit an expense reimbursement request to the Board for having attended a meeting or conference with the understanding that the Board may or may not approve the request.
- B. **Non-reimbursables.** The following expenses are not reimbursable: alcoholic beverages, parking or traffic violation fines, in-room movies, laundry service, and personal telephone calls. Rental car expenses are not reimbursable unless use of a rental car is authorized prior to travel.
- C. **Cost Control.** To conserve District resources and keep expenses within community standards for public officials, expenditures should adhere to the following guidelines. In the event that expenses are incurred which exceed these guidelines, the cost borne or reimbursed by the District will be limited to the costs that fall within the guidelines.
- D. **Spousal Expenses.** Under no circumstances shall the District prepay or reimburse expenses for a spouse.
- E. **Transportation.** The most economical mode of transportation reasonably consistent with scheduling needs and cargo space requirements must be used, using the most direct and time-efficient route.
  - i. **Automobile.** If travel is by automobile, a District vehicle shall be used if available. If the General Manager determines that a District vehicle is not available, the rate of reimbursement for mileage shall be the Internal Revenue Service standard mileage for business mileage. Parking, bridge, and road tolls are also reimbursable. If automobile travel is used in lieu of air travel, the transportation expense to be paid by the District will be limited to the total related costs, for duration of travel and ground transportation at the destination, that would have resulted had air travel been used, including, but not limited to, air fare, transportation to and from airports, and airport parking.
  - ii. **Rental car.** Charges for rental vehicles and applicable insurance may be reimbursed when a District elected official or employee attending a

conference, business meeting, or other engagement on District business due to a District vehicle not made available, or the use of District vehicle would not be justifiable. If more than one District elected official is attending, the rental vehicle shall be shared if reasonable. Rental vehicle shall only be of adequate size, and proportional to accommodate the immediate need of passengers. Only receipted fuel expenses for rental cars will be reimbursed.

- iii. Taxis, Shuttles, or Ride Share. Taxi, shuttle or ride share (Uber or Lyft) fares may be reimbursed when such transportation is required for time efficiency.
- iv. Airfare. Airfares booked should be the most economical and reasonable available for purposes of reimbursement under this policy. At the discretion of the General Manager, higher cost (e.g. fully refundable) airfare may be used if staff analysis shows such flexibility in scheduling is warranted and costs can be justified.

F. **Lodging.** When traveling on District business and an overnight stay is reasonably required, District personnel shall engage a room at a good commercial hotel or motel. Government rates should be obtained when available. No suites, oversized rooms, or upgraded rooms will be permitted. If accompanied on the trip by another person who is not District personnel, and the room is shared, the District shall be charged only for that portion of the room charge, which would have been made for single occupancy. A receipted bill stating occupants and length of stay shall be submitted with the claim for expense reimbursement. If a room is occupied by more than one person, the rate for single occupancy shall be noted on the receipted statement.

G. **Meals.** Reimbursable meal expenses will not exceed the U.S. Department of General Services per diem rates. Meals included with conferences, seminars and / or business meetings are not reimbursable.

H. **Incidental Expenses.** Expense allowance while attending authorized functions shall include, in addition to transportation, lodging, and meals: business telephone expense, stenographic expense, auto parking, internet access, baggage fees, and other disbursements on behalf of the District. No reimbursement shall be made of expenditures for personal services or needs. If an automobile is used for transportation when air transportation would be required, expenditures for meals and incidental expenses chargeable to the District shall be those which would have resulted had air transportation been used.

I. **Lodging payment.** Lodging expenses for employees or Board members may be reserved and paid in one of the following manners:

- i. By individual director's District-issued credit card or employee's District-issued credit card
- ii. In advance by Finance Department staff using a District credit card
- iii. Via submission of a check request for pre-payment to the hotel

- iv. Charges made to an employee's or Director's personal credit card. Such charges shall be reimbursed upon submission of an approved expense report form (See Section 12D) which shall include itemized original receipts and a copy of the applicable credit card statement.
- J. **Travel Advance.** A travel advance, equal to the estimated expenditures chargeable to the District, may be made upon a written detailed estimate of the amount needed, submitted to and approved by the General Manager and by the Board of Directors.
- K. **Use of District Credit Cards.** The District shall make credit cards available to Board members and employees as deemed necessary for payment for District-related expenses. Board member credit cards shall be retained by the District until such time as they are needed. All Board member credit cards shall be used primarily for travel expenses. Board member credit cards will have a cap of \$2,500. The following rules shall apply to the use of District credit cards:
- i. District credit cards will be used only for actual and necessary expenses incurred in performance of work-related duties and District business.
  - ii. A District credit card shall not be used for personal expenses. Any personal charges appearing on a District credit card must be immediately reimbursed to the District. The charge of personal expenses by a District employee (staff) to a District credit card may result in revocation of card privileges and disciplinary action up to and including termination.
  - iii. District credit cards will be used only by duly authorized Board members and District employees.
  - iv. Purchases and expenditures will be charged and reconciled to the proper account on each monthly statement.
  - v. Itemized, original receipts must be presented to the District business office for each expenditure made by credit card. Each expenditure must document the purpose of said expenditure, the person(s) involved and the business conducted.
  - vi. If a Board member or District employee loses a District-issued credit card, or has a District-issued credit card stolen, the employee or Board member must immediately report the loss or theft to the card-issuing bank and to the Finance Department.

- L. **Report of Expenses for Reimbursement.** District Directors and personnel shall submit a District-provided form, "Record of Expenses / Claim for Reimbursement (Conferences, Meetings, Travels)" which must include all expenses incurred while acting in the interest of the District, to which will be attached the associated vouchers and/ or original, itemized receipts. The form shall be submitted within fifteen (15) days of the conclusion of the transaction. Each expenditure item shall include a detailed description of the function and the nature of the District business conducted. The statement shall also indicate the travel advance, if any, credits for expenses apportioned to personal needs, services, or expenses incurred to the District. Balances owing the District shall be paid on submission of the expenses statement. Amounts due to District personnel shall be paid after the expense statement is reviewed and approved by the General Manager.

## 15. EXPENDITURE REIMBURSEMENT

- A. **Purpose.** The purpose of this policy is to prescribe the manner in which District employees and directors may be reimbursed for expenditures related to District business.
- B. **Scope.** This policy applies to all employees and members of the Board of Directors and is intended to result in no personal gain or loss to an employee or director.
- C. **Implementation.** Whenever District employees or directors desire to be reimbursed for out-of-pocket expenses for item(s) or service(s) appropriately relating to District business, they shall submit their requests on a reimbursement form approved by the General Manager and the Board of Directors respectively. Included on the reimbursement form will be an explanation of the District-related purpose for the expenditure(s), and receipts evidencing each expense shall be attached.
  - i. The Treasurer and/or the General Manager will review and approve reimbursement requests. Reimbursement requests by the Treasurer and General Manager will be reviewed and approved by the Finance and Audit Committee and/or the Board of Directors.
  - ii. All expenses must be reasonable and necessary, and employees and directors are encouraged to exercise prudence in all expenditures.
  - iii. The most economical mode and class of transportation reasonably consistent with scheduling requirements will be used. In the event a more expensive class of transportation is used, the reimbursable amount will be limited to the cost of the most economical class of transportation available. Reimbursement for

use of personal vehicles will be at the applicable IRS-approved rate.

- iv. Expenditures for food and lodging will be moderate and reasonable.

## 16. MEMBERSHIP IN ASSOCIATIONS

- A. **Policy.** The Board of Directors shall ordinarily hold membership in and attend meetings of such national, state, and local associations as may exist which have applicability to the functions of the District, and shall look upon such memberships as an opportunity for in-service training.

## 17. ETHICS TRAINING

- A. **Policy.** All directors and designated executive staff of the District shall receive two hours of training in general ethics principles and ethics laws relevant to public service within six (6) months of election or appointment to the board of directors and at least once every two years thereafter, pursuant to Government Code Sections 53234 through 53235.2.
- B. **Application.** This policy shall also apply to all staff members that the board of directors designates and to members of all commissions, committees and other bodies that are subject to the Ralph M. Brown Open Meeting Act.
- C. **Provider.** All ethics training shall be provided by entities whose curricula have been approved by the California Attorney General and the Fair Political Practices Commission.
- D. **Participation.** Directors shall obtain proof of participation after completing the ethics training. Applicable costs for attending the training will be reimbursed by the District.
- E. **Records.** District staff shall maintain records indicating both the dates that directors completed the ethics training and the name of the entity that provided the training. These records shall be maintained for at least five years after directors receive the training, and are public records subject to disclosure under the California Public Records Act.



- F. **Training Information.** District staff shall provide the board of directors with information on available training that meets the requirements of this policy at least once every year.
- G. **Training Options.** Ethics training may consist of either a training course or a set of self-study materials with tests, and may be taken at home, in person or online.
- H. **Requirements.** Any director of the District that serves on the board of another agency is only required to take the training once every two (2) years.

## 18. CODE OF ETHICS

- A. **Policy.** The Board of Directors of the District is committed to providing excellence in legislative leadership that results in the provision of the highest quality services to its constituents and to comply with State laws including AB 1234 (Salinas).

In order to assist in the governance of the behavior between and among members of the Board of Directors and District staff, the following rules shall be observed:

- i. The dignity, style, values and opinions of each Director shall be respected.
- ii. Responsiveness and attentive listening in communication is encouraged.
- iii. The needs of the District's constituents should be the priority of the Board of Directors. Directors are accountable to the ratepayers who use the District's services.
- iv. Directors should learn and recognize the various economic interests from which conflict can arise. When a Director believes he/she may have a conflict of interest, the District's legal counsel shall be requested to make a determination if one exists or not.
- v. The primary responsibility of the Board of Directors is the formulation and evaluation of policy. Routine matters concerning the operational aspects of the District are to be delegated to professional staff members of the District.
- vi. Directors should commit themselves to emphasizing the positive, avoiding double talk, hidden agendas, gossip, backbiting, and other negative forms of interaction.
- vii. Directors should commit themselves to focusing on issues and not personalities. The presentation of the opinions of others should be encouraged. Cliques and voting

blocs based on personalities rather than issues should be avoided.

viii. Differing viewpoints are healthy in the decision-making process. Individuals have the right to disagree with ideas and opinions, but without being disagreeable. Once the Board of Directors takes action, Directors should commit to supporting said action and not to create barriers to the implementation of said action.

ix. Directors should practice the following procedures:

a. In seeking clarification on informational items, Directors may directly approach professional staff members to obtain information needed to supplement, upgrade, or enhance their knowledge to improve legislative decision-making.

b. In handling items related to safety, concerns for safety or hazards should be reported to the General Manager or to the District office. Emergency situations should be dealt with immediately by seeking appropriate assistance.

c. In presenting items for discussion at Board meetings, see Section 6, Board Meeting Agendas.

d. In seeking clarification for policy-related concerns, especially those involving personnel, legal action, land acquisition and development, finances, and programming, said concerns should be referred directly to the General Manager and/or the District's legal counsel.

x. If approached by District personnel concerning specific District policy, Directors should direct inquiries to the General Manager. The chain of command should be followed.

B. **Team Effort.** The work of the District is a team effort. All individuals should work together in the collaborative process, assisting each other in conducting the affairs of the District.

i. When responding to constituent requests and concerns, Directors should be courteous, responding to individuals in a positive manner and routing their questions through appropriate channels and to responsible management personnel.

ii. Directors should develop a working relationship with the General Manager wherein current issues, concerns and District projects can be discussed comfortably and openly.

- iii. Directors should function as a part of the whole. Issues should be brought to the attention of the Board as a whole, rather than to individual members selectively.
- iv. Directors are responsible for monitoring the District's progress in attaining its goals and objectives, while pursuing its mission.

## 19. ETHICS POLICY

The policy of the Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District/Agency is to maintain the highest ethical standards for its Directors and staff. The proper operation of the District requires that decisions and policy be made within the proper channels of governmental structure, that public office not be used for personal gain, and that Directors and staff remain objective and responsive to the needs of the public they serve. Accordingly, it is the policy of the District that Directors and District staff will maintain the highest standard of personal honesty and fairness in carrying out their duties.

This policy sets forth the basic ethical standards to be followed by the Board of Directors of the Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District. The objectives of this policy are to (i) provide guidance for dealing with ethical issues, (ii) heighten awareness of ethics and values as critical elements in Directors' conduct, and (iii) improve ethical decision-making and values-based management.

- A. **Responsibilities of Public Office.** Directors are obligated to uphold the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of California. Directors will comply with applicable laws regulating their conduct, including conflict of interest, financial disclosure and open government laws. Directors will strive to work in cooperation with other public officials unless prohibited from so doing by law or officially recognized confidentiality of their work. (Cal. Const., art. XX, § 3; Gov. Code, § 1360.)
- B. **Fair and Equal Treatment.** Directors, in the performance of their official duties and responsibilities, will not discriminate against or harass any person on the basis of race, religion, color, creed, age, marital status, national origin, ancestry, gender, sexual orientation, medical condition or disability. A Director will not grant any special consideration, treatment or advantage to any person or group beyond that which is available to every other person or group in similar circumstances.
- C. **Proper Use and Safeguarding of District Property and Resources.** Except as specifically authorized, the California Constitution prohibits a Director from making a "gift of public funds" by utilizing or permitting the use of District -owned vehicles, equipment,

telephones, materials or property for his or her personal benefit or profit of third parties. A Director will not ask or require a District employee to perform services for the personal benefit or profit of a Director. Each Director must protect and properly use any District asset within his or her control, including information recorded on paper or in electronic form. Directors will safeguard District property, equipment, moneys, and assets against unauthorized use or removal, as well as from loss due to criminal act or breach of trust. (Cal. Const., art. XVI, § 6; Gov. Code, §§ 8314 and 53234 et seq.; Pen. Code, § 424; see *People v. Battin* (1978) 77 Cal.App.3d 635.)

- D. **Use of Confidential Information.** A Director is not authorized, without approval of the Board of Directors, to disclose information that qualifies as confidential information to a person not authorized to receive it. Under applicable provisions of law, information qualifies as confidential if it
- i. Has been received for, or during, a closed session meeting of the Board,
  - ii. Is protected from disclosure under the attorney/client or other evidentiary privilege, or is not required to be disclosed under the California Public Records Act. This Section does not prohibit a Director from taking any of the following actions:
    - a. Making a confidential inquiry or complaint to a district attorney or grand jury concerning a perceived violation of law, including disclosing facts to a district attorney or grand jury that are necessary to establish the alleged illegality of an action taken by the District, an elected official or employee,
    - b. Expressing an opinion concerning the propriety or legality of actions taken by the District in closed session, including disclosure of the nature and extent of the allegedly illegal action, or
    - c. Disclosing information acquired during a closed session that is not confidential information. Prior to disclosing confidential information pursuant to (i) or (ii), above, however, a Director will first bring the matter to the attention of either the President of the Board or the full Board, to provide the Board an opportunity to cure an alleged violation.
- E. **Conflict of Interest.** The Political Reform Act, Government Code Section 81000, et. seq., requires local government agencies to adopt a Conflict of Interest Code which is hereby incorporated by reference.
- i. Statement of Economic Interests (Form 700). (See District's Conflict of Interest Policy, a separate document, incorporated herein by reference). A Director will file an annual Statement of Economic Interests as required by the Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC). A new Director will file an Assuming Office Statement of Economic Interests, and an outgoing Director will file a Leaving

Office Statement of Economic Interests before the deadline as set by the FPPC.

- ii. A Director will not have a financial interest in a contract with the District/Agency, or be a purchaser at a sale by the District or a vendor of a purchase made by the District, unless the Director's participation was authorized under Government Code sections 1091 or 1091.5, or other provisions of law. A Director will not participate in the discussion, deliberation or vote on a matter before the Board of Directors, or in any way attempt to use his or her official position to influence a decision of the Board, if he or she has a prohibited interest with respect to the matter, as defined in the Political Reform Act, Government Code sections 81000 et seq., relating to conflicts of interest. Generally, a Director has a financial interest in a matter if it is reasonably foreseeable that the Board decision would have a material financial effect (as defined by Fair Political Practices Commission [FPPC] regulations found at Cal. Code Regs., tit. 2, §§ 18100 et seq.) that is distinguishable from the effect on the public generally on:
  - a. A business entity in which the Director has a direct or indirect investment in the amount specified in FPPC regulations;
  - b. Real property in which the Director has a direct or indirect investment interest, with a value in the amount specified in FPPC regulations;
  - c. A source of income for the Director in the amount specified in FPPC regulations, within twelve (12) months before the Board decision;
  - d. A source of gifts to the Director in an amount specified in FPPC regulations within twelve (12) months before the Board decision; or
  - e. A business entity in which the Director holds a position as a director, trustee, officer, partner, manager or employee.
- iii. An "indirect interest" means any investment or interest owned by the spouse or dependent child of the Director, by an agent on behalf of the Director, or by a business entity or trust in which the Director, or the Director's spouse, dependent child or agent, owns directly, indirectly or beneficially a ten percent (10%) interest or greater. An elected official will not accept honoraria or gifts that exceed the limitations specified in the Fair Political Practices Act or FPPC regulations. Directors will report all gifts, campaign contributions, income and financial information as required under the District's Conflict of Interest Code and the provisions of the Fair Political Practices Act and FPPC regulations. (Gov. Code, §§ 87100 et seq.)
- iv. If a member of the Board believes that he or she may be disqualified from

participation in the discussion, deliberations or vote on a particular matter due to a conflict of interest, the following procedure will be followed:

- v. If the Director becomes aware of the potential conflict of interest before the Board meeting at which the matter will be discussed or acted on, the Director will notify the District's General Manager and the District's legal counsel of the potential conflict of interest, so that a determination can be made whether it is a disqualifying conflict of interest;
  - vi. If it is not possible for the Director to discuss the potential conflict with the General Manager and the District's legal counsel before the meeting, or if the Director does not become aware of the potential conflict until during the meeting, the Director will immediately disclose the potential conflict during the Board meeting, so that there can be a determination whether it is a disqualifying conflict of interest; and
  - vii. Upon a determination that there is a disqualifying conflict of interest, the Director
    - a. Will not participate in the discussion, deliberation or vote on the matter for which a conflict of interest exists, which will be so noted in the Board minutes, and
    - b. Will leave the room until after the discussion, vote and any other disposition of the matter is concluded, unless the matter has been placed on the portion of the agenda reserved for uncontested matters or the Director has been advised that specific FPPC exemption applies.
- F. **Nepotism.** A Director will not recommend the employment of a relative by the District. A Director will not recommend the employment of a relative to any person known by the Director to be bidding for or negotiating a contract with the District.
- G. **Soliciting Political Contributions.** Directors are prohibited from soliciting political funds or contributions at District facilities, or from District employees. A Director will not accept, solicit or direct a political contribution from (a) District employees, officers, consultants or contractors, or (b) vendors or consultants who have a material financial interest in a contract or other matter while that contract or other matter is pending before the District. A Director will not use the District's seal, trademark, stationery or other indicia of the District's identity, or facsimile thereof, in any solicitation for political contributions contrary to state or federal law. (Gov. Code, § 3205.)
- H. **Incompatible Offices.** Directors are prohibited from simultaneous holding of two incompatible public offices, unless simultaneous holding of the offices is compelled or

expressly authorized by law, per Government Code Section 1099.

I. Director-General Manager-Financial Officer Relationship.

**General Manager.** The Board sets the policy for the District. The General Manager is an employee of the District and is the administrative head under the direction of the Board. The General Manager:

- i. Has charge and control of the construction, maintenance and operation of the water system and other facilities of the District upon approval of the Board of Directors,
- ii. Has power and authority to employ and discharge employees and assistants, consistent with District policy and other provisions of law,
- iii. Prescribes the duties of employees and assistants, consistent with District policy, and
- iv. Fixes and alters the compensation of employees and assistants, subject to approval by the Board.

The District's General Manager serves at the pleasure of the Board. The Board will provide policy direction and instructions to the General Manager on matters within the authority of the Board by majority vote of the Board during duly convened Board and Board committee meetings.

Members of the Board will deal with matters within the authority of the General Manager through the General Manager, and not through other District employees, except as it pertains to the functions of the Financial Officer, or on ethical issues related to the General Manager.

Members of the Board will refrain from making requests directly to District employees (rather than to the General Manager) to undertake analyses, perform other work assignments or change the priority of work assignments.

Members of the Board may request non-confidential, factual information regarding District operations from District employees.

**General Manager Duty.** The General Manager has primary responsibility for:

- i. Ensuring compliance with the District's Personnel Manual, and ensuring that District employees do not engage in improper activities,
- ii. Investigating allegations of improper activities, and
- iii. Taking appropriate corrective and disciplinary actions.

**Board Duty.** The Board has a duty to ensure that the General Manager is operating the District according to law and the policies approved by the Board.

Directors are encouraged to fulfill their obligation to the public and the District by disclosing to the General Manager, to the extent not expressly prohibited by law, improper activities within their knowledge.

Directors will not interfere with the General Manager's responsibilities in identifying, investigating and correcting improper activities, unless the Board determines that the General Manager is not properly carrying out these responsibilities.

**Financial Officer.** The Financial Officer will report to the General Manager and will be available to respond to financial questions concerning the District when called upon by board members.

The Financial office will install and maintain a system of auditing and accounting that will completely and at all times show the financial condition of the District in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and legal requirements.

The Board will retain and periodically review the work of an auditor as an independent contractor of the District (other than the Financial Officer), who will report to the Board, to conduct an annual audit of the District's books, records and financial affairs.