**ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES**

West Valley Water District

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BUDGET/CARRYOVER/RESERVE/DEBT MANAGEMENT POLICY

## SECTION 1: PURPOSE

Financial policies such as this Budget/Carryover/Reserve/Debt Management policy, improve the District's fiscal stability by helping District officials plan fiscal strategy with a consistent approach. Adherence to adopted financial policies such as this one, promotes sound financial management, which can lead to improvement in bond ratings, a lower cost of capital, provide assurance to the tax and rate payers that taxes and fees are being collected and spent per Board direction, and provide a minimum of unexpected impacts upon taxpayers, rate-payers and users of public services.

## SECTION 2: GENERAL POLICY

The guiding principles of the District's financial management include integrity, prudent stewardship, planning, accountability, and full disclosure. The District's Budget should satisfy criteria as a financial and programmatic policy document, as a comprehensive financial plan, as an operations guide for all organizational units, and as a communications device for all significant budgetary issues, trends, and resource choices.

The budget process and format shall be performance-based and shall be focused on goals, objectives and performance indicators. The budget will provide adequate funding for maintenance and replacement of capital plant and equipment.

The budget process is intended to weigh all competing requests for District resources within expected fiscal constraints. Requests for new, ongoing programs made outside the budget process will be discouraged. The District will endeavor to avoid budgetary and accounting procedures that balance the current budget at the expense of future budgets.

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The District shall anticipate and address economic and fiscal risks to ensure the District lives within its means and has the resources to invest in its infrastructure, facilities, equipment, training and workforce to preserve and enhance community wellbeing.

## SECTION 3: RESPONSIBILITY

At West Valley Water District (WVWD or the District) the following represent sets of responsibilities borne by various levels of District Board members, Staff, and management.

1. The Board of Directors are responsible for:
    - Approving the budget, which dictates spending by District government.
    - Deciding the spending priorities for the next fiscal year by setting aside money for programs, projects, or services
    - Shall avoid committing to new spending for operating or capital improvement purposes until an analysis of all current and future cost implications is completed and presented to it by the CFO.
    - To endeavor to maintain the highest credit rating possible for the District
    - Willingness to adjust rates when necessary
    - To allow for sufficient training and resources for the District's management team's ability to quickly implement measures to respond to challenges
        - This includes active participation in organizations to keep pace with Water sector issues, regulatory mandates, and technological advances
2. The CFO, or designee, shall be responsible for:
    - Developing, implementing, and managing this policy as well as subsidiary polices.
    - Developing the Budget, including discussions and explanations of all assumptions, estimates, and calculations to the Board

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- Financial forecasting
- Recommending and implementing approved strategies for Reserve maintenance
- Recommending to the GM and the Board, and then implementing an approved plan of action for Budget surpluses and deficits
    - Include performing a calculation of one day's (or applicable multiple thereof) worth of budgeted operating expenses
- Accumulating the data and preparing a list of Carryovers to be approved by the Board
- Posting the approved budget and all budget amendments to the financial system
- Posting approved budget transfers of appropriations to the financial system
- Performing transfers between reserve accounts in the financial system
- To endeavor to maintain the highest credit rating possible for the District
- Proactively identify and monitor long term financial liabilities, including unfunded pension obligations, and commit to taking actions to manage these commitments that prioritizes the District's long-term financial sustainability.
- To perform or facilitate debit issuance, interest payments, principal repayments, and other debt related activity. Also designing, implementing and evaluating the internal controls over debt related activity.
- Coordinating and analyzing debt requirements, including timing of debt, calculation of outstanding debt, debt limitation calculations and compliance, impact on future debt burdens, and revenue requirements.
- Preparing and presenting to the Board, interim revenue and expenditure trends to allow evaluation of potential discrepancies from budget assumptions.
- Perform and present to the Board, current and future cost implications for

operating or capital improvement costs before the Board commits to new spending

- Perform quarterly reports to the Board of:
    - Budget vs Actual Variances
    - Transfers of appropriations
    - Transfers between reserve accounts
    - Reserve target level compliance
- Development and maintenance of adequate billing and collection measures
- Have a back-up protocol to ensure continuity and timeliness of operations during vacations and other leaves.
- Must actively participate in and support the implementation of the internal controls contained in this policy and all other policies, and immediately follow up if deviation is suspected, in order to avoid the appearance and existence of fraud, misappropriation of District assets, or of conflicts of interest.
- Additional responsibilities are stated in the remaining sections within this policy.

3. The General Manager (GM), Chief Financial Officer (CFO), and District Department Heads, collectively, are responsible for:
    - Administering programs within the specific funding decisions contained in the budget
    - Participate in meeting policy goals, budget goals, and ensuring the long-term financial health of the District
    - Assistance with building the annual budget through participation in evaluation of long-term initiatives, short term initiatives, significant changes, goals and objectives, Capital expenditures, program-based budgeting that link resources with results.
    - Identify and evaluate immediate and long-term economic, social, and

environmental impacts of all issues provided for community and Board consideration.

- Strive to identify entrepreneurial solutions to recover costs of operating programs.
- Conduct all business with transparency pursuant to applicable laws and regulations. This shall be done by proactively pursuing ways to make financial information publicly available, accessible, and easy to understand for all community members.
- To fairly and honestly collect and supply sufficient information (when available) as appropriate, and as needed by the Finance Division to fairly and properly support financial assumptions, calculations, and estimates that will be used to prepare the annual budget, forecasts, reports, rate setting calculations, as well as other financial calculations.
- Search for, obtain, and maintain appropriate grant funding to leverage District funds, when available
- Quarterly, performance measurement reporting to the Board
- To endeavor to maintain the highest credit rating possible for the District
- Reviewing and approving the listing of Carryovers taken to the Board for approval for their respective departments, and approval over all departments by the GM.
- The GM shall have authority to appropriate up to $25,000 in case of emergencies
- Have a back-up protocol to ensure continuity and timeliness of operations during vacations and other leaves.
- Must actively participate in and support the implementation of the internal controls contained in this policy and all other policies, and immediately follow up if deviation is suspected, in order to avoid the appearance and existence

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of fraud, misappropriation of District assets, or of conflicts of interest.

- Additional responsibilities are stated in the remaining sections within this policy.

## SECTION 4: DEFINITIONS

***Operating budget***—adopted annually, the operating budget is a detailed estimate of how much the District needs to spend in its fiscal year to meet its ongoing financial obligations and provide programs and services. It establishes a spending cap that management may not exceed without special authorization.

***Capital budget***— The capital budget is money set aside for buying or building fixed assets such as buildings, equipment, vehicles, water facilities, and land. Because capital construction normally takes place over more than one fiscal period, capital budgets are generally adopted on a project-length basis.

***Capital improvement projects*** - infrastructure or equipment purchases or construction which results in a capitalized asset and having a useful (depreciable life) of one year or more.

***Indirect Costs*** – Costs incurred for a common purpose not readily assignable to a cost center or user at the time services or goods are provided or delivered

***Pay-as-you-go financing*** - is defined as all sources of revenue other than District's debt issuance, i.e., Net Assets, contributions, developer contributions, grants, endowments, etc.

***Restricted Funds*** – Monies where restrictions on the use of these funds are imposed by an outside source such as creditors, grantors, contributors, laws, or regulations governing use.

***Capital Funds*** – Monies that are utilized primarily to fund capital and asset costs, for both new and replacement projects.

***Liquidity Funds*** – Monies used to safeguard the financial flexibility and stability of WVWD and to maintain stable customer charges and rates from year to year.

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Liquidity may be funded from accumulated revenues and when appropriate available short-term liquidity arrangements.

***Cash Account(s)*** – Accounts used to track cash and/or cash equivalent assets for accounting or reporting purposes. For purposes of investment, the District may commingle unrestricted accounts and reserve funds, so long as the District's Investment Policy permits such.

## SECTION 5: BUDGET DEVELOPMENT OVERVIEW

Budget development will use strategic multi-year fiscal planning, conservative revenue forecasts, and program-based cost accounting that require every program to be justified annually as to how it will meet intended objectives. The process will include a diligent review of programs by staff, the CFO, the GM, and the Board. The District will avoid budgetary procedures that balance current expenditures at the expense of meeting future years' expenses, such as postponing expenditures or accruing future year's revenues. The District's balanced budget is to be adopted on a modified accrual basis. Non-cash items, such as investment adjustments to market value, depreciation, amortization, and bad debt expense are not budgeted. Multi-year capital projects are often budgeted on a full cost basis and the year-end active project budgets are continued to the next year until the completion of the project.

## SECTION 6: PROGRAM BASED BUDGET

Utilization of a program budget format will provide a basis for evaluation of services as well as a way to evaluate impacts of potential increases or decreases in funding. Current operating expenditures will include all allowable overhead operating (indirect) costs. For the most part, these expenses will be charged to individual budget program elements through indirect cost allocation plan charges.

District staff shall strive to identify entrepreneurial solutions to recover costs of operating programs.

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Building the program-based budget will entail the following procedures:

1. **Long-Term Initiatives (10-year foresight)**
    - Evaluate District's vision, mission, and values.
    - Evaluate District's goals and objectives of the above.
    - Evaluate District's prioritization of the above.
    - Evaluate District's expected outcomes of the above.

2. **Short-Term Initiatives (1 to 5-year foresight)**
    - Evaluate short-term goals.
    - Evaluate service level assumptions.
    - Evaluate budget impact - revenues and expenditures.
    - Evaluate staffing level changes.

3. **Significant Changes (1 year look back)**
    - Evaluate specific issues and action causing significant changes.
        - Policy issues
        - Economic factors
        - Regulatory issues
        - Legislative challenges
    - Evaluate emerging issues or change in priorities.
4. **Goals and Objectives by Department (1-year foresight)**
    - Evaluate department goals and objectives.
    - Evaluate how department goals are linked to overall District goals.

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- Evaluate short-term objectives, measurable results to be achieved.
- Evaluate timeframes of achieving those objectives.

**5. Net Position**

- Define net position
- Prepare five-year historical trend.
- Prepare ten-year forecast.

**6. Capital Expenditures**

- Define capital expenditures.
- Summarize capital expenditures.
  - Routine.
  - Non-routine.
- Identify and match funding source.
- Explain how the District's current and future budget will be impacted.
  - Financial impact.
  - Non-financial impact.

**7. Program - Base Budget Will Link Resources with Results**

- Identifying community needs for essential services
- Describing the programs required to provide the essential services
- Identifying the purpose of activities performed in delivering services
- Establishing goals and objectives which define the nature and level of services required
- Identifying resources required to perform program activities and accomplish goals and objectives
- Staffing levels

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- Program activity revenue and appropriations

## SECTION 7: REVENUE BUDGET DEVELOPMENT

While building the revenue budget, the following parameters will be followed:

- Revenues will not be dedicated for specific purposes, unless required by law or generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP). All non-restricted revenues will be deposited in the Operating Fund (or other designated fund as approved by the CFO) and appropriated by the Board.
- Current revenues will fund current expenditures and a diversified and stable revenue system will be developed and maintained to protect programs from short-term fluctuations in any single revenue source.
- The District will estimate its annual revenues by an objective, analytical process, wherever practical. The District will project revenues for the next year and will update this projection annually. Each existing and potential revenue source will be reexamined annually. In the case of assumptions uncertainty, conservative projections will be used.
- The District will investigate potential new revenue sources, particularly those that will not add to the burden of tax or rate-payers.
- Each year, the District will recalculate the full costs of activities supported by user fees/rates to identify the impact of inflation and other cost increases.
- Grant funding will be considered to leverage District funds. Inconsistent and/or fluctuating grants should not be used to fund ongoing programs. Programs financed with grant monies will be budgeted in separate cost centers, and the service program will be adjusted to reflect the level of available funding. In the event of reduced grant funding, District resources will be substituted only after all program priorities and alternatives are considered.
- One-time revenue windfalls should be designated as a reserve or used for one-time expenditures. The funds are not to be used for on-going operations. To

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the extent such funds are not required for current expenditures, one-time expenditures and/or capital improvements such funds should be maintained as operating reserves or used to reduce debt.

- For purposes of this policy, one-time revenue windfalls shall include:
  - Lump sum (net present value) savings from debt restructuring
  - CalPERS Rebates
  - Tax Revenue growth in excess of 5% in a single year
  - Sale of District-owned real estate
  - Pure unexpected revenues (i.e. litigation settlement)
  - Receipts from approved Development Fees
  - Contributions and Gifts
  - Any other revenues the Board may elect to designate as extraordinary

## SECTION 8: USER FEES/RATES

The process for changing user fees or rates will follow the User Rate policy # ___. All user fees and charges will be examined or adjusted every year and undergo a thorough review to determine the 100% direct and indirect cost of service recovery rate at least every four years. This shall include operations and maintenance, capital outlay and debt services costs. The Board will strive to obtain 100% cost recovery rates, but will reserve the right to recover less, as appropriate. The acceptable recovery rate and any associated changes to user fees and charges will be approved by the Board following public review, each year.

Any unfavorable balances in cost recovery will be brought to the Board's attention by the CFO and affected Department Head, and evaluated from a departmental, program, and goals perspective.

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## SECTION 9: EXPENDITURE BUDGET DEVELOPMENT

- Each program will identify activities and the recommended expenditure appropriations to perform those activities
- Identify recurring vs. nonrecurring expenditures
- Identify general vs. restricted expenditures
- Expenditure appropriation increases to the budget shall not be allowed unless offset with ongoing additional revenues or reduction in services.
- Addition of personnel will only be requested to meet program initiatives and policy directives: after service needs have been thoroughly examined and it is substantiated that additional staffing will result in increased revenue or enhanced operating efficiencies. To the extent feasible, personnel cost reductions will be achieved through attrition or transfer.
    - The CFO shall evaluate the fiscal impact of proposed changes in all salaries or retirement benefits to be provided to any employee or employee association and present to the Board.
- Capital equipment replacement will be accomplished through a life cycle funding mechanism and in some instances the use of a “rental” rate structure. The rates will be revised annually to ensure that charges to operating departments are sufficient for operation and replacement of vehicles and other capital equipment (fleet, computers, phones, and copier systems). The District shall endeavor to maintain adequate cash reserves to fund 100% replacement of certain capital equipment. Replacement costs will be based upon equipment life cycle financial analysis developed by each department and approved by the CFO. Non-capital equipment replacement will be accomplished through a life cycle funding mechanism developed by each department and implemented and approved by the CFO.
- Alternative means of service delivery will be evaluated by the CFO to ensure that

quality services are provided to customers at the most competitive and economical cost. Departments, in cooperation with the GM and CFO, will identify all activities that could be provided by another source and review options/alternatives to current service delivery. The review of service delivery alternatives and the need for the service will be performed annually or on an "opportunity" basis.

- A ten-year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) shall be developed and updated annually, including anticipated funding sources. The District staff shall maintain all its assets at a level adequate to protect the District's capital interest and to minimize future maintenance and replacement costs.
    - The total estimated cost calculations of CIPs shall include adequate costs of repair and replacement of deteriorating infrastructure and avoidance of a significant unfunded liability.
    - Proposed capital projects will be considered through the District budget development process and reviewed and prioritized by a cross-departmental team regarding accurate costing (design, capital, and operating) as well as the GM and CFO for overall consistency with the District's goals and objectives. The CFO will then identify financing sources for the highest-ranking projects.
    - The District shall determine the least costly financing method for all new projects
    - Pay-as-you-go financing is defined as all sources of revenue other than District's debt issuance, i.e., Net Assets, contributions, developer contributions, grants, endowments, etc. Pay-as-you-go financing should generally be considered as the preferred option. However, the potential for debt issuance that provides additional economic and/or strategic values could be considered as recommended by the CFO.
        - In the context of funding future capital facilities and maintaining and replacing existing assets, in each instance, the District will analyze

the benefits and tradeoffs of utilizing pay- as-you-go and/or debt financing and determine the optimal funding strategy or combination of funding strategies. The analysis should consider WVWD's current and projected liquidity, and capital positions, as well as the impact of inflation, the cost of water and other factors on the operations of the District and its capital improvement program. WVWD may from time to time measure its liquidity position by calculating "days cash" or other appropriate calculation of liquidity and its capital positions, as measured by its debt to equity ratio or other appropriate calculation of capital position.

- The District shall endeavor to apply restricted funds (i.e. existing Bond proceeds) to capital projects before using "unrestricted" funds.
- Capital project budget book descriptions will include a fiscal impact statement disclosing the expected operating impact of the project and when such cost is expected to occur.
- An inventory of the District's physical assets, their condition, and remaining useful life will be maintained by the Finance Division

- A systematic and rational methodology should be used to calculate the amounts allocated within an indirect cost allocation plan
  - District management needs to be involved in the process and knowledgeable about the methodology used
  - It is important that internal staff be aware of all applicable laws and regulations if the cost allocation is to be used as the basis for requesting reimbursement under a grant, for bond proceeds, for rate-setting, or for any other contractual or governmental regulation or restriction

## SECTION 10: ACCRUING LIABILITIES

The CFO shall endeavor to maintain cash reserves sufficient to fully fund the net




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present value of accruing liabilities including self-insurance provisions, obligations to employees for vested payroll and benefits, and similar obligations as they are incurred, and to maintain the highest credit rating possible for the District. At a minimum they must be funded to 90%.

## SECTION 11: FORECASTING

The annual budget shall include a Five-Year Forecast. The forecast will be comprised of estimated operating costs and revenues as well as future capital improvement financing sources and uses. Balanced revenue and expenditure forecasts will be prepared by the CFO to examine the District's ability to absorb operating costs due to changes in the economy, service demands, and capital improvements. The forecast will be taken into consideration when preparing budget recommendations. The forecast will be updated annually and include a five-year outlook. The CFO will prepare and present these estimates to the Board at least once a year. The District's capital plan will be informed by the ten-year forecasting process.

The forecast shall factor in future increases in demand, expected rate increases, regulations, and infrastructure renovation and renewal needs.

## SECTION 12: RESERVE POLICIES

RESERVE POLICY PURPOSE:

A critical element of prudent financial planning is to ensure that sufficient funding is available for current and future operating, capital, and debt service needs. Additionally, fiscal responsibility requires anticipating the likelihood of, and preparing for, unforeseen events. West Valley Water District ("District" or "WVWD") will at all times strive to have sufficient funding available to meet its operating, capital, and debt service obligations. Reserve Funds ("Funds") will be accumulated and maintained to allow the District to fund operating expenses and capital expenditures in a manner consistent with its Annual Operating and Capital Improvement Budgets and its long

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term Capital Improvement Program, respectively, and avoid significant customer rate fluctuations due to changes in cash flow requirements.

Through a variety of policy documents and plans, including the District's Capital Improvement Program, master plan and strategic plan, the Board has set forth a number of long-term goals for the District. A fundamental purpose of the District's policy documents and plans is to link what must be accomplished with the necessary resources to successfully do so.

The Board of Directors of WVWD ("Board") may designate specific fund accounts and maintain minimum fund balances consistent with statutory obligations that it has determined to be in the best interest of WVWD. The Policy directives outlined in this section are intended to ensure WVWD has sufficient funds to meet current and future needs. The Board will annually review the level of these funds.

RESERVE TRACKING PROCEDURES:

The District may maintain its liquidity and capital funds in separate, designated sub-accounts in a manner that ensures its financial soundness and provides transparency to its ratepayers. The account balances are considered the minimum necessary to maintain the District's creditworthiness and adequately provide for:

- Compliance with applicable statutory requirements
- Financing of future capital facilities and repair and replacement of existing assets
- Cash flow requirements
- Economic uncertainties, local disasters, and other financial hardships or downturns in the local or national economy
- Contingencies or unforeseen operating or capital needs

WVWD has established and will maintain the following primary cash (and/or equivalent) accounts (and any other related fund tracking mechanism if needed):

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- Restricted Cash Account(s) – comprised of Bond Proceeds, Community Facilities District monies, Developer and or Capacity Fees and Customer Deposits
- Capital Cash Account(s) – includes the Capital Replacement Fund and Emergency Fund.
- Liquidity Cash Account(s) – includes the Rate Stabilization Fund and Operating Fund.

RESERVE MAINTENANCE:

The minimum established for each account represents the baseline financial condition that is acceptable to WVWD from risk and long-range financial planning perspectives. Maintaining reserves at appropriate levels is a prudent, ongoing business process that consists of an iterative, dynamic assessment and application of various revenue generating alternatives. These alternatives (either alone or in combination with each other) include, but are not limited to: fees and charges, water usage management, capital financing, investment of funds, and levels of capital expenditures. In the event the Liquidity Fund balance exceeds the established maximum, excess monies will be transferred annually into the Capital Fund. On an as-needed basis, monies from the Capital Fund can be moved to pay for operating emergencies to supplement the Liquidity Fund. In addition, in the event that the Capital Fund balance exceeds the established maximum, the Board will make a determination regarding the reallocation of excess monies.

To achieve and maintain a strong credit rating, in every fiscal year the District will strive to maintain unrestricted cash and designated fund balances totaling a minimum of 180 days of budgeted operating expenses. Should the District determine to target a higher credit rating level, this minimum will be adjusted accordingly. However, should the District decide to pursue a credit rating upgrade, it will need to analyze




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carefully under what circumstances and in what timeframes it will be optimal to achieve this goal

RESERVE TARGET LEVELS:

The following represents the Districts target reserve levels by type:

I. RESTRICTED FUNDS

a. *Bond Proceeds Fund(s):* Bond proceeds funds are monies derived from the proceeds of a bond issue. Typically, they consist of construction fund monies, and a debt service reserve fund ("DSRF"). The use of these proceeds is restricted by conditions set forth in the respective legal bond documents. Typically, these funds are held by the Trustee in favor of the bond holders.

Target Level – The debt service reserve requirement is established at the time of the bond issue. This amount may be recalculated as the bonds are paid down. Any excess principal and/or interest earnings can be used to pay debt service on the appropriate bonds. The target level must appropriately respond to changes in interest rates for variable rate debt.

Events or Conditions Prompting the Use of the Fund(s) – As stipulated in the respective bond documents. Construction fund monies are expected to be spent on applicable projects, while DSRF can only be used to pay debt service or to pay down principal at maturity.

Review Dates for Balances – Reviewed by the Trustee and WVWD staff on a semi- annual basis at least 15 days prior to an interest payment date.

b. *Customer and Development Deposits*: Monies held on behalf of WVWD customers as required for their account or as cash bonds for development projects.

Target Level – Customer deposits required are based upon the process outlined in the District's Water Service Regulations. Deposit requirements for development projects are also outlined in the District's Water Service

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Regulations. The balance in this account will fluctuate depending on the number of utility customer deposits required and the number of development projects in process. Therefore, no minimum or maximum levels will be established.

## II. CAPITAL RESERVE FUNDS

WVWD will strive to maintain minimum balances in the Capital Reserve Funds, net of any capacity fees, as of June 30, of any fiscal year equal to the amounts set forth below. The Capital Reserve Funds will consist of the following sub-accounts:

a. *Capital Project Account*: The Capital Project Cash Account is used for the funding of new capital assets or the rehabilitation, enhancement or replacement of capital assets when they reach the end of their useful lives.

Target Level – WVWD may set aside capital moneys for replacement funds on a project- by-project basis. The minimum target level WVWD will strive for is 100% of its then- current fiscal year from the Capital Improvement Budgets plus 25% of the amount estimated to be needed the following fiscal year, less minimum levels established for the Emergency Account. Failure to meet the minimum target level will not result in a violation of the policy. The maximum balance in Capital Reserve Funds shall not exceed the projected needs for five years, according to the District's Capital Improvement Plan.

Events or Conditions Prompting the Use of the Fund – Staff will recommend new assets to be constructed or assets to be rehabilitated, enhanced, or replaced during the annual budget preparation. As projects are approved, funds will be appropriated from reserve funds or available revenues.

Review Dates for Balances – Fund balances and projected improvement projects will be reviewed by staff and the Board during the preparation and approval of the annual budget.

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b. *Emergency Account*: The Emergency Fund is used to begin repair of the water and sewer systems after a catastrophic event, such as a severe earthquake or fire, while long-term financing is being arranged or insurance claims are being processed.

Target Level – Funding shall be targeted at a minimum equal to 1% of the net capital assets of the District's water system, a target level of 2% of the net capital assets and a maximum of 3% of the net assets of the water system, based on current Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) guidelines.

Events or Conditions Prompting the Use of the Fund – The Board may designate use of this fund after establishing that conditions exist as called out in the definition and purpose of the fund.

Review Dates for Balances – Fund balances and target level will be reviewed by staff and the Board during the preparation and approval of the annual budget.

III. LIQUIDITY FUNDS

Liquidity Funds will be comprised of the following sub-accounts: The Rate Stabilization Reserve Account, the Operating Reserve Account, the Emergency Account, and the water banking account. The balance in the Liquidity Funds will fluctuate depending on the annual operating expenses. The maximum balance in the Liquidity Funds will be equal to 180 days of the annual budgeted operating expenses.

a. *Rate Stabilization Account*: This fund is established to provide flexibility to the Board when setting rates to allow for absorbing fluctuations in water demand and smoothing out rate increases over a period of time.

Target Level – This fund shall be maintained at a minimum level of 45 days of the annual budgeted operating expenses. The maximum level of this fund shall not exceed 60 days of the annual budgeted operating expenses.

Events or Conditions Prompting the Use of the Fund – This fund is intended

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to be used to defray any temporary unforeseen and extraordinary increases in the cost of water supply. The Board, on a case by case basis, will determine the amount and timing for any use of the fund.

Review Dates for Balances – Fund balances will be reviewed by staff and the Board during the preparation and approval of the annual budget.

b. *Operating Reserve Account*: The Operating Reserve Account is used for unanticipated operating expenses. This fund is designated by the Board to maintain a reserve for current operations and to meet routine cash flow needs.

Target Level – Funding shall be targeted at a minimum amount equal to 90 days of the District's budgeted total operating expenses, and the maximum amount shall not exceed 120 days of the budgeted total operating expenses.

Events or Conditions Prompting the Use of the Fund – Upon Board authorization, this fund may be routinely utilized by staff to cover temporary cash flow deficiencies caused by timing differences between revenue and expenses or decreases in revenues and unexpected increases in expenses.

Review Dates for Balances – Fund balances and target level will be reviewed by Staff and the Board during the preparation and approval of the annual budget.

## SECTION 13: BUDGET SURPLUSES AND DEFICITS

SURPLUSES:

It is the intent of the District to use all surpluses generated to accomplish three goals:

- Meet reserve policies
- Avoidance of future debt
- Reduction of outstanding debt

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Any surplus realized at year-end shall be used first to meet reserve policies as set forth in this policy. Excess surplus will then be used for the following purposes:

- Capital replacement program
- Retirement or refinancing of existing debt
- Cash payments for capital improvements
- Rebate to rate-payers

One-time revenue windfalls should be designated as a reserve or used for one-time expenditures. The funds are not to be used for on-going operations. To the extent such funds are not required for current expenditures, one-time expenditures and/or capital improvements such funds should be maintained as operating reserves or used to reduce debt.

For purposes of this policy, one-time revenue windfalls shall include:

- Lump sum (net present value) savings from debt restructuring
- CalPERS Rebates
- Tax Revenue growth in excess of 5% in a single year
- Sale of District-owned real estate
- Pure unexpected revenues (i.e. litigation settlement)
- Receipts from approved Development Fees
- Contributions and Gifts
- Any other revenues the Board may elect to designate as extraordinary

DEFICITS:

It is the intent of the District to minimize all net asset (fund balance) deficits. The District will diagnose and communicate any fund balance deficits with the following recommendations to the Board:




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- Primary Treatments – treatments that are recommended as the first line of defense and should be considered as a first option. In many cases, these treatments not only provide immediate help but also improve the long-term prognosis.
- Treatment to Use with Caution – treatments that may be called for if the primary treatments are not sufficient. However, the side effects of these treatments could potentially worsen financial condition if used improperly.

## SECTION 14: DEBT MANAGEMENT POLICY

These Debt Management Policies are intended to comply with Government Code Section 8855(i), (j), and (k) effective on January 1, 2017, and shall govern all debt undertaken by the District.[1] The District hereby recognizes that a fiscally prudent debt policy is required in order to:

- Maintain the District's sound financial position.
- Ensure the District has the flexibility to respond to changes in future service priorities, revenue levels, and operating expenses.
- Protect the District's credit-worthiness and maintain and, if possible, improve the current bond rating(s), in order to minimize borrowing costs and preserve access to credit.
- Ensure that all debt is structured in order to protect both current and future taxpayers, ratepayers and constituents of the District.
- Ensure that the District's debt is consistent with the District's planning goals and objectives and capital improvement program or budget, as applicable.

### Purposes for Which Debt May Be Issued

*Long-term Debt.* Long-term debt may be issued to finance the construction, acquisition, and rehabilitation of capital improvements and facilities, equipment and

land to be owned and operated by the District.

(a) Long-term debt financings are appropriate when the following conditions exist:

- When the project to be financed is necessary to provide basic services.
- When the project to be financed will provide benefit to constituents over multiple years.
- When total debt does not constitute an unreasonable burden to the District and its taxpayers and ratepayers.
- When the debt is used to refinance outstanding debt in order to produce debt service savings or to realize the benefits of a debt restructuring.

(b) Long-term debt financings will not generally be considered appropriate for current operating expenses and routine maintenance expenses. However, the District may consider issuance of debt for working capital purposes under specific circumstances if deemed advisable by the Board and CFO.

(c) The District may use long-term debt financings subject to the following conditions:

- The project to be financed must be approved by the Board.
- The weighted average maturity of the debt (or the portion of the debt allocated to the project) will not exceed the average useful life of the infrastructure improvement, with the average (weighted) bond maturities at or below thirty years, unless otherwise authorized by the Board.
- The District estimates that sufficient revenues will be available to service the debt through its maturity.
- The District determines that the issuance of the debt will comply with the applicable state and federal law.

*Short-term Debt.* Short-term debt may be issued to provide financing for the District's operational cash flows in order to maintain a steady and even cash flow balance. Short-term debt may also be used to finance short-lived capital projects; for example,




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the District may undertake lease-purchase financing for equipment.

**Types of Debt**

For purposes of these Debt Management Policies, "debt" shall be interpreted broadly to mean bonds, notes, certificates of participation, financing leases, or other financing obligations. The use of the term "debt" in these Debt Management Policies shall be solely for convenience and shall not be interpreted to characterize any such obligation as an indebtedness or debt in contravention of any statutory or constitutional debt limitation.

The following types of debt are allowable under these Debt Management Policies:

- General obligation bonds, which are supported by property tax revenue which grows in proportion to the District's assessed valuation and/or property tax rate increases, may be utilized if/when authorized by voters.
- Bond or grant anticipation notes.
- Lease revenue bonds, certificates of participation, and lease-purchase transactions.
- Other revenue bonds and certificates of participation.
- Tax and revenue anticipation notes.
- Land-secured financings, such as special tax revenue bonds issued under the Mello-Roos Community Facilities Act of 1982, as amended, and limited obligation bonds issued under applicable assessment statutes.
- Tax increment financing to the extent permitted under state law.
- Purchase card debt
- Line of credit
- Construction loans
- Lease payments

The District may from time to time find that other forms of debt would be beneficial




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to further its public purposes and may approve such debt without an amendment of these Debt Management Policies.

Debt shall be issued as fixed rate debt unless the District makes a specific determination as to why a variable rate issue would be beneficial to the District in a specific circumstance.

**Relationship of Debt to Capital Improvement Program and Budget**

The District is committed to long-term capital planning. The District intends to issue debt for the purposes stated in these Debt Management Policies and to implement policy decisions incorporated in the District's capital budget and the capital improvement plan.

The District shall strive to fund the upkeep and maintenance of its infrastructure and facilities due to normal wear and tear through the expenditure of available operating revenues. The District shall seek to avoid the use of debt to fund infrastructure and facilities improvements that are the result of normal wear and tear.

The District shall integrate its debt issuances with the goals of its capital improvement program by timing the issuance of debt to ensure that projects are available when needed in furtherance of the District's public purposes.

The District shall seek to avoid the use of debt to fund infrastructure and facilities improvements in circumstances when the sole purpose of such debt financing is to reduce annual budgetary expenditures.

The District shall seek to issue debt in a timely manner to avoid having to make unplanned expenditures for capital improvements or equipment from its reserves.

New debt issues, and refinancing of existing debt, must be analyzed for compatibility within the District's overall financial planning and approved by the CFO. The review shall not be limited to cash flow analysis, potential for unexpected revenue surprises, and the maintenance of the District's bond ratings. Annual debt service shall not produce an inordinate impact upon future operations.




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A ratio of current assets to current liabilities of at least 2/1 will be maintained to ensure the District's ability to pay short-term obligations.

Water rates will be set, at a minimum, to ensure the ratio of revenue to debt service meets the District's bond indenture requirement (generally a minimum of 120% of debt service). In addition, higher revenue to expense ratios may be needed to secure the District's bond rating, as determined by the CFO.

When calculating debt services coverage for internal purposes, the minimum pay-as-you-go capital expense will be considered a part of the operating costs to be covered by pre-debt service revenues. The District goal will be to maintain the required debt service coverage with this additional cost factored into the equation. Use of a 10-year budget projection, including capital project requirements, will provide assurance that all needs are considered by the CFO, the GM, Assistant GMs, and District Counsel as revenue requirements are considered.

**Policy Goals Related to Planning and Objectives**

The District is committed to long-term financial planning, maintaining appropriate reserve levels and employing prudent practices in governance, management and budget administration. The District intends to issue debt for the purposes stated in this Policy and to implement policy decisions incorporated in the District's annual operations budget.

It is a policy goal of the District to protect taxpayers, ratepayers and constituents by utilizing conservative financing methods and techniques so as to obtain the highest practical credit ratings (if applicable) and the lowest practical borrowing costs.

The District will comply with applicable state and federal law as it pertains to the maximum term of debt and the procedures for levying and imposing any related taxes, assessments, rates and charges.

When refinancing debt, it shall be the policy goal of the District to realize, whenever possible, and subject to any overriding non-financial policy considerations, (i) minimum net present value debt service savings equal to or greater than 3.0% of the refunded principal amount, and (ii) present value debt service savings equal to

or greater than 100% of any escrow fund negative arbitrage.

The CFO shall consult with a qualified Financial Advisor on an issue by issue basis to determine the appropriate method of sale to be used for debt issuance. Further, the CFO or designee shall be responsible for the solicitation and selection of professional services that are required to administer the District's debt program, which will follow the District's procurement policy. The financial advisor, bond and disclosure counsel, and trustee costs associated with bond issuance will be paid with bond proceeds. Eligible District staff costs related to issuance of long-term bonds may also be reimbursed from bond proceeds.

- A financial advisor shall be used to assist in the issuance of the District's debt. The financial advisor shall provide the District with objective advice and analysis on debt issuance. This includes, but is not limited to monitoring market opportunities, structuring and pricing debt, and preparing official statements of disclosure.
- All debt issued by the District will include a written opinion by bond counsel affirming that the District is authorized to issue the proposed debt. The opinion shall include confirmation that the District has met all District and state constitutional and statutory requirements necessary or issuance, a determination of the proposed debt's federal income tax status and any other components necessary for the proposed debt. Bond counsel is also responsible for preparing all financing documents including Trust Indentures and Bond resolutions and assists in preparation of Official Statements. Disclosure Counsel shall be required to deliver a customary 10(b)-5 opinion on District offering documents. The Disclosure Counsel will work with District staff to draft all disclosure documents for a bond financing.
- An Underwriter(s) will be used for all debt issued in a negotiated or private placement sale method. The Underwriter is responsible for purchasing negotiated or private placement debt and reselling the debt to investors.
- A Fiscal Agent will be used to provide accurate and timely securities processing and timely payment to bondholders. If there are unspent bond proceeds, funds

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will be held by a third part trustee.

- The District will maintain good communication with bond rating agencies about its financial condition. This effort will include providing periodic updates on the District's general financial condition, coordinating meetings, and presentations in conjunction with a new issuance. The District will continually strive to maintain its bond rating by improving financial policies, budgets, forecasts and the financial health of the District.
- Credit enhancements may be used to improve or establish a credit rating on a District debt obligation. Credit enhancements should only be used if cost effective.
- A debt refunding is a refinance of debt typically done to take advantage of lower interest rates.
- A current refunding is one in which the refunding bonds are issued no more than 90 days before the date upon which the refunded bonds will be redeemed.
- An advance refunding is one in which the refunding bonds are issued more than 90 days prior to the date upon which the refunded bonds will be redeemed. Advance refundings are used to refinance outstanding debt before the date the outstanding debt becomes due or callable. Internal Revenue Code §149(d)(3) provides that governmental bonds issued after 1985 may only be advanced refunded once over the life of a bond issuance. Changes to the Federal tax law enacted in 2017 prohibit the issuance of advance refunding bonds after December 31, 2017; however, it is possible this prohibition will be removed in the future.
- Unless otherwise justified, such as a desire to remove or change a bond covenant, a debt refunding will require a minimum present value savings of 3%. This savings requirement for a refunding may be waived by the CFO upon a finding that such a refunding is in the District's overall best financial interest.
- The District will, unless otherwise justified, use bond proceeds within the established time frame pursuant to the bond ordinance, contract or other

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documents to avoid arbitrage rebate. Arbitrage is the interest earned on the investment of the bond proceeds at a rate above the interest rate paid on the debt. If arbitrage occurs, the District may be required to pay the amount of the arbitrage to the Federal Government as required by Internal Revenue Service Regulation 1.148-11. The District will maintain a system of recordkeeping and reporting to meet the arbitrage rebate compliance requirement of the IRS regulation. For each bond issue not used within the established time frame, the recordkeeping shall include tracking investment earnings on bond proceeds, calculating rebate payments, and remitting any rebatable earnings to the federal government in a timely manner in order to preserve the tax-exempt status of the outstanding debt.

- The District will comply with all covenants stated in the bond contract or equivalent
- The District will comply with all state reporting requirements for issuance of debt, including a report to the CDIAC of any proposed debt issuance no later than 30 days prior to the sale of any debt issue. The report shall include a certification by the issuer that it has adopted local debt policies concerning the use of debt and that the contemplated debt issuance is consistent with these policies. The District shall also submit a report to CDIAC of final sale no later than 21 days after sale of debt, by any method approved by the CDIAC. The report on final sale shall include a copy of the official statement for the issue or, if there is no official statement, the other disclosure documents and indenture.
- The District will meet secondary disclosure requirements in a timely and comprehensive manner, as stipulated by the SEC Rule 15c2-12. The CFO shall be responsible for providing ongoing disclosure information to the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board's (MSRB's) Electronic Municipal Market Access (EMMA) system, the central depository designated by the SEC for ongoing disclosures by municipal issuers. The CFO is responsible for maintaining compliance with disclosure standards promulgated by state and national regulatory bodies, including the Government Accounting Standards Board




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(GASB), the National Federation of Municipal Analysts, the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), and Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP). The District may also employ the services of firms that improve the availability of or supplement the District's EMMA filings.

- The proceeds of the bond sales will be invested until used for the intended project in order to maximize utilization of the public funds. The investments will be made to obtain the highest level of safety. The District Investment Policy and the bond indentures govern objectives and criteria for investment of bond proceeds. The CFO or designee, or the bond trustees under the direction of the CFO or designee, will invest the bond proceeds in a manner to avoid, if possible, and minimize any potential negative arbitrage over the life of the bond issuance, while complying with arbitrage and tax provisions.
- In certain cases, particularly for bond reserve funds, it may be fiscally prudent to invest funds using a forward delivery agreement or some other type of guaranteed investment contract. Such agreements should be obtained under a competitive bid process under consultation with the Financial Advisor.
- State and Local Government Securities (SLGS) are the preferred investment option rather than open market securities for escrows for refunded bonds to allow for better matching of settlement dates and fewer arbitrage regulation compliance issues.

## Internal Control Procedures

When issuing debt, in addition to complying with the terms of these Debt Management Policies, the District shall comply with any other applicable policies regarding initial bond disclosure, continuing disclosure, post-issuance compliance, and investment of bond proceeds.

The District will periodically review the requirements of and will remain in compliance with the following:

- Any continuing disclosure undertakings under SEC Rule 15c2-12 and




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Government Code Section 8855 (i), (j), and (k),

- Any federal tax compliance requirements, including without limitation arbitrage and rebate compliance, related to any prior bond issues, and
- The District's investment policies as they relate to the investment of bond proceeds.

It is the policy of the District to ensure that proceeds of debt are spent only on lawful and intended uses. Proceeds of debt will be held either (a) by a third-party trustee, which will disburse such proceeds to the District upon the submission of one or more written requisitions, or (b) by the District, to be held and accounted for in a separate fund or account, the expenditure of which will be carefully documented by the District.

- The District shall review its outstanding debt quarterly for the purpose of determining if the financial marketplace will afford the District the opportunity to refund an issue and lessen its debt service costs. In order to consider the possible refunding of an issue, a Present Value savings of three percent over the life of the respective issue, at a minimum, must be realistically attainable.
- The District will confine long-term borrowing to capital improvements or projects that cannot be financed from current revenues.
- When the District finances capital projects by issuing bonds, it will pay back the bonds within a period not to exceed the estimated useful life of the project.
- Whenever possible, the District will use special assessment, revenue, or other self-supporting bonds instead of general obligation bonds, so those benefiting from the improvements will bear all or part of the cost of the project financed.
- The District will maintain good communications with bond rating agencies regarding its financial condition. The District will follow a policy of full disclosure on every financial report and borrowing prospectus.

## SECTION 15: AFTER ADOPTION OF THE BUDGET

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District staff shall strive to avoid returning to the Board for new or expanded appropriations. Exceptions may include emergencies, unforeseen impacts, mid-year adjustments or new opportunities.

The District, through the CFO and the Finance Department, will follow an aggressive, consistent, but sensitive policy of collecting revenues, with proper internal controls, to meet the needs of the District and follow all applicable state and federal laws.

The Board is to be provided with a quarterly budget report comparing actual versus budgeted revenue and expense activity. Significant deviations between budget and actual results are to be explained. This will create an opportunity to adjust revenue projections and make expenditure appropriation changes, if needed. Further, it also provides an opportunity to make budget transfers if necessary. Reserve account balance shall also be reviewed at this time for compliance with the reserve policy.

All fund designations and reserves will be evaluated at least annually by the CFO for long-term adequacy and use requirements in conjunction with development of the District's balanced ten-year financial plan.

## PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT

- Every year, the District shall create a Strategic Plan that identifies the Strategic Priorities for the following year, with the goals to be achieved.
- Annually, each department shall develop departmental performance measures that support achieving successful results of those goals with the GM. Goals should be related to core services of the department and should reflect customer needs. The measures should be a mix of different types, including effectiveness, efficiency, demand and workload. Measures should have sufficiently aggressive goals to ensure continuous improvement.
    - Department Directors shall establish performance measures for each division or program within their department to monitor and project program performance.

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- Quarterly summaries of progress and departmental performance measures will be published and distributed.

## SECTION 16: TRANSFERS

TRANSFERS OF APPROPRIATIONS:

The CFO or Designee, upon request of the GM or Board, may transfer any unused balance or portion thereof from previously appropriated funds to augment existing appropriations as long as the transfer is within the same Budget Unit and/or CIP project. The CFO or designee shall notify the GM and the Board of any transfer of funds made pursuant to this section which exceeds ten percent (10%) of the original appropriation to which the transfer is made. No such transfer of funds shall be made to an appropriation which was previously reduced by action of either the GM or the Board in their review of the budget for the current or prior fiscal year.

District departments may need to request expenditure budget transfers under certain circumstances. It may be necessary to transfer funds from one activity or project to another to reflect realignment of priorities, duties, or reorganization. Transfers among objects of expenditure within a department also may be needed to adjust budget estimates to meet actual operating realities. The following represent restrictions on budget transfers:

- Cumulative transfer requests to the Finance Department should not exceed ten percent (10%) of the original appropriation. Requests exceeding the threshold must be properly justified and approved by the CFO or designee
    - The 10% threshold applies to the budget unit or CIP project to which that appropriation is being transferred.
        - For annual funds, the 10% calculation is based on the current fiscal year original appropriation and any Board-approved supplemental appropriation within budgetary control level.

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  - For continuing funds such as capital projects, the 10% calculation is based on the total multi-year original appropriation and any Board-approved supplemental appropriation amounts (i.e., the total of original and supplemental appropriation for each fiscal year from year 1 through the current fiscal year). For projects funded by multiple funding sources, the 10% threshold is based on the total Board-approved appropriation of all funding sources. If multiple transfers were made during the year, the individual transfer as well as the cumulative transfer must not exceed the 10% threshold.

- Transfers must not be made to an appropriation reduced by action of either the GM or Board. If the GM or Board reduction was made to a specific object code, appropriations cannot be transferred to other object codes within the same object code grouping.
  - Exceptions to this guideline must be approved by the authority that reduced the appropriation,
- Appropriations carried forward from prior year(s) cannot be used for budget transfers
  - Carryforward appropriations are not surplus and must be used for the purpose originally budgeted and approved for carryforward.
- The following types of budget transfers require additional approval from the GM and notification to the Board:
  - Transfers involving salaries
    - Transfers from professional services contracts to salaries require additional approval from the GM and the CFO
  - Transfers involving new equipment budget.
    - Equipment can only be purchased using appropriations

specifically for equipment. Transfers of non-equipment budget for equipment purchases must be approved by the GM and CFO. Note that such transfers can only be from non-salary appropriations

- Transferring department budgets for services of other District departments to other spending categories requires approval from the requesting or performing department.
- If and when the budget transfer request is completely approved, the Finance Division is responsible to enter a budget transfer journal entry in the financial system
    - Before entering the budget transfer into the finance software, Finance Division staff must:
        - Verify completeness of information and reasonableness of justification
        - Verify funding availability and appropriateness (e.g., budget carried forward from the previous fiscal year cannot be the funding source of a budget transfer)
        - Verify department certification on transfer is within the 10% threshold
        - Verify department certifications on transfer is not adding back to appropriation previously reduced by Board or GM
        - Verify the accurate use of the accounting codes, budget unit codes and object codes
        - Return to department if request is being rejected or requires substantial changes
        - Review data entry for accuracy of data based on approved budget transfer request.

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- At fiscal year-end, the CFO shall notify the GM and the Board of any transfer of funds made which exceeds 10% of the original appropriation to which the transfer is made. If multiple transfers were made at different times of the year, the individual transfer as well as the cumulative transfers exceeding the 10% threshold will be reported.

TRANSFERS OF RESERVES:

In the event the Liquidity cash account balance exceeds the established aggregate maximum (if applicable), excess monies will be transferred annually into the Capital cash account. On an as-needed basis, moneys from the Emergency Account of the Liquidity Fund can be moved to the Operating Reserve Account to pay for operating emergencies to supplement the Liquidity Funds. The Board shall approve any reallocation of reserve funds or any transfers among such funds.

## SECTION 17: CARRYOVERS

On an annual basis, after the year-end audit has been completed, the CFO or designee shall produce a schedule of all fund surpluses and deficits, with projections of reserve requirements and plan for the use of an excess surplus for the current year. These will be Carryovers.

Automatic Carryovers include:

- Contractual commitments
- Grant, restricted donation and capital project appropriations which are considered life-cycle appropriations
- June Board items
- All other appropriations shall lapse at year-end unless carried forward by Board action

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June Board items, and active/on-going CIP carryovers are automatic. CIP projects that are under construction, in the process of design and specification development or production of bid documents will automatically be carried over for both encumbered funds and unencumbered funds.

Carryovers that are not automatic: Projects that have been on the CIP list for multiple years that are not proceeding to design, bid or construction should provide a more detailed explanation of their status and a justification for the continuing need for the project funding. These projects will be closed out unless the department provides sufficient justification to keep them open. The justification should contain the information necessary to determine the status of the project and its continuing justification. Carryovers can only take place once the last invoices for the fiscal year have been paid and charged against the fiscal year that is ending. The Carryover Request forms will be closed on July 1st of every year. Any subsequent carryover requests will need to be taken to the Board by the requesting department.