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**POLICY TITLE: Adoption/Amendment of Policies**  
**POLICY NUMBER: 1000**

1000.1 Consideration by the Board of Directors to adopt a new policy or to amend an existing policy may be initiated by any Director or the General Manager. The proposed adoption or amendment shall be initiated by a Director or the General Manager by submitting a written draft of the proposed new or amended policy to the Board Chairperson and the General Manager, which may be submitted in person or by any communication method approved by the District, and requesting that the item be included for consideration on the agenda of the next appropriate regular meeting of the Board of Directors. Any member of the Board may place an item on a future agenda by making a formal request to the General Manager at a meeting of the Board. The General Manager will place Board items on a future Board agenda when reasonable, based on the staff time and research necessary to prepare the item for Board consideration.

1000.2 Adoption of a new policy or amendment of an existing policy shall be accomplished at a regular meeting of the Board of Directors in accordance with the District's state statutes regarding the constitution of a majority vote.

1000.3 Copies of the proposed new or amended policy shall be included in the agenda-information packet for any meeting in which they are scheduled for consideration (listed on the agenda). A copy of the proposed new or amended policy(ies) shall be made available to each Director for review at least 72 hours, per the Brown Act, prior to any meeting at which the policy(ies) are to be considered.

Adopted: June 25, 2024



**POLICY TITLE: Association Memberships**  
**POLICY NUMBER: 1005**

Purpose: This policy sets forth the rules for membership in associations and establishes who may represent the District.

1005.1 Appropriate Memberships. To take advantage of in-service training opportunities, the District may hold membership in industry related associations. Board Members and staff may attend meetings of national, state, and local associations directly related to the purposes and operations of the District. Decisions to continue, discontinue, or add new memberships shall occur through the annual budget process.

1005.2 Appointment of Representatives. The ~~President~~ **Board Chair** shall appoint Board Members as representatives and alternates, as appropriate, to serve as contacts between the District, stakeholder groups, associations and others. The representatives and alternates shall report to the Board in a timely manner on their activities involving these associations. In some cases members may be allowed certain expenses for travel and membership in such associations. This shall be determined and approved by the full Board.

1005.3 General Manager Memberships. The Board Chair may designate the General Manager as the appropriate representative or alternate in connection with memberships in any association. The General Manager may designate those associations or industry specific organizations with which his/her association is necessary or desired.

Adopted: June 25, 2024



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**POLICY TITLE: Basis of Authority**  
**POLICY NUMBER: 1010**

1010.1 The Board of Directors is the legislative body and unit of authority within the District. Power is centralized in the elected Board collectively and not in an individual Director. 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.

1010.2 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.

Adopted: June 25, 2024



POLICY TITLE: Board SecretaryClerk  
POLICY NUMBER: 1015

1015.1 –The SecretaryClerk performs duties including recording of minutes and actions of the Board of Directors and certifying all actions and resolutions of the Board. Within Chester Public Utility District this position is typically a paid staff member who is appointed by and reports to the General Manager.

~~1015.2 — If for any reason the Board Chair and Vice-Board Chair resign or are absent or disabled, the Secretary shall perform the Board Chair's duties until the position of Board Chair is filled.~~

~~1015.3 — If for any reason the Board Chair and Vice-Board Chair disqualify themselves from participating in an agenda item or become partisan in the debate on any such item, the Secretary shall perform the duties of the presiding officer.~~

1015.4 Duties of the SecretaryClerk

The SecretaryClerk of the Governing Board shall have the following duties:

- a) Certify or attest to actions taken by the Board when required;
- b) Sign the minutes of the Board meeting following their approval;
- c) Sign the documents as directed by the Board on behalf of the AuthorityDistrict, and sign all other items which require the signature of the SecretaryClerk;
- d) Perform any other duties assigned by the ~~Board and the~~ General Manager; and
- e) Perform any other duties required under law.

1015.5 Responsibilities of the SecretaryClerk

The duties of the SecretaryClerk, with assistance of the General Manager, are:

- a) Respond to routine correspondence;
- b) Prepare for Board meetings, including preparing the agenda with the advice of under direction of the General Manager and providing public notice of Board meetings in accordance with state law;
- c) Attend all Board meetings and ensure minutes of the Board of Directors meetings are properly recorded; ~~These recordings are for use by the Secretary only for the purpose of preparing minutes for adoption at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board. Upon adoption of these minutes the recording media will be reused;~~
- d) Ensure accurate Minutes of each Board meeting are prepared and maintained;
- e) Maintain Board records and other documents and reports as required by law; and
- f) Disseminate correspondence to Board officers-members addressed to them.

Adopted: June 25, 2024



**POLICY TITLE: Board/Staff Communications**  
**POLICY NUMBER: 1020**

**Objectives:** Effective governance of the District relies on the cooperative efforts of the agency's elected Board, who set policy and priorities, and the District's staff members, who analyze problems and issues, to make appropriate recommendations; and implement and administer Board policies. It is the responsibility of District staff to ensure Board members have access to information and to ~~insure~~ ensure such information is communicated completely and with candor to those making the request. However, Board members should avoid intrusion into those areas that are the responsibility of District staff. Individual Board members must avoid intervening in staff decision-making, the development of staff recommendations, scheduling of work, and executing department priorities without the prior knowledge and approval of the General Manager and Board as a whole. This is necessary to protect District staff from undue influence and pressure from individual Board members and to allow staff to execute priorities given by management and the Board without fear of reprisal.

**Role of the Board:** As the legislative body for the agency, the Board is responsible for approving the District's budget, setting policy goals and objectives and adopting strategic plans. The primary functions of the District staff members are to execute Board policy and other Board actions and to keep the Board well informed.

Individual members of the Board should not make attempts to pressure or influence staff decisions, recommendations, workloads, schedules, and department priorities, without the prior knowledge and approval of the Board as a whole. If a Board member wishes to influence the actions, decisions, recommendations, workloads, work schedule, and priorities of staff, that member must prevail upon the Board to do so as a matter of Board policy.

Board members also have a responsibility of information flow. It is critical that they make extensive use of staff and agency reports and Board meeting minutes. Board members should come to meetings prepared; having read the agenda packet materials and supporting documents, as well as any additional information or memoranda provided on agency projects or evolving issues. Additional information may be requested from staff, if necessary.

Individual Board members, as well as the Board as a whole, are permitted complete freedom of access to any information requested of staff and shall receive the full cooperation and candor of staff in being provided with any requested information. The General Manager or Legal Counsel will pass critical information to all Board members.

There are limited restrictions when information cannot be provided. Draft documents (e.g. staff reports in progress, etc.) are under review and not available for release until complete and after review by District staff. In addition, there are legal restrictions on the agency's ability to release certain personnel information



even to members of the Board. Any concerns Board members may have regarding the release of information or the refusal of staff to release information, should be discussed with Legal Counsel for clarification.

**Policies:** There shall be mutual respect from both staff and Board members of their respective roles and responsibilities at all times. There is a need for access to staff by Directors and at the same time, unlimited access could result in work priority conflicts for staff.

**Purpose:** The purpose of the policies listed below is to facilitate Board/staff communications consistent with these principles.

1020.1 All requests for information or questions by the Board to staff outside of a Board or Committee meeting, shall be directed to the General Manager, Legal Counsel, or the Clerk of the Board as appropriate and shall include the desired time and date for receiving the information. Staff will confirm the date they can provide the information. So that all Board members are equally informed, all written informational material requested by any Director shall be submitted by staff to all Board members with the notation indicating which Board member requested the information. If a Board member requests information from any other member of the staff, staff may either direct the matter to the General Manager or may ask the Board member to contact the General Manager directly. Board members may only contact the District's Legal Counsel with the prior approval of the Board Chair in order to prevent confusion or incur unnecessary legal cost.

1020.2 Individual Directors cannot directly assign work to staff members. Board initiated projects will follow organizational channels, through the General Manager, unless there is an emergency. As no formal procedure will answer all cases, the following should be considered as a guide and used with restraint and judgment:

- a) Directors should clear all short-term requests of Staff with the General Manager prior to contacting individual members of the staff and, in most cases, the General Manager should direct and handle the request for the Director.
- b) For long-term, involved studies or where the matter includes confidential material, the General Manager should be contacted and the subject matter discussed with the full Board at a Board meeting prior to staff working on the assignments.
- c) In the event that staff is a participant or representative of a Committee or Work Group of the Board, the Board may contact the staff member directly to request or provide information or confer regarding matters of the Committee or Work Group.

1020.3 At Board meetings and other public meetings, respectful communication is expected. Staff is encouraged to give their professional recommendations, and the Board should recognize that staff may make recommendations that could be viewed as unpopular with the public and with individual Board members. Board members may request clarification and ask questions of staff at public meetings, and Directors are encouraged to participate in healthy discussions amongst each other regarding items under discussion on the Agenda. However, Directors should refrain from debate with staff at Board meetings about staff recommendations or other items being discussed. Staff must recognize that the Board, as the decision maker, is free to reject or modify a



staff recommendation and that the Board's wishes will be implemented by staff even if it was contrary to a staff recommendation.

1020.4 Directors shall not attempt to coerce or influence staff, included in the making of recommendations, the awarding of contracts, the selection of consultants, the processing of any projects or applications, or the granting of permits. Directors shall not attempt to change or interfere with the operating policies and practices of any district department through interaction with staff. Individual Directors may discuss these items with the General Manager to get clarification or raise concerns.

1020.5 Board members should not make public comments critical of the performance of a District staff member. Any concerns by a Director over the behavior or work of a district employee during a Board meeting should be directed to the General Manager privately to ensure the concern is resolved. All complaints about employees from Directors should be submitted privately to the General Manager or, if a complaint concerns the General Manager, to the Board Chair or Legal Counsel.

1020.6 Staff will respect the right of Directors to refuse to provide information or answers to staff and recognize that Directors may be bound by other rules of law or procedure that do not permit the Director to speak about the subject matter presented. If a Director violates any of the policies regarding communications as stated in this policy, any member of staff has the right to request that the Director speak directly with the General Manager about the subject matter presented without any fear of reprisal.

Adopted: June 25, 2024



**POLICY TITLE: Claims against the District**  
**POLICY NUMBER: 1025**

Purpose: The purpose of this policy is to provide direction to District staff for processing and resolving (if possible) account adjustment requests and property damage claims against the District. Inherent in this policy is the recognition that every adjustment request or claim will be unique, and that guidelines cannot be written to accommodate every case. Therefore, staff must use discretion and good sense in handling each claim.

1025.1 Property (Land and Improvements) Damage Claims

In the course of the District's operations—~~[list several examples of routine district operations or services]~~— damage to land and improvements thereon occasionally occurs due to the proximity of the District's facilities to private property. When District employees are aware that property has been damaged in the course of their work, restorative measures are to be taken to return the property as close to its original condition as possible.

When a property owner informs a District employee of damage to their property (by telephone or in person), the employee receiving the claim will document in writing the time and date and a description of the stated circumstances and allegations. Employees should respond to questions, be cordial and respectful, but refrain from commenting on liability questions.

As soon as possible after information about the damage has been received, it shall be given to the appropriate division manager ~~[replace position title with appropriate position title for your district]~~. The division manager, or his/her designee, shall investigate the property owner's allegations.

If the owner of damaged property informs a member of the Board, the information will be given to the General Manager. Directors should not independently investigate claims or make any representations to the property owner, but may go with staff to observe.

Investigations shall be done in a timely fashion and documented with a written report, including photographs and/or interviews, when appropriate. A copy of the report shall be submitted to the General Manager.

If the investigating staff person is convinced that the damage was caused by District personnel, equipment, or infrastructure, he/she shall prepare a work order to have the damage repaired, subject to the following conditions:

- a) General Manager approves the work order;
- b) Property owner agrees that the proposed repairs are appropriate and adequate;
- c) Property owner agrees to allow District personnel access to their property to perform the repair work;
- d) District personnel have the necessary tools, equipment, and expertise to perform the necessary work;
- e) Repair work can be accomplished within a reasonable amount of time; and
- f) Cost of material for the repairs will not exceed five hundred dollars (\$500).





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If the cost of material for repairs is stated by claimant or estimated by staff to exceed five hundred dollars (\$500), the owner will be asked to submit their claim in writing on a District claim form.

The General Manager shall review the damage claim and the proposed repair work within a reasonable amount of time. If he/she determines that the damage is the District's responsibility and that the proposed repair work is appropriate, he/she may authorize the work if the cost of material for the repairs will not exceed one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500). A report shall be submitted to the ~~Claims Committee~~ standing board committee assigned to review claims of this nature Board of Directors describing the damage claim, including a description of the manner in which it was resolved. The claimant shall be notified of any action by the ~~Committee~~ Board regarding their claim.

If the cost of material for repairs is stated by claimant or estimated to exceed one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500), the claim will be submitted to the ~~Claims Committee~~ Board of Directors. The ~~Claims Committee~~ Board shall review the claim and receive input from staff in closed session [qualifies as "anticipated litigation" under the Brown Act]. After reviewing the damage claim, the ~~Committee~~ Board may authorize the work if the cost of material for the repairs will not exceed three thousand dollars (\$3,000) ~~or may make a recommendation to the Board of Directors. A report shall be submitted to the Board describing the damage claim, including a description of the manner in which it was resolved, or a recommendation for Board action.~~ The claimant shall be notified of any action by the Committee regarding their claim.

~~If the cost of material for repairs is stated by claimant or estimated to exceed three thousand dollars (\$3,000), the claim will be submitted to the Board of Directors for its consideration. The Board will consider the claim during a closed session ["anticipated litigation"] of a regular or special meeting. Action to accept or reject the claim may be taken in open or closed session. The claimant shall be notified of the Board's action regarding their claim. Notification that a claim has been rejected shall be accompanied by proof of service.~~

The Board will not consider a claim of an amount in excess of ~~the [insurance deductible] 00~~ \$5,000, including the cost of investigation, without prior written approval of the District's insurance company.

Claims in excess of the District's insurance deductible shall be forwarded to the insurance company, and the claimant shall be advised of this action.

Claims for personal injury/wrongful death shall not be investigated by District staff or directors but shall be immediately forwarded to the District's insurance company.

#### 1025.2 Property (Vehicles and Unsecured Property) Damage Claims

All claims of damage to vehicles, or other unsecured property, shall be submitted to the General Manager. He/she shall review the damage claim and the requested restitution. If he/she determines that the damage is the District's responsibility, he/she may authorize repairs or reimbursement of expenses to an amount not to exceed one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500). A report shall be submitted to the ~~Claims Committee~~ Board of Directors describing the damage claim, including a description of the manner in which it was resolved.

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The claim will be processed as described above if the cost of material for repairs is estimated to exceed the applicable thresholds.

### 1025.3 Property Damage Claims on District Form

Except for damage to land and improvements estimated to cost less than five hundred dollars (\$500), all damage claims must be submitted in writing on a District claim form. This will ensure that a claim is valid and protect important rights of the District.

If an individual does not wish to file a claim on the District form, he/she may present the claim by letter if it conforms to Section 910 and Section 910.2, of the California Government Code. Section 910 specifies that a claim needs to show all of the following:

- a) The name and post office address of the claimant;
- b) The post office address to which the person presenting the claim desires notices to be sent;
- c) The date, place, and other circumstances of the occurrence or transaction which gave rise to the claim asserted;
- d) A general description of the indebtedness, obligation, injury, damage or loss incurred so far as it may be known as the time of presentation of the claim;
- e) The name or names of the public employee or employees causing the injury, damage, or loss, if known; and
- f) The amount claimed if it totals less than ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) as of the date of presentation of the claim, including the estimated amount of any prospective injury, damage, or loss, insofar as it may be known at the time of the presentation of the claim, together with the basis of computation of the amount claimed. If the amount claimed exceeds ten thousand dollars (\$10,000), no dollar amount shall be included in the claim. However, it shall indicate whether the claim would be a limited civil case.

Section 910.2 of the California Government Code specifies the following:

The claim shall be signed by the claimant or by some person on his behalf. Claims against local public entities for supplies, materials, equipment or services need not be signed by the claimant or on his behalf if presented on a billhead or invoice regularly used in the conduct of the business of the claimant.

If the filed letter/claim does not meet the requirements of the California Government Code Section 910 and Section 910.2, then a letter shall be sent to the claimant informing them of this fact.

District staff shall provide no assistance to the claimant in filling out the claim form. Claimant must fill out the claim form in its entirety and submit it via mail, fax or personal delivery to the District office. Upon receipt, office staff shall date-stamp the document.

### 1025.4 Account Adjustment Requests ~~(Appropriate for Utility Type Districts)~~

The General Manager ~~or other appropriate position title~~, in his/her absence, is authorized to adjust a customer's water or sewer service ~~[sewer, garbage, electricity, etc.]~~ account when their bill reflects usage that is significantly



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greater than normal, due to accidental loss of water through broken pipes or when faucets are turned on in the owner's absence, etc. [or other type of abnormal account cost], subject to the following conditions:

- a) The customer requests the account adjustment in writing;
- b) A similar request has not been made within the past 12 months; and
- c) The account shows no record of being delinquent for more than 60 days during the past 24 months.

Adopted: June 25, 2024



**POLICY TITLE: Code of Ethics**  
**POLICY NUMBER: 1030**

1030.1 Background information:

Chester Public Utility District designed its Code of Ethics & Values (the “Code”) to provide clear, positive statements of ethical behavior reflecting the core values of the District and the communities it serves. The Code includes practical strategies for addressing ethical questions and a useful framework for decision-making and handling the day-to-day operations of the District. The Code is developed to reflect the issues and concerns of today’s complex and diverse society.

1030.2 Goals of the code of ethics & values:

- a) To make Chester Public Utility District a better District built on mutual respect and trust.
- b) To promote and maintain the highest standards of personal and professional conduct among all involved in District government, District staff, volunteers and members of the District’s Board. All elected and appointed officials, officers, employees, members of advisory committees, and volunteers of the District, herein called “Officials” for the purposes of this policy.
- c) The Code is a touchstone for members of District Board and staff in fulfilling their roles and responsibilities.

1030.3 Preamble:

- a) The proper operation of democratic government requires that decision-makers be independent, impartial and accountable to the people they serve. The ~~[District name]~~District has adopted this Code to promote and maintain the highest standards of personal and professional conduct in the District’s government.
- b) All Officials, and others, who participate in the District’s government are required to subscribe to this Code, understand how it applies to their specific responsibilities and practice its eight core values in their work. Because we seek public confidence in the District’s services and public trust of its decision-makers, our decisions and our work must meet the most demanding ethical standards and demonstrate the highest levels of achievement in following this Code.

1030.4 Applicability:

This Code shall apply to all District Officials as defined in 1030.2 b.

1030.5 Core Value:

As participatory Officials in the District’s government, we subscribe to the following Core Values:

1030.6 As a representative of Chester Public Utility District, I will be ethical.

In practice, this value looks like:



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- a) I am trustworthy, acting with the utmost integrity and moral courage. I am truthful. I do what I say I will do. I am dependable.
  - b) I make impartial decisions, free of bribes, unlawful gifts, narrow political interests, financial, and other personal interests that impair my independence of judgment or action.
  - c) I am fair, distributing benefits and burdens according to consistent and equitable criteria.
  - d) I extend equal opportunities and due process to all parties in matters under consideration. If I engage in unilateral meetings and discussions, I do so without making voting decisions or any improper or unauthorized representations on behalf of the District.
  - e) I show respect for persons, confidences, and information designated as "confidential."
  - f) I use my title(s) only when conducting official District business for information purposes or as an indication of background and expertise carefully considering whether I am exceeding or appearing to exceed my authority.
  - g) I will avoid actions that might cause the public or others to question my independent judgment.
  - h) I maintain a constructive, creative, and practical attitude toward the District's affairs and a deep sense of social responsibility as a trusted public servant.

1030.7 As a representative of Chester Public Utility District, I will be professional.

In practice, this value looks like:

- a) I apply my knowledge and expertise to my assigned activities and to the interpersonal relationships that are part of my job in a consistent, confident, competent and productive manner.
- b) I approach my job and work-related relationships with a positive, collaborative attitude.
- c) I keep my professional education, knowledge, and skills current and growing.

1030.8 As a Representative of Chester Public Utility District, I will be service-oriented.

In practice, this value looks like:

- a) I provide friendly, receptive, courteous service to everyone.
- b) I attune to and care about the needs and issues of citizens, public Officials and District workers.
- c) In my interactions with constituents, I am interested, engaged and responsive.

1030.9 As a representative of Chester Public Utility District, I will be fiscally responsible.

In practice, this value looks like:

- a) I make decisions after prudent consideration of their financial impact, taking into account the long-term financial needs of the District, especially its financial stability.
- b) I demonstrate concern for the proper use of District assets (e.g., personnel, time, property, equipment, funds) and follow established procedures.
- c) I make good financial decisions that seek to preserve programs and services for District residents.
- d) I have knowledge of and adhere to the District's Purchasing and Contracting and Allocation of Funds Policies.



1030.10 As a representative of Chester Public Utility District, I will be organized.

In practice, this value looks like:

- a) I act in an efficient manner, making decisions and recommendations based upon research and facts, taking into consideration short and long term goals.
- b) I follow through in a responsible way, keeping others informed and responding in a timely fashion.
- c) I am respectful of established District processes and guidelines.

1030.11 As a representative of Chester Public Utility District, I will be communicative.

In practice, this value looks like:

- a) I positively convey the District's care for and commitment to its citizens.
- b) I communicate in various ways, that I am approachable, open-minded, and willing to participate in dialog.
- c) I engage in effective two-way communication, by listening carefully, asking questions, and determining an appropriate response which adds value to conversations.

1030.12 As a representative of Chester Public Utility District, I will be collaborative.

In practice, this value looks like:

- a) I act in a cooperative manner with groups and other individuals, working together in a spirit of tolerance and understanding.
- b) I work towards consensus building and gain value from diverse opinions.
- c) I accomplish the goals and responsibilities of my individual position, while respecting my role as a member of a team.
- d) I consider the broader regional and state-wide implications of the District's decisions and issues.

1030.13 As a representative of Chester Public Utility District, I will be progressive.

In practice, this value looks like:

- a) I exhibit a proactive, innovative approach to setting goals and conducting the District's business.
- b) I display a style that maintains consistent standards; but is also sensitive to the need for compromise, "thinking outside the box" and improving existing paradigms when necessary.
- c) I promote intelligent and thoughtful innovation in order to forward the District's policy agenda and District services.

1030.14 Enforcement:

Any Official found to be in violation of this Code may be subject to Censure by the District Board. Any member of any advisory Committee found in violation may be subject to dismissal from the Committee. In the case of an employee, appropriate action shall be taken by the General Manager or by an authorized designee.

Adopted: June 25, 2024



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I have read and agree to follow the Chester Public Utility District's Code of Ethics.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



**POLICY TITLE: Conflict of Interest**  
**POLICY NUMBER: 1035**

1035.1 The Political Reform Act, Government Code §81000, et seq., requires state and local government agencies to adopt and promulgate conflict-of-interest codes. The Fair Political Practices Commission (“FPPC”) has adopted a regulation (2 Cal. Code of Regs. §18730) which contains the terms of a standard conflict of interest code. It can be incorporated by reference and may be amended by the FPPC after public notice and hearings to conform to amendments in the Political Reform Act. The Board approved and adopted the FPPC’s standard conflict of interest on ~~insert meeting date or year~~ June 25, 2024. Therefore, the terms of 2 Cal. Code of Regs. §18730 and any amendments to it duly adopted by the FPPC are hereby incorporated by reference and, along with the attached Appendix , in which members of the Board of Directors and employees are designated, and in which disclosure categories are set forth, constitute the conflict of interest code of the [DISTRICT] District.

1035.2 Designated employees shall file statements of economic interests with the Clerk of the County of Plumas or the CPUD Board Clerk.

I have read and agree to follow the Chester Public Utility District’s Conflict of Interest policy.

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Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Adopted: June 25, 2024





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**POLICY TITLE: Correspondence to the Board**  
**POLICY NUMBER: 1040**

1040.1 All written or electronic correspondence addressed to the Board of Directors is to be sent to the District office. Copies of the written or electronic correspondence and written responses in reply thereto, if any, shall be distributed to each member of the Board, together with the next regular agenda or at the next regular meeting of the Board, depending on date of receipt or response. Individual Board members may receive correspondence addressed to him or her in his or her official capacity. However, Board members are not permitted to use agency resources for sending or receiving personal correspondence.

| Adopted: June 25, 2024



**POLICY TITLE: Legal Counsel and Auditor**  
**POLICY NUMBER: 1045**

1045.1 The Board of Directors shall appoint a Legal Counsel to assist the Board and District in all applicable issues and activities.

1045.2 Legal Counsel shall be the legal adviser of the District, including the Board as a whole, the General Manager and department heads. Legal Counsel shall perform such duties as may be prescribed by the Board of Directors. Such duties include, but are not limited to, providing legal assistance necessary for formulation and implementation legislative policies and projects; represent the District's interests, as determined by the District, in litigation, administrative hearings, negotiations and similar proceedings; and to keep the Board and District staff apprised of court rulings and legislation affecting the legal interest of the District. ~~Legal Counsel is required to review and approve as to form District legal documents, i.e. contracts, agreements, etc. The Legal Counsel shall present and report on all legal issues and Closed Session items before the Board.~~ The Legal Counsel shall serve at the pleasure of the Board and shall be compensated for services as determined by the Board.

- a) The Legal Counsel reports to the Board as a whole but is available to each Director, upon approval by the Board Chair, for consultation regarding legal matters particular to that Board member's participation. No Board member may request a legal opinion of legal counsel without concurrence by the Board, except as such requests relate to questions regarding that member's participation. The Legal Counsel shall be available to the District General Manager for consultation on applicable issues and activities.

1045.3 The District Auditor shall be appointed by the Board by a majority vote in a public meeting. The Board shall determine the duties and compensation of the Auditor. The Auditor shall serve at the pleasure of the Board. Selection of the Auditor shall be done in a noticed public meeting and at least every five years.

- a) The Board may appoint a committee to oversee the work of an independent auditor, who will report to the Board, to conduct an annual audit of the District's books, records, and financial affairs in accordance with state law and the Finance Committee Charter for Audit Compliance. The Chief Financial Officer/General Manager will install and maintain an accounting system that will completely, and at all times, show the financial condition of the District.

Adopted: June 25, 2024



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**POLICY TITLE: Overview of the General Manager's Role**  
**POLICY NUMBER: 1050**

1050.1 The General Manager is an employee of the District and has an employment agreement which specifies his or her terms of employment. The General Manager is the administrative head of the District under the direction of the Board of Directors. He or she shall be responsible for the efficient administration of all the District's affairs which are under the General Manager's control. The General Manager plans, organizes, directs, coordinates and evaluates all District operations, programs, and resources in accordance with short and long range goals, policy statements, and directives from the Board.

1050.2 The General Manager's Duties

The District's General Manager shall be responsible for:

- a) The implementation of policies established by the Board of Directors for the operation of the District;
- b) The planning, direction, and coordination of the day-to-day operations of the District through the appropriate department heads or managers including administration, financing, maintenance, engineering, human resources, and others to effect operational efficiency;
- c) The appointment, supervision, discipline, and dismissal of the District's employees, consistent with the employment policies established by the Board of Directors;
- d) Attend and participate in District Board meetings, prepare and present reports as necessary, represent the Board before external organizations including other agencies, governmental and regulatory entities, business and community groups;
- e) The supervision of the District's facilities and services; and
- f) The supervision of the District's finances.

1050.3 The District's General Manager serves at the pleasure of the Board. The Board will provide policy direction and instruction to the General Manager on matters within the authority of the Board during duly-convened board 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. Members of the Board will refrain from making requests directly to District employees (other than the General Manager) to undertake analyses, perform other work assignments, or change the priority of work assignments. As members of the public, Directors may request non-confidential, factual information regarding District operations from District employees. If requesting public records, Directors must follow the District's Request for Public Records Policy.

Adopted: June 25, 2024



**POLICY TITLE: Legislative Advocacy Policy**  
**POLICY NUMBER: 1055**

1055 **Purpose**

The purpose of the policy is to guide Chester Public Utility District officials and staff in considering legislative or regulatory proposals that are likely to have an impact on ~~Chester Public Utility District~~ the District, and to allow for a timely response to important legislative issues. Although the expenditure of public funds for the purpose of supporting or opposing a ballot measure or candidate is prohibited,<sup>1</sup> the expenditure of public funds is allowed to advocate for or against proposed legislation or regulatory actions which will affect the public agency expending the funds.<sup>2</sup>

The purpose for identifying Legislative Advocacy Procedures is to provide clear direction to Chester Public Utility District staff with regard to monitoring and acting upon bills during state and federal legislative sessions. Adherence to Legislative Advocacy Procedures will ensure that legislative inquiries and responses will be administered consistently with “one voice” as to the identified Advocacy Priorities adopted by the Board of Directors. The Legislative Advocacy Procedures and Advocacy Priorities will provide the Chester Public Utility District General Manager, or other designee, discretion to advocate in ~~Chester Public Utility District~~ the District’s best interests in a manner consistent with the goals and priorities adopted by the Board of Directors. This policy is intended to be manageable, consistent, and tailored to the specific needs and culture of Chester Public Utility District.

1055.1 **Policy Goals**

- Advocate the Chester Public Utility District legislative interests at the State, County, and Federal levels.
- Inform and provide information to the Board of Directors and district staff on the legislative process and key issues and legislation that could have a potential impact on the district.
- Serve as an active participant with other local governments, the California Special Districts Association, and local government associations on legislative and regulatory issues that are important to the district and the region.
- Seek grant and funding assistance for Chester Public Utility District projects, services, and programs to enhance services for the community.

1055.2 **Policy Principles**

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<sup>1</sup> Cal. Gov. Code § 54964.

<sup>2</sup> Cal. Gov. Code § 53060.5; *Stanson v. Mott* (1976) 17 Cal. 3d 206.



The Board of Directors recognizes the need to protect ~~Chester Public Utility~~ District interests and local control, and to identify various avenues to implement its strategic and long-term goals. It is the policy of Chester Public Utility District to proactively monitor and advocate for legislation as directed by the Advocacy Priorities and by the specific direction of the Board of Directors.

This policy provides the General Manager, or other designee, the flexibility to adopt positions on legislation in a timely manner, while allowing the Board of Directors to set Advocacy Priorities to provide policy guidance. The Board of Directors shall establish various Advocacy Priorities and, so long as the position fits within the Advocacy Priorities, staff is authorized to take a position without board approval.

Whenever an applicable Advocacy Priority does not exist pertaining to legislation affecting the Chester Public Utility District, the matter shall be brought before the Board of Directors at a regularly scheduled board meeting for formal direction from the Board of Directors. [The Board of Directors may choose to establish a standing committee of two Directors, known as the “Legislative Advocacy Committee”, with the authority to adopt a position when consideration by the full Board of Directors is not feasible within the time-constraints of the legislative process.]

Generally, the Chester Public Utility District will not address matters that are not pertinent to the district’s local government services, such as social issues or international relations issues.

1055.3 **Legislative Advocacy Procedures**

It is the policy of Chester Public Utility District to proactively monitor and advocate for legislation as directed by the Advocacy Priorities and by the specific direction of the Board of Directors. This process involves interaction with local, state, and federal government entities both in regard to specific items of legislation and to promote positive intergovernmental relationships. Accordingly, involvement and participation in regional, state, and national organizations is encouraged and supported by the Chester Public Utility District.

Monitoring legislation is a shared function of the Board of Directors and General Manager or designated staff. The Legislative Advocacy Procedures are the process by which staff will track and respond to legislative issues in a timely and consistent manner. The General Manager, or other designee, will act on legislation utilizing the following procedures:

1. The General Manager or other designee shall review requests that the Chester Public Utility District take a position on legislative issues to determine if the legislation aligns with the district’s current approved Advocacy Priorities.
2. The General Manager or other designee will conduct a review of positions and analysis completed by the California Special Districts Association and other local government associations when formulating positions.



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3. If the matter aligns with the approved priorities, Chester Public Utility District response shall be supplied in the form of a letter to the legislative body reviewing the bill or measure. Advocacy methods utilized on behalf of the district, including but not limited to letters, phone calls, emails, and prepared forms, will be communicated through the General Manager or designee. The General Manager or designee shall advise staff to administer the form of advocacy, typically via letters signed by the General Manager, or designee, on behalf of the Board of Directors.
  4. All draft legislative position letters initiated by the General Manager or designee shall state whether the district is requesting “support”, “support if amended”, “oppose”, or “oppose unless amended” action on the issue, and shall include adequate justification for the recommended action. If possible, the letter should include examples of how a bill would specifically affect the district, e.g. “the funding the district will lose due to this bill could pay for X capital improvements.”
    - a. Support – legislation in this area advances the district’s goals and priorities.
    - b. Oppose – legislation in this area could potentially harm, negatively impact or undo positive momentum for the district, or does not advance the district’s goals and priorities.
  5. The General Manager may also provide a letter of concern or interest regarding a legislative issue without taking a formal position on a piece of legislation. Letters of concern or interest are to be administered through the General Manager or designee.
  6. When a letter is sent to a state or federal legislative body, the appropriate federal or state legislators representing the Chester Public Utility District shall be included as a copy or “cc” on the letter. The appropriate contacts at the California Special Districts Association and other local government associations, if applicable, shall be included as a cc on legislative letters.
  7. A position may be adopted by the General Manager or designee if any of the following criteria is met:
    - a. The position is consistent with the adopted Advocacy Priorities;
    - b. The position is consistent with that of organizations to which the district is a member, such as the California Special Districts Association; or
    - c. The position is approved by the Board of Directors [or the Legislative Advocacy Committee].
  8. All legislative positions adopted via a process outside of a regularly scheduled Board Meeting shall be communicated to the Board of Directors at the next regularly scheduled Board Meeting. When appropriate, the General Manager or other designee will submit a report (either written or verbal) summarizing activity on legislative measures to the Board of Directors.

1055.4 **Advocacy Priorities**

***Revenue, Finances, and Taxation***



Ensure adequate funding for special districts' safe and reliable core local service delivery. Protect special districts' resources from the shift or diversion of revenues without the consent of the affected districts. Promote the financial independence of special districts and afford them access to revenue opportunities equal to that of other types of local agencies. Protect and preserve special districts' property tax allocations and local flexibility with revenue and diversify local revenue sources.

Support opportunities that allow the district to compete for its fair share of regional, state, and federal funding, and that maintain funding streams. Opportunities may include competitive grant and funding programs. Opportunities may also include dedicated funding streams at the regional, state, or federal levels that allow the district to maximize local revenues, offset and leverage capital expenditures, and maintain district goals and standards.

***Governance and Accountability***

Enhance special districts' ability to govern as independent, local government bodies in an open and accessible manner. Encourage best practices that avoid burdensome, costly, redundant or one-size-fits all approaches. Protect meaningful public participation in local agency formations, dissolutions, and reorganizations, and ensure local services meet the unique needs, priorities, and preferences of each community.

Oppose additional public meeting and records requirements that unnecessarily increase the burden on public resources without effectively fostering public engagement and enhancing accountability of government agencies.

Promote local-level solutions, decision-making, and management concerning service delivery and governance structures while upholding voter control and maintaining LAFCO authority over local government jurisdictional reorganizations and/or consolidations.

***Human Resources and Personnel***

Promote policies related to hiring, management, and benefits and retirement that afford flexibility, contain costs, and enhance the ability to recruit and retain highly qualified, career-minded employees to public service. As public agency employers, support policies that foster productive relationships between management and employees.

Maintain special districts' ability to exercise local flexibility by minimizing state mandated contract requirements. Oppose any measure that would hinder the ability of special districts to maximize local resources and efficiencies through the use of contracted services.

***Infrastructure, Innovation, and Investment***



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Encourage prudent planning for investment and maintenance of innovative long-term infrastructure. Support the contracting flexibility and fiscal tools and incentives needed to help special districts meet California’s changing demands. Promote the efficient, effective, and sustainable delivery of core local services.

Prevent restrictive one-size-fits-all public works requirements that increase costs to taxpayers and reduce local flexibility.

Adopted: June 25, 2024





**POLICY TITLE: Digital Signature Policy**  
**POLICY NUMBER: 1060**

1060.1 Policy. It is the policy of the ~~[DISTRICT]~~ Chester Public Utility District to accept electronic signatures affixed to documents in which a signature is required or used, provided that: (1) the electronic signatures are “digital” signatures that comply with the requirements of California Government Code Section 16.5 and applicable state regulations<sup>1</sup>, (2) the signatories are willing and wanting to utilize digital signatures, and (3) the digital signatures are created by technologies authorized by the California Secretary of State and made available by the District. ~~Signatories may digitally sign the following types of documents:~~

The use, or the District’s acceptance, of a digital signature is at the option of the District and the signer(s). Nothing in this Policy requires the District to use or permit the use of a digital signature or accept the submission of a document containing a digital signature.

1060.2 Definitions.

- a) “Digital Signature” means an electronic identifier, created by computer, intended by the party using it to have the same force and effect as the use of a manual signature.<sup>2</sup>
- b) “Digital Signature Certification Authority” means an entity authorized by the Secretary of State to issue digital certificates that are required for a digital signature under California law and that is listed on the Secretary of State’s “Approved List of Digital Signature Certification Authorities.”
- c) “Digital Signature Provider” means an entity that provides document signing services using digital technology.
- d) “Electronic Signature” means an electronic sound, symbol, or process attached to or logically associated with an electronic record and executed or adopted by a person with the intent to sign the electronic record, including a digital signature.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Cal. Code Regs., tit. 2, § 22000 *et seq.*

<sup>2</sup> Cal. Gov. Code, § 16.5(d).

<sup>3</sup> Cal. Civ. Code, § 1633.2(h).



1060.3 Electronic Signatures. The use of electronic signatures is authorized by two California statutes, the Uniform Electronic Transactions Act (“UETA”), codified at Civil Code Section 1633.1 *et seq.*, and Government Code Section 16.5.

The UETA provides that a signature may not be denied legal effect or enforceability solely because it is in electronic form.<sup>4</sup> The UETA applies to a transaction only when the parties have agreed to conduct the transaction by electronic means, and; whether they have agreed to do so “is determined from the context and surrounding circumstances, including the parties’ conduct.”<sup>5</sup>

Government Code Section 16.5 applies to public entities<sup>6</sup> such as the District, and authorizes any party to a written communication with a public entity, in which a signature is required or used, to affix a signature by use of a digital signature that complies with the requirements of Section 16.5.<sup>7</sup> Digital signature transactions involving public entities that are subject to the UETA are also subject to the more particular requirements of Government Code Section 16.5.<sup>8</sup> The use of a digital signature will have the same force and effect as the use of a manual signature if, and only if, the digital signature embodies the five attributes<sup>9</sup> discussed in Section 1060.4 below.

1060.4 Digital Signatures.

Government Code Section 16.5 and State regulations require that a digital signature (i) be created by a technology that is acceptable for use by the State of California and (ii) embody the following five attributes:

- 1) It is unique to the person using it;
- 2) It is capable of verification;
- 3) It is under the sole control of the person using it;
- 4) It is linked to data in such a manner that if the data are changed, the digital signature is invalidated; and
- 5) It conforms to regulations adopted by the Secretary of State, codified at Chapter 10 of Division 7 of Title 2 (commencing at Section 22000) of the California Code of Regulations.<sup>10</sup>

1060.5 Digital Signature Technologies

The Secretary of State allows public entities to utilize digital signatures that are created by one of two different technologies – “public key cryptography” and “signature dynamics” – provided that the digital signatures are also created consistent with the provisions of Section 22003 of the California Code of Regulations.

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<sup>4</sup> Cal. Civ. Code, § 1633.7.

<sup>5</sup> Cal. Civ. Code, § 1633.5(b)

<sup>6</sup> “‘Public entity’ includes the state, the Regents of the University of California, the Trustees of the California State University and the California State University, a county, city, district, public authority, public agency, and any other political subdivision or public corporation in the State.” Cal. Gov. Code, §§ 16.5(a) & 811.2 (emphasis added).

<sup>7</sup> Cal. Gov. Code, § 16.5(a).

<sup>8</sup> See Civ. Code, § 1633.3(e).

<sup>9</sup> Gov. Code, § 16.5(a).

<sup>10</sup> Cal. Gov. Code, § 16.5; 2 C.C.R. § 22002.



Public key cryptography (“PKC”) is a form of cryptography that generally allows users to communicate securely, and reliably verify the identity of an entity via digital signatures. PKC signatures are affixed to documents using software enhancements to existing applications and web browsers and are capable of immediate third-party verification.

Signature dynamics uses the individual’s handwritten signature. Unlike PKC signatures, signature dynamics signatures require additional hardware to create the signatures. An electronic drawing tablet and stylus are used to record the direction, speed, and coordinates of a handwritten signature – essentially, taking a snapshot of a person’s signature. This type of digital signature does not offer encryption, confidentiality, or the level of security that is inherent in PKC signatures. PKC allows for third party verification of the signature by certification authorities approved by the State, while signature dynamics signatures require additional steps (including handwriting analysis) to verify the signer of a document (similar to a non-notarized, paper-based signature). A formal handwriting analysis of a signature dynamics signature may be lengthy. However, some degree of certainty can be obtained by a lay-comparison of manual handwritten signatures that may already be on file with the District.

The District shall only contract with digital signature providers that offer their digital signature services with a certificate issued by a digital signature certification authority. District staff shall only accept digital signatures created by PKC or signature dynamics technologies. As advised by the Secretary of State, District staff shall consider the following issues and other issues when identifying the appropriate technology to use for each document that includes a digital signature component:

- Are the documents containing signatures going to be transmitted over an "open" or a "closed" network?
- Does the signature on the document need to be verified?
- How much time and resources can be allocated to verification?
- Does the signature need to be compared to a manual signature on paper or can a digital certificate adequately provide one-stop verification?
- Will immediate verifiability reduce the potential of fraud?
- Will the documents containing digital signatures need to be reproduced for public access to the records?
- Will the documents containing digital signatures need to be utilized by another local, state or federal agency? If so, is the technology compatible with the other agency's needs?

However, whenever a document requires immediate absolute verification of a signature, District staff shall only use and accept digital signatures created by ~~the~~ PKC technology.

[Adopted: June 25, 2024](#)