

APPENDIX S

LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY POLICY

Purpose:

The purpose of this Policy is to provide clear direction to District staff regarding the District's process of engaging in legislative advocacy. It provides a clear understanding of authority and procedure in supporting or opposing legislation.

Policy Goals:

- Advocate the District's legislative interests at local, state, and federal levels.
- Provide information to the Board of Directors on key legislation and policy issues that could have a potential impact on the District.
- Engage with industry partners and legislators, and actively collaborate with associations, including the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) and the California Municipal Utilities Association (CMUA), on legislative issues that are important to the District.
- Secure federal, state, and county funding for District-specific projects.

Policy Principles:

The Board of Directors acknowledges the importance of safeguarding District interests and maintaining local control. It is the District's policy to actively track and advocate for legislation aligned with established Policy Principles and Priorities, which is updated every year in the fall, and any specific guidance provided by the Board.

This policy grants the District's General Manager the authority to take timely positions on legislation. As long as those positions are consistent with the Board's preapproved Policy Principles and Priorities, staff may act without prior Board approval.

If legislation affecting the District does not fall under existing Policy Principles and Priorities, the issue must be presented to the Board of Directors at a regular meeting for formal direction. In situations where time constraints prevent full Board consideration, the General Manager has the flexibility to confer with the Board President ~~or Vice President~~ prior to taking position on behalf of the District. If the Board President is unavailable, the General Manager may then confer with the Vice President before proceeding.

Generally, the District will refrain from addressing issues unrelated to its services.

Legislative Advocacy Procedures:

It is the District's policy to actively monitor and advocate for legislation in accordance with the Policy Principles and Priorities, as well as specific direction of the Board of Directors. This effort includes engaging with local, state, and federal government entities on the details of legislation. Participation in regional, state, and national organizations and associations is therefore encouraged and supported.

The Legislative Advocacy Procedures establish how staff will consistently and promptly monitor and respond to legislative matters. Under these procedures, the General Manager or designated staff will:

1. Review requests for the District to take a position on legislative issues and determine whether they align with the District's approved Policy Principles and Priorities.
2. Consider analyses and positions developed by ACWA, CMUA, and other local government associations when forming recommendations.
3. If the issue aligns with approved priorities, respond through a letter, email, or a form response to the body, such as an association or legislator, considering the measure.
4. —Determine the appropriate legislative position to be taken by the District. Positions may include:
 - a. **Support** – The legislation advances the District's goals, priorities, or operational interests.
 - b. **Oppose** – The legislation may negatively impact the District, create operational or financial burdens, or fail to support the District's goals and priorities.
 - 3.c. **Hold / Not take a position** – The District may choose not to take a formal position when additional analysis is needed, or neutrality is determined to be in the District's best interest at that time.
- 4.5. Ensure that all draft position letters clearly indicate whether the District "supports" or "opposes" the legislation and include sufficient justification. When possible, letters should also provide specific examples of how the legislation would impact the District.
 - a. ~~**Support:** The legislation advances the District's goals and priorities.~~
 - b. ~~**Oppose:** The legislation may harm the District or fail to support its goals and priorities.~~
- 5.6. Allow the General Manager to adopt a legislative position if any of the following apply:
 - a. The position aligns with the District's adopted Policy Principles and Priorities;
 - b. The position is consistent with that of organizations in which the District holds membership, such as ACWA or CMUA; or
 - c. The position has been approved by the Board of Directors; and
 - d. Report any positions taken outside of a regular Board meeting to the Board of Directors at the next scheduled meeting. When appropriate, the General Manager or staff will provide a written or verbal update summarizing legislative activities.

Advocacy Priorities:

Water Supply and Water Infrastructure Investment

Continue to support investments protecting existing water supplies and conveyance. Pursue funding for alternative water sources such as stormwater capture and regional recycled water projects. Expand funding resources for capital improvements to address financial deficits.

Water Quality

Utilize best available data to vet recommended processes and approach to address PFAS/PFOA and other emerging contaminants. Encourage the consideration of source control measures to reduce the public's exposure to known chemical hazards in the water supply.

Wastewater

Wastewater management is a central service that supports human and environmental health. CVWD will seek legislative and regulatory actions to support and safeguard our wastewater infrastructure and inform the development of new and emerging management and treatment practices.

Wildfire Mitigation and Response

The District will continue to lead efforts in finding innovative wildfire mitigation and response techniques. CVWD will aim to lead local, regional, and state-wide endeavors to expand funding for wildfire mitigation infrastructure.