

Governance Policies of the Board

Title: Cost of Governance
Category: Governance Process

Policy No. GP-10	Adopted: September 28, 1999 Chair: Larry Wilson	Latest Revision: August 21, 2012 Chair: Linda LeZotte
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The Board of Directors revised and adopted this policy at its public meeting on the latest revision date.

The Board will invest in its governance capacity.

Accordingly:

- 10.1. Board skills, methods, and supports will be sufficient to assure governing with excellence.
 - 10.1.1. Training and education will be used by Board members to maintain and increase governance skills and understanding.
 - 10.1.2. Outside monitoring assistance will be arranged so that the Board can exercise confident control over organizational performance. This includes, but is not limited to, fiscal audit.
 - 10.1.3. Outreach mechanisms will be used as needed to ensure the Board's ability to listen to owner viewpoints and values.
- 10.2. Adequate funds will be proposed by the Clerk of the Board (COB) and budgeted annually by the CEO for support of the Board.
- 10.3. Board members will prepare and submit Director's Expense Claim Forms to request per diem and expense reimbursement in accordance with this policy. Board members will include receipts and any other information necessary to demonstrate that reimbursement is consistent with this policy and with Ch. 700, Stats. 2005 (AB 1234). Expense claims must be submitted within a reasonable time after the expense is incurred.
- 10.4. Board members will briefly report on meetings attended at District expense at the next regular Board meeting following the event at which the member is in attendance. On a quarterly basis, a report of the per diem and expense reimbursements of each Board member shall be placed on an open session Board meeting agenda for review and a determination by the Board whether the reimbursements comply with the Board's reimbursement policies adopted pursuant to Section 53232.3 of the Government Code. Only expenses in compliance with those policies may be reimbursed by the District. Directors Quarterly Expense Reimbursement Reports will be placed on the Directors District web page for public viewing.

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- 10.5 Adequate liability insurance will be provided by the CEO at all times for Board members.
- 10.6. It is the policy of the Board that each Board member attend such meetings, events, conferences, and training as each Board member determines will best enable them to serve the District, including such compensation per day and reimbursement for actual and necessary expenses as may be allowed by law and as authorized by this policy.

10.6.1. Per Diem Meetings, Events, and Activities

Board members are eligible for per diem compensation (subject to statutory 10 days per month limitation) for the following meetings, events and activities, all of which are hereby deemed by the Board to constitute the performance of official duties:

- 10.6.1.1. Regular and Special Meetings of the Board of Directors.
- 10.6.1.2. Regular and Special Meetings of any standing, advisory, commission, joint or ad hoc committee of the Board of Directors in accordance with Governance Process Policy 9.2.2., whether the attending member is a member of the committee or is attending as an observer.
- 10.6.1.3. Regular and Special Meetings of any public entity legislative or advisory body of which the District is a member, or at which an agenda item related to the District's business is discussed.
- 10.6.1.4. Meetings with local, state, and federal legislators and/or officials to discuss matters of District concern.
- 10.6.1.5. Meetings of associations of governmental agencies, water policy organizations, and any other body of which the District is a member or which concerns water supply, flood protection, and/or natural resources.
- 10.6.1.6. Conferences and educational workshops open to the public and/or to public agencies such as the District or concern water supply, flood protection, and/or natural resources.
- 10.6.1.7. Community events sponsored by or featuring the District, or which concern water supply, flood protection, and/or natural resources, or which concern the relationship of the District to the communities it serves.
- 10.6.1.8. Community meetings at which District projects or programs are presented, featured, or discussed.

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- 10.6.1.9. Meetings with District staff and/or District constituents concerning District business.
- 10.6.1.10. Media appearances to discuss District issues (including but not limited to interviews and editorial board meetings).
- 10.6.1.11. Activities constituting direct Board inspection of District operations in accordance with Board-BAO Linkage Policy BL-5.
- 10.6.1.12. Participation in and completion of an approved online ethics course to meet the requirements of Government Code Sections 53234 -53235.5, which shall constitute a single meeting.
- 10.6.1.13. Any other meeting, event, or activity approved in advance by the Board.
- 10.6.1.14. It is the policy of the Board that no member shall be compensated for attendance at a community/social event as a guest of the District, where the District has purchased a seat or table at said event.

10.6.2. Per Diem Meetings, Events, and Activities Expense Reimbursements

Board members are eligible for reimbursement for actual and necessary expenses incurred by the Board member for travel/transportation, meals, registration fees, lodging and incidental expenses reasonably incurred by the Board member in connection with meetings, events, and activities described in 10.6.1.1. through 10.6.1.15.

- 10.6.2.1. Travel reimbursement expenses will not exceed the government or group rate for airline, ground transportation, and rental cars where such rate is available. Air transportation will be economy/coach class. Reimbursement for rental cars will be at the midsize level, unless a group of District officials/personnel are traveling together and choose to use a larger vehicle to accommodate the group. Shuttles, taxis, and car services are reimbursable in lieu of car rental. Board members wishing to upgrade flight or rental car class for personal convenience, or to combine personal with business travel thereby resulting in an increased fare, must pay the increased cost over the rates set forth in this policy.
- 10.6.2.2. Mileage reimbursement expenses for use of the Board member's own vehicle will be at the rate established for District employees and in accordance with policies applicable to District employees.

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10.6.2.3. Lodging reimbursement expenses will not exceed the government or group rate for lodging where such rate is available. Reimbursement for lodging at conferences and organized educational activities will not exceed the maximum group lodging rate published by the activity sponsor if that rate is available at time of booking. Board members wishing to upgrade rooms and/or hotels or to incur additional guest charges will not be reimbursed for the cost difference.

10.6.2.4. Meal reimbursements expenses will be provided up to \$60 per day (\$14 for breakfast, \$16 for lunch and \$30 for dinner) for Board members who provide receipts. In addition to the \$60 per day, Board members will be entitled to an additional \$15 per day, with receipts, when traveling to the cities identified by the US General Services Agency as “high cost of living areas” listed below. Board members who do not have receipts may be reimbursed up to \$39 (\$9 for breakfast, \$10 for lunch and \$20 for dinner) per day for meal expenses.

Los Angeles, CA	Boston, MA	New York City, NY
San Francisco, CA	Baltimore, MD	Cincinnati, OH
Denver, CO	Detroit, MI	Pittsburgh, PA
Washington, DC	St. Paul/Minneapolis, MN	Philadelphia, PA
Miami, FL	St. Louis, MO	Dallas, TX
Chicago, IL	Atlantic City, NJ	Arlington, VA
New Orleans, LA	Santa Fe, NM	Seattle, WA

10.6.2.5. Incidental expenses, including public transportation to/from airport; parking expenses; fuel for rental cars; tipping in accordance with policies applicable to District employees; expenses related to conducting District business while traveling (such as charges for phone, internet, or facsimile communication), will be reimbursed.

10.7. Business-Related Expense Reimbursements

Board members are eligible for reimbursement for actual and necessary expenses incurred by the Board member for the following business-related expenses: communication devices (cell phones/batteries/chargers), third party charge for internet/phone/fax lines and plans, office equipment and business cards.

10.7.1. Office equipment eligible for reimbursement under 10.7. includes:

- Fax/printers
- Fax/printer ink cartridges

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- Individual office supplies (pens, day planners, etc);
- Personal digital assistant (PDA) equipment

10.8. Allocated Expense Reimbursements

Board members are eligible for reimbursement for office equipment, communication devices, supplies, publication subscriptions, membership dues, and educational materials utilized by the member for performance of Board duties, up to the amount identified in the Board Resolution Setting Annual Limit of Reimbursement of Directors' Annual and Necessary Expenses.

10.8.1. Publication subscriptions eligible for reimbursement under 10.8. include:

- Newspaper/ magazine subscriptions
- Periodicals

10.8.2. Membership dues eligible for reimbursement under 10.8. include:

- Organization and association memberships relevant to District business/mission (excludes professional memberships, certifications, licenses, etc)

10.8.3. Educational material eligible for reimbursement under 10.8. includes:

- Books, videos, DVDs, computer programs (used in course of District business)

10.8.4. Other expenses eligible for reimbursement under 10.8. include:

- Business meal overage reimbursement
- District apparel