

## **V. BAO Interpretations**

# BAO Interpretations

of the Board's Governance Policies

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# BAO Interpretations

## of the Board's Governance Policies

**Title:** Water Supply  
**Category:** BAO Interpretations

<b>Interpretation of Policy No. E-2</b>	<b>CEO Approval: November 23, 2010</b>	<b>Latest Revision: April 2, 2019</b>
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E-2. There is a reliable, clean water supply for current and future generations.

### CEO Interpretation:

#### Strategies:

- S 2.1. *Prepare and implement annual operations plans to optimize resource management efficiency.*
- S 2.2. *Develop, maintain, and implement in an integrated and balanced manner long-term master plans, asset management plans, and capital improvement plans to support water utility operations, protect infrastructure, and optimize investment.*
- S 2.3. *Coordinate with the development of a 20-year integrated watershed master plan which incorporates groundwater recharge areas, sea level rise, and updated hydrologic analysis to identify potential future projects that promote natural stream condition in the watershed.*
- S 2.4. *Develop water supplies designed to meet at least 100 percent of average annual water demand identified in the District's Water Supply Master Plan during non-drought years and at least 80 percent of average annual water demand in drought years.*
- S 2.5. *Engage, educate, and advocate with federal, state, regional and local agencies, and the water retailers on the delivery of a reliable and clean water supply.*
- S 2.6. *Manage the hydrologic monitoring system and associated databases to support water utility needs.*
- S 2.7. *Incorporate climate change mitigation and adaptation into District planning efforts.*

#### E-2 Objective

2.1.1. Aggressively protect groundwater from the threat of contamination and maintain and develop groundwater to optimize reliability and to minimize land subsidence and salt water intrusion.

### CEO Interpretation:

#### Outcome Measures:

- OM 2.1.1.a. *Greater than 278,000 acre-feet of projected end-of-year groundwater storage in the Santa Clara Plain.*
- OM 2.1.1.b. *Greater than 5,000 acre-feet of projected end-of-year groundwater storage in the Coyote Valley.*

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- OM 2.1.1.c. *Greater than 17,000 acre-feet of projected end-of-year groundwater storage in the Llagas Subbasin.*
- OM 2.1.1.d. *100% of subsidence index wells with groundwater levels above subsidence thresholds.*
- OM 2.1.1.e. *At least 95% of countywide water supply wells meet primary drinking water standards.*
- OM 2.1.1.f. *At least 90% of South County wells meet Basin Plan agricultural objectives.*
- OM 2.1.1.g. *At least 90% of wells in both the shallow and principal aquifer zones have stable or decreasing concentrations of nitrate, chloride, and total dissolved solids.*
- OM 2.1.1.h. *Reduce number of private well water users exposed to nitrate above drinking water standards by awarding 100% of eligible rebate requests for the installation of nitrate removal systems; a maximum of 1,000 rebates up to \$702,000 through 2023. (SCW A2)*

### Strategies:

- S 2.1.1.1. *Manage groundwater in conjunction with surface water through direct and in-lieu recharge programs to sustain groundwater supplies and to minimize salt water intrusion and land subsidence.*
- S 2.1.1.2. *Implement programs to protect or promote groundwater quality to support beneficial uses.*
- S 2.1.1.3. *Develop and maintain adequate groundwater models and monitoring systems.*
- S 2.1.1.4. *Work with regulatory and land use agencies to protect recharge areas, promote natural recharge, and prevent groundwater contamination.*

### E-2 Objective

2.1.2. Protect, maintain, and develop local surface water.

### CEO Interpretation:

#### Outcome Measures:

- OM 2.1.2.a. *100% of local water identified in annual operations plan utilized to meet annual County water needs.*
- OM 2.1.2.b. *100% of required reports to the State Water Resources Control Board for District water rights permits and licenses submitted on time.*
- OM 2.1.2.c. *100% of operational capacity restored at Almaden Reservoir by October 2016.*
- OM 2.1.2.d. *100% of operational capacity restored at Anderson Reservoir by November 2018 and provide portion of funds, up to \$45 million, to help restore full operating capacity of 90,373 feet (SCW C1).*
- OM 2.1.2.e. *100% of operational capacity restored at Calero Reservoir by December 2019.*
- OM 2.1.2.f. *100% of operational capacity restored at Guadalupe Reservoir by December 2019.*
- OM 2.1.2.g. *100% of dams judged safe for continued use following all annual DSOD inspections.*

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*OM 2.1.2.h. The petition to resolve 100% of the water rights licenses addressed in the FAHCE/Three Creeks Habitat Conservation Plan project is submitted to the State Water Resources Control Board by December 2015.*

### *Strategies:*

- S 2.1.2.1. Develop and maintain adequate surface water measurement systems and modeling to support surface water balances.*
- S 2.1.2.2. Manage, operate and maintain dams and reservoir assets to maximize reliability, to minimize life cycle costs and to minimize impacts to the environment.*
- S 2.1.2.3. Aggressively implement dam remediation projects.*
- S 2.1.2.4. Work with the wildlife agencies to address the impact of district water supply operations on fish.*
- S 2.1.2.5. Secure water rights through FAHCE.*
- S 2.1.2.6. Support rainwater harvesting, on-site stormwater reuse, and infiltration of high-quality stormwater.*

### E-2 Objective

2.1.3. Protect, maintain and develop imported water.

### *CEO Interpretation:*

#### *Outcome Measures:*

*OM 2.1.3.a. 100% of imported water identified in annual operations plan delivered to County to meet annual water needs.*

#### *Strategies:*

- S 2.1.3.1. Develop and maintain imported water contracts and water management partnerships.*
- S 2.1.3.2. Aggressively pursue the Delta solution to achieve the coequal goals of providing a more reliable water supply for California and protecting, restoring, and enhancing the Delta ecosystem, all in a manner that protects and enhances the unique cultural, recreational, natural resource, and agricultural values of the Delta as an evolving place.*

#### *CEO Direction:*

- D 2.1.3.2.a. The District's desired outcome is a cost-effective, comprehensive, long-term solution for the Delta that meets the water supply, water supply reliability, and water quality needs of Santa Clara County while balancing other beneficial uses and providing a sustainable Delta ecosystem.*
- D 2.1.3.2.b. The District supports moving forward with environmental review and feasibility studies for a long-term Delta solution, including analyses of a dual Delta conveyance and a full range of isolated facility sizes.*

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- D 2.1.3.2.c. Continuing to rely solely on existing through-Delta conveyance for the District's imported water supplies is not acceptable because of the instability of existing Delta levees, underlying seismic risks, increasing threats of altered hydrology and sea level rise due to climate change, and ongoing regulatory uncertainty and concerns over the environmental health of the Delta.*
- D 2.1.3.2.d. The long-term Delta solution should promote a resilient Delta ecosystem by basing all actions on sound science and addressing the full range of environmental stressors, including toxics, invasive species, and all watershed diverters.*

### E-2 Objective

2.1.4. Protect, maintain and develop recycled water.

#### CEO Interpretation:

##### Outcome Measures:

- OM 2.1.4.a. At least 10% of annual recycled water production as a percentage of total County water demands by 2025.*

##### Strategies:

- S 2.1.4.1. Develop partnerships with recycled water producers, land use planning agencies and others to expand the use of non-potable recycled water.*
- S 2.1.4.2. Develop partnerships to develop the potential for Indirect Potable Reuse (IPR) and Direct Potable Reuse (DPR).*
- S 2.1.4.3. Manage, operate and maintain recycled water assets to maximize reliability, to minimize life cycle costs and to minimize impacts to the environment.*
- S 2.1.4.4. Explore and develop feasible water reuse alternatives, including graywater.*

### E-2 Objective

2.1.5. Maximize water use efficiency, water conservation and demand management opportunities.

#### CEO Interpretation:

##### Outcome Measures:

- OM 2.1.5.a. At least 98,500 acre-feet of annual County-wide water conservation savings by 2030.*
- OM 2.1.5.b. Award up to \$1 million to test new conservation activities through 2023. (SCW A2)*

##### Strategies:

- S 2.1.5.1. Develop and implement water conservation outreach and communication plans.*

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- S 2.1.5.2. *Develop partnerships with retail water agencies and others to implement conservation projects, programs and activities that collectively achieve conservation targets established in most recent Urban Water Management Plan.*
- S 2.1.5.3. *Work with land use planning agencies to implement ordinances and water use reduction measures consistent with applicable water shortage contingency plans.*

### E-2 Objective

2.1.6. Prepare for and respond effectively to water utility emergencies.

#### CEO Interpretation:

##### Outcome Measures:

- OM 2.1.6.a. *Execute 1 annual training and exercise plan per year to test response capability and identify improvements.*
- OM 2.1.6.b. *90% of required employees receive required FEMA/CAL-EMA NIMS/SEMS training.*

##### Strategies:

- S 2.1.6.1. *Develop and maintain hydrologic gage, raw water and treated water telemetry and SCADA systems to support Water Utility operations and emergency response.*
- S 2.1.6.2. *Work with municipalities, retailers, suppliers, and other regional jurisdictions to identify role and responsibilities for Water Utility emergency management.*
- S 2.1.6.3. *Participate in preparation of local preparedness plans.*
- S 2.1.6.4. *Maintain Department Emergency Operations Center response capability 24/7/365 in coordination with Emergency Operations Center (staffing, equipment, facility).*
- S 2.1.6.5. *Respond to non-scheduled citizen-initiated and emergency condition assessments.*
- S 2.1.6.6. *Execute annual training and exercise plan for emergency/disaster preparedness.*
- S 2.1.6.7. *Develop and implement site-specific emergency response plans for critical Water Utility infrastructure.*

### E-2 Objective

2.2.1. Raw water transmission and distribution assets are managed to ensure efficiency and reliability.

#### CEO Interpretation:

##### Outcome Measures:

- OM 2.2.1.a. *100% of annual maintenance work plans completed for all transmission and distribution facilities.*
- OM 2.2.1.b. *Restore transmission pipelines to full operating capacity of 37 cubic feet per second from Anderson Reservoir by 2018. (SCW A1)*

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*OM 2.2.1.c. Restore ability to deliver 20 cubic feet per second to Madrone Channel by 2018. (SCW A1)*

*Strategies:*

- S 2.2.1.1. Manage, operate, and maintain raw water transmission and distribution assets to maximize reliability, to minimize life-cycle costs, and to minimize impacts to the environment.*
- S 2.2.1.2. Develop and maintain annual maintenance work plan.*
- S 2.2.1.3. Develop and implement updated "Rules and Regulations for Service of Surface Water."*

*CEO Direction:*

- D 2.2.1.3.a. Due to potential negative environmental and operational impacts of surface water usage, no new turnouts on District raw water transmission pipelines will be permitted unless determined by the District to have a positive impact on overall system operations or water supply reliability.*
- D 2.2.1.3.b. Due to potential negative environmental and operational impacts of surface water usage, any expansion of surface water use at existing District raw water turnouts will not be permitted unless determined by the District to have a positive impact on overall system operations or water supply reliability.*

### E-2 Objective

2.3.1. Meet or exceed all applicable water quality regulatory standards.

*CEO Interpretation:*

*Outcome Measures:*

- OM 2.3.1.a. 100% of treated water that meets primary drinking water standards.*
- OM 2.3.1.b. 100% of annual maintenance work plans completed for all facilities.*
- OM 2.3.1.c. Install 4 new line valves on treated water distribution pipelines by 2027. (SCW A3)*

*Strategies:*

- S 2.3.1.1. Manage, operate, and maintain the water treatment plant and treated water pipeline assets to maximize reliability, to minimize life-cycle costs, and to minimize impacts to the environment.*
- S 2.3.1.2. Operate and maintain a comprehensive treatment and monitoring system.*
- S 2.3.1.3. Provide fluoridated drinking water at the District's three water treatment plants and the Campbell well field.*
- S 2.3.1.4. Develop and maintain annual maintenance work plan.*
- S 2.3.1.5. Update and implement the Infrastructure Reliability Program to reduce system outage time following natural disasters.*
- S 2.3.1.6. Partner with other similar utilities for mutual aid support following emergencies.*

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### E-2 Objective

2.3.2. Maintain effective relationships with the retailer and other stakeholders to ensure high quality, reliable drinking water.

#### *CEO Interpretation:*

##### *Outcome Measures:*

- OM 2.3.2.a. 100% of retailers give an average rating of good to excellent on each of their individual annual treated water retailer surveys.*
- OM 2.3.2.b. Increase number of schools in Santa Clara County in compliance with State Education Code, Section 38086, and the Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act, regarding access to drinking water by awarding 100% of eligible grant requests through 2023 for the installation of hydration stations; a maximum of 250 grants up to \$245,000. (SCW A2)*

##### *Strategies:*

- S 2.3.2.1. Hold quarterly retailers meetings.*
- S 2.3.2.2. Conduct annual survey of retailers.*

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<b>Title:</b>	<b>Natural Flood Protection</b>	
<b>Category:</b>	<b>BAO Interpretations</b>	
<b>Interpretation of Policy No. E-3</b>	<b>CEO Approval: December 21, 2004</b>	<b>Latest Revision: July 28, 2014</b>

E-3. There is a healthy and safe environment for residents, businesses and visitors, as well as for future generations.

### CEO Interpretation:

#### Strategies:

- S 3.1. *Secure funding to provide a healthy and safe environment for residents, businesses and visitors, as well as for future generations.*
- S 3.2. *Coordinate preparation of a 20-year integrated watershed master plan which incorporates best available stream condition data, riparian corridors, sea level rise, countywide trails master plan, and updated hydrologic analyses to identify potential future projects that reduce flooding and sedimentation, improve water quality, and promote a more natural stream condition within the watershed.*
- S 3.3. *Engage, educate and advocate with federal, state, regional and local agencies on natural flood protection.*
- S 3.4. *Incorporate climate change mitigation and adaptation into District planning efforts.*

#### E-3 Objective

3.1.1. Protect parcels from flooding by applying an integrated watershed management approach that balances environmental quality and protection from flooding.

### CEO Interpretation:

#### Outcome Measures:

- OM 3.1.1.a. *Approximately 31,500 parcels are protected and/or eligible for removal from the flood hazard zone as specified in the 5-year Capital Improvement Plan.*
- OM 3.1.1.b. *With federal and local funding, construct a flood protection project on Upper Penitencia Creek to provide 1 percent flood protection to 5,000 homes and public buildings by 2026. (SCW E4)*
- OM 3.1.1.c. *With local funding only, acquire all necessary right-of-ways and construct a 1 percent flood protection project on Upper Penitencia Creek from Coyote Creek confluence to King Road by 2026. (SCW E4)*
- OM 3.1.1.d. *With federal and local funding, protect more than 3,000 parcels by providing 1 percent flood protection on San Francisquito Creek by 2020. (SCW E5)*
- OM 3.1.1.e. *With local funding only, protect approximately 3,000 parcels from flooding (100-year protection downstream of HWY 101, 50-year protection upstream of HWY 101) on San Francisquito Creek by 2020. (SCW E5)*

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- OM 3.1.1.f. *With federal and local funding, provide flood protection to 1,100 homes, 500 businesses, and 1,300 agricultural acres, while improving stream habitat on Upper Llagas Creek by 2017. (SCW E6)*
- OM 3.1.1.g. *With local funding only, provide 100-year flood protection for Reach 7 only (up to W. Dunne Avenue in Morgan Hill) on Upper Llagas Creek by 2017. A limited number of homes and businesses will be protected. (SCW E6)*
- OM 3.1.1.h. *Provide portion of the local share of funding for planning and design phases for the former salt production ponds and Santa Clara County shoreline area by 2019. (SCW E7)*
- OM 3.1.1.i. *Provide portion of local share of funding toward estimated cost of initial project phase (Economic Impact Area 11) on the San Francisco Bay Shoreline by 2019. (SCW E7)*
- OM 3.1.1.j. *With federal and local funding, construct a flood protection project on Upper Guadalupe River to provide 1 percent flood protection to 6,280 homes, 320 businesses, and 10 schools and institutions by 2019. (SCW E8)*
- OM 3.1.1.k. *With local funding only, construct flood protection improvements along 4,100 feet of Guadalupe River between SPRR crossing, downstream of Willow Street, to UPRR crossing, downstream of Padres Drive by 2019. Flood damage will be reduced; however, protection from the 1 percent flood is not provided until completion of the entire Upper Guadalupe River Project. (SCW E8)*
- OM 3.1.1.l. *100% of flood protection projects include multi-purpose objectives that enhance ecological functions, improve water quality, or provide for trails & open space.*
- OM 3.1.1.m. *Complete engineering studies on 7 creek reaches to address 1% flood risk by 2022. (SCW E3)*
- OM 3.1.1.n. *Update floodplain maps on a minimum of 2 creek reaches in accordance with new FEMA standards by 2022. (SCW E3)*

### Strategies:

- S 3.1.1.1. *Implement the adopted 5-year Capital Improvement Plan for natural flood protection projects to protect parcels.*

### CEO Direction:

- D 3.1.1.1.a. *Flood protection projects will consider appropriate flood return periods, benefit-cost ratio, environmental values, and community interests to determine the optimal project scope.*
- S 3.1.1.2. *Identify and implement potential mitigation banking opportunities in order to streamline future mitigation requirements for flood protection projects.*
- S 3.1.1.3. *Perform updated flood risk reduction studies to calculate peak flows and develop hydrographs for each watershed.*
- S 3.1.1.4. *Develop/update flood protection facility design criteria which incorporate the physical and dynamic equilibrium of streams.*

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### CEO Direction:

D 3.1.1.4.a. *The following objectives are balanced when selecting the preferred alternative to modify or maintain creeks to provide flood protection:*

1. *Homes, schools, businesses, and transportation networks are protected from flooding and erosion.*
2. *Projects are integrated within the watershed as a whole.*
3. *Ecological functions and processes are supported.*
4. *Geomorphic stream functions and processes are integrated into project design.*
5. *Maintenance requirements are minimized.*
6. *The quality and availability of water are protected for ecological and water supply functions.*
7. *Cooperation with local agencies achieves mutually beneficial goals.*
8. *Community benefits beyond flood protection are realized.*
9. *Life-cycle costs are minimized.*
10. *Environmental impacts are avoided, minimized, or mitigated.*

S 3.1.1.5. *Provide mitigation for impacts from capital and maintenance projects that comprehensively supports local riparian habitats.*

S 3.1.1.6. *Identify and incorporate stream rehabilitation measures into capital projects and operations to avoid, minimize and/or impacts to watersheds, streams, and natural resources.*

### E-3 Objective

3.1.2. *Preserve flood conveyance capacity and structural integrity of stream banks, while minimizing impacts on the environment and protecting habitat values.*

### CEO Interpretation:

#### Outcome Measures:

- OM 3.1.2.a. *50% of assets are assessed and have their condition documented annually.*
- OM 3.1.2.b. *100% of levees inspected and maintained annually.*
- OM 3.1.2.c. *Maintain 90 percent of improved channels at design capacity. (SCW E1)*
- OM 3.1.2.d. *Complete a minimum of 2900 acres of upland and in stream vegetation management in all watersheds annually.*
- OM 3.1.2.e. *100% of maintenance projects comply with the Stream Maintenance Program permit best management practices.*
- OM 3.1.2.f. *100% of stream bank erosion sites on District property are repaired that pose an imminent threat to public safety.*
- OM 3.1.2.g. *Construct 3 geomorphic designed projects to restore stability and stream function by preventing incision and promoting sediment balance throughout the watershed by 2021. (SCW D6)*

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*OM 3.1.2.h. Provide vegetation management for 6,120 acres along levee and maintenance roads through 2028. (SCW E1)*

*OM 3.1.2.i. Maintain a minimum of 300 acres of revegetation projects annually to meet regulatory requirements and conditions through 2028. (SCW D1)*

### *Strategies:*

*S 3.1.2.1. Implement a comprehensive Asset Management Program to maintain structural components of watershed facilities.*

*S 3.1.2.2. Maintain channel capacity from sediment accumulation.*

*S 3.1.2.3. Manage vegetation growth on District property for optimum conveyance of stormwater.*

*S 3.1.2.4. Conduct levee inspection and maintenance in all watersheds.*

*S 3.1.2.5. Maintain Stream Maintenance Program permit.*

*S 3.1.2.6. Maintain the stability of stream channels based on sound geomorphic science principles.*

*S 3.1.2.7. Maintain District right-of-way information on assessor's maps.*

*S 3.1.2.8. Restore the stormwater carrying capacity of 90% of improved channels.*

*S 3.1.2.9. Provide vegetation management (weed abatement, overhanging growth, etc.) for fire safety and for site access.*

### **E-3 Objective**

#### **3.2.1. Promote the preservation of flood plain functions.**

### *CEO Interpretation:*

#### *Outcome Measures:*

*OM 3.2.1.a. 90% of Water Resource Protection Ordinance violations are resolved.*

*OM 3.2.1.b. 90% of land use reviews submitted to lead agencies within response period.*

*OM 3.2.1.c. 100% of new land use projects reviewed are provided recommendations for incorporating flood-wise design features.*

*OM 3.2.1.d. 20% of the District's survey elevation benchmarks are measured annually for accuracy, on a rotating five year basis, and adjusted, as needed.*

#### *Strategies:*

*S 3.2.1.1. Identify and/or facilitate acquisition of undeveloped flood plain properties (CRS #420)*

*S 3.2.1.2. Administer the Water Resources Protection Ordinance to protect District assets and preserve flood plain functions.*

*S 3.2.1.3. Work cooperatively with land use agencies to review potential projects to prevent encroachments into District property.*

*S 3.2.1.4. Inform municipal planners on the impacts of encroachments into the floodplains.*

*S 3.2.1.5. Assist in the incorporation of flood-wise design features within the watershed.*

*S 3.2.1.6. Provide technical assistance in mitigating erosion, sedimentation, and high flows from new development or redevelopments.*

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- S 3.2.1.7. *Promote the preservation of ecological buffers.*
- S 3.2.1.8. *Negotiate and process licenses and real property transactions for external projects proposed on District properties.*
- S 3.2.1.9. *Support and promote land use decisions to maintain stream capacity.*
- S 3.2.1.10. *Advocate flood conveyance capacity is maintained on non-district owned channels.*
- S 3.2.1.11. *Respond to land development requests to communicate District and resource protection interests.*
- S 3.2.1.12. *Maintain accurate surveying benchmarks (CRS #440).*
- S 3.2.1.13. *Acquire or relocate buildings out of the regulatory floodplain (CRS #520).*

### E-3 Objective

3.2.2. Reduce flood risks through public engagement.

#### CEO Interpretation:

##### Outcome Measures:

- OM 3.2.2.a. *95% response rate to flood insurance rate map inquiries.*
- OM 3.2.2.b. *Maintain the National Flood Insurance Program's Community Rating System (CRS) point sum of all the participating CRS Communities in the county at 13,000 or higher.*
- OM 3.2.2.c. *All county CRS Communities with more than 100 flood policies participate in the CRS program.*
- OM 3.2.2.d. *100% of flood prone parcels provided floodplain informational mailer annually.*

##### Strategies:

- S 3.2.2.1. *Provide accurate floodplain mapping information services countywide (CRS #320).*
- S 3.2.2.2. *Educate community on flood awareness using annual countywide multilingual flood awareness campaign in the beginning of the flood season (CRS #320).*
- S 3.2.2.3. *Provide flood protection information on District website and libraries (CRS #350).*
- S 3.2.2.4. *Provide floodplain, floodway, and flood risk information via GIS web-based interface (CRS #440).*
- S 3.2.2.5. *Include municipal planners in regional or local flood management planning activities.*
- S 3.2.2.6. *Promote awareness of risks for developing in flood hazard areas.*

### E-3 Objective

3.2.3. Prepare and respond effectively to flood emergencies countywide to protect life and property.

#### CEO Interpretation:

##### Outcome Measures:

- OM 3.2.3.a. *40,000 filled sandbags stocked by Nov. 30th annually.*

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- OM 3.2.3.b. *The ALERT Alarm program is maintained and tested 4 times annually for all watersheds.*
- OM 3.2.3.c. *Emergency Action Plans updated annually for all watersheds.*
- OM 3.2.3.d. *Two preparedness exercises conducted per year to respond to flood emergencies.*
- OM 3.2.3.e. *Maintain NOAA StormReady designation annually.*
- OM 3.2.3.f. *Conduct multi-jurisdiction Winter Emergency Operations and Preparedness Workshops annually.*
- OM 3.2.3.g. *Coordinate with agencies to incorporate District-endorsed flood emergency procedures into their Emergency Operations Center plans annually. (SCW E2)*
- OM 3.2.3.h. *90% of required employees receive required FEMA/CAL-EMA NIMS/SEMS training.*
- OM 3.2.3.i. *Complete 5 flood-fighting action plans (one per major watershed) by 2028. (SCW E2)*
- OM 3.2.3.j. *Map, install, and maintain gauging stations and computer software on seven flood-prone reaches to generate and disseminate flood warnings through 2023. (SCW C2)*

### *Strategies:*

- S 3.2.3.1. *Develop an automated flood warning system that will employ real-time rainfall data to predict stream flows, potential flood risk, and timing (CRS #610).*
- S 3.2.3.2. *Provide filled sandbags to the general public and information on proper use in protecting homes and businesses (CRS #330).*
- S 3.2.3.3. *Prepare for effective response to storm-related emergencies (CRS #610).*
- S 3.2.3.4. *Coordinate with municipalities and other regional jurisdictions to identify roles and responsibilities for floodplain and emergency management (CRS #610).*
- S 3.2.3.5. *Identify and distribute "Hot Spots" and patrol information to municipalities countywide.*
- S 3.2.3.6. *Participate in preparation of local preparedness plans.*
- S 3.2.3.7. *Maintain Emergency Operation Center response capability 24/7/365 (staffing, equipment, facility).*
- S.3.2.3.8. *Respond to non-scheduled citizen-initiated and emergency condition assessments.*
- S 3.2.3.9. *Comply with FEMA/CAL-EMA NIMS/SEMS requirements and directives.*
- S 3.2.3.10. *Execute annual training and exercise plan for flood emergency/disaster preparedness.*
- S 3.2.3.11. *Develop written, site-specific flood-fighting plans for creeks with less than 1% level of protection.*
- S 3.2.3.12. *Manage the hydrologic monitoring system and associated database.*

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<b>Title:</b>	<b>Water Resources Stewardship</b>	
<b>Category:</b>	<b>BAO Interpretations</b>	
<b>Interpretation of Policy No. E-4</b>	<b>CEO Approval: December 15, 2009</b>	<b>Latest Revision: July 22, 2019</b>

E-4. There is water resources stewardship to protect and enhance watersheds and natural resources and to improve the quality of life in Santa Clara County.

### CEO Interpretation:

#### Strategies:

- S 4.1 *Secure funding to provide water resources stewardship to protect and enhance watersheds and natural resources and to improve the quality of life in Santa Clara County.*
- S 4.2. *Coordinate preparation of a 20-year integrated watershed master plan which incorporates best available stream condition data, riparian corridors, sea level rise, countywide trails master plan, and updated hydrologic analyses to identify potential future projects that reduce flooding and sedimentation, improve water quality, and promote a more natural stream condition within the watershed.*
- S 4.3. *Engage, educate and advocate with federal, state, regional and local agencies on water resources stewardship.*
- S 4.4. *Implement an Ecological Monitoring and Assessment Program Framework which culminates in a profile of watershed conditions to be used to inform District programs and master planning efforts.*
- S.4.5. *Build mutually beneficial partnerships with government or non-profit organizations for the fulfillment of Safe, Clean Water goals and objectives.*

#### CEO Direction:

- D.4.5.a. *Partnership Safe, Clean Water funding is not to be used for permit or mitigation requirements unless additional benefits above requirements are clear and distinguishable.*
- D.4.5.b. *Engage in partnerships to conduct planning studies, land acquisitions, and monitoring in support of District objectives.*
- S 4.6. *Incorporate climate change mitigation and adaptation into District planning efforts.*

# BAO Interpretations

## of the Board's Governance Policies

### E-4 Objective

4.1.1. Preserve creeks, bay and ecosystems through environmental stewardship.

#### CEO Interpretation:

##### Outcome Measures:

- OM 4.1.1.a. *Establish new or track existing ecological levels of service for streams in 5 watersheds by 2028. (SCW D5)*
- OM 4.1.1.b. *Re-assess streams in 5 watersheds to determine if ecological levels of service are maintained or improved by 2028. (SCW D5)*
- OM 4.1.1.c. *Continued implementation and evaluation of management practices to achieve declining methylmercury in fish within impaired reservoirs in the Guadalupe Watershed.*
- OM 4.1.1.d. *Five watersheds meet all Stream Maintenance Program and other mitigation commitments including the management of 300 acres of existing revegetation plantings.*
- OM 4.1.1.e. *Respond to requests on litter or graffiti cleanup within 5 working days through 2028. (SCW B6)*
- OM 4.1.1.f. *100% of pesticide products used in lowest toxicity category.*
- OM 4.1.1.g. *Operate and maintain existing treatment systems in 4 reservoirs to remediate regulated contaminants, including mercury through 2028. (SCW B1)*
- OM 4.1.1.h. *Prepare plan for the prioritization of pollution prevention and reduction activities by 2015. (SCW B1)*
- OM 4.1.1.i. *Implement priority pollution prevention and reduction activities identified in the plan in 10 creeks through 2028. (SCW B1)*
- OM 4.1.1.j. *Install at least 2, by 2014, and operate 4, through 2028, trash capture devices at stormwater outfalls in Santa Clara County. (SCW B2)*
- OM 4.1.1.k. *Perform 52 annual clean-ups for the duration of the Safe, Clean Water program to reduce the amount of trash and pollutants entering the streams. (SCW B4, Illegal Encampments)*
- OM 4.1.1.l. *Conduct 60 clean-up events (4 per year) through 2028. (SCW B6, Graffiti and Trash)*
- OM 4.1.1.m. *Provide up to \$8 million for the acquisition of property for the conservation of habitat lands, total through 2028. (SCW D7)*

##### Strategies:

- S 4.1.1.1. *Identify existing stream conditions and stream characteristics by watershed to ensure quality scientific information is available on the health of stream ecosystems.*
- S 4.1.1.2. *Maintain District watershed assets by removing trash from creeks, repairing/installing fencing, and removing graffiti on District facilities.*
- S 4.1.1.3. *Conduct illegal encampment cleanups in partnership with municipalities.*
- S 4.1.1.4. *Reduce and remove sources of regulated contaminants, including mercury, for compliance with Regional Water Quality Control Board standards.*

# BAO Interpretations

## of the Board's Governance Policies

- S 4.1.1.5. *Install and maintain trash capture devices.*
- S 4.1.1.6. *Continue Lake Almaden Feasibility Study.*
- S 4.1.1.7. *Manage mitigation and stewardship lands.*
- S 4.1.1.8. *Carry out management and maintenance of revegetation projects to ensure that specific regulatory requirements and conditions are met at each mitigation revegetation site.*
- S 4.1.1.9. *Provide information on stormwater management and design of floodplains and channels.*
- S 4.1.1.10. *Protect groundwater recharge areas in creeks and riparian corridors.*
- S 4.1.1.11. *Implement a comprehensive Asset Management Program to maintain watershed environmental assets.*
- S 4.1.1.12. *Engage in habitat conservation planning.*
- S 4.1.1.13. *Ensure District personnel are state qualified certified applicators to ensure proper usage.*
- S 4.1.1.14. *Ensure pesticide policy team completes annual review of program and makes modifications where applicable based on changing research, regulations, etc.*
- S 4.1.1.15. *Minimize pesticide risk and exposure relative to vegetation management.*
- S 4.1.1.16. *Strive to achieve habitat conditions in aquatic ecosystems, from the top of the watershed to the bay, that sustain thriving populations of animals and plants characteristic of a healthy ecosystem.*

### E-4 Objective

4.1.2. Improve watersheds, streams, and natural resources.

#### CEO Interpretation:

##### Outcome Measures:

- OM 4.1.2.a. *Establish agreement with the US Fish and Wildlife Service to reuse sediment at locations to improve the success of Salt Pond restoration activities by 2017. (SCW D8)*
- OM 4.1.2.b. *Update 3 creek hydrology models annually.*
- OM 4.1.2.c. *Develop 5 Stream Corridor Priority Plans to prioritize stream restoration activities by 2028. (SCW D3)*
- OM 4.1.2.d. *Revitalize at least 21 acres guided by the 5 Stream Corridor Priority Plans, through native plant revegetation and removal of invasive exotic species by 2028. (SCW D2)*
- OM 4.1.2.e. *Provide funding for revitalization of at least 7 of 21 acres through community partnerships through 2028. (SCW D2)*
- OM 4.1.2.f. *Develop at least 2 plant palettes for use on revegetation projects to support birds and other wildlife by 2017. (SCW D2)*
- OM 4.1.2.g. *Complete planning and design for two creek/lake separations by 2019. (SCW D4)*
- OM 4.1.2.h. *Construct one creek/lake separation project in partnership with local agencies by 2019. (SCW D4)*
- OM 4.1.2.i. *Use \$6 million for fish passage improvements through 2019. (SCW D4)*

# BAO Interpretations

## of the Board's Governance Policies

- OM 4.1.2.j. *Conduct study of all major steelhead streams in the County to identify priority locations for installation of large woody debris and gravel as appropriate by 2019. (SCW D4)*
- OM 4.1.2.k. *Install large woody debris and/or gravel at a minimum of 5 sites (1 per each of 5 major watersheds) by 2019. (SCW D4)*
- OM 4.1.2.l. *Construct site improvements up to \$4 million to allow for transportation and placement of future sediment by 2017. (SCW D8)*

### *Strategies:*

- S 4.1.2.1. *Complete tidal flood protection plan.*
- S 4.1.2.2. *Identify and incorporate enhancement opportunities into capital projects and operations.*
- S 4.1.2.3. *Evaluate independent environmental enhancement opportunities including an assessment of anticipated ecological benefits.*
- S 4.1.2.4. *Revitalize the function of stream, riparian and wetland habitats by removing invasive plants and revegetating where needed.*
- S 4.1.2.5. *Protect and restore habitats and encourage the return of endangered species.*
- S 4.1.2.6. *Preserve, enhance, rehabilitate, and restore habitat for native fish.*
- S 4.1.2.7. *Conduct studies of steelhead streams in Santa Clara County with consideration for improvement of fish habitat including use of large woody debris and gravel augmentation.*
- S 4.1.2.8. *Develop a long-term program in partnership with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to reuse clean sediment at environmentally appropriate locations to improve the success of the Salt Ponds Restoration activities.*
- S 4.1.2.9. *Manage the hydrologic monitoring system and associated database.*
- S 4.1.2.10. *Preserve, enhance, rehabilitate, and restore stream, riparian, and wetland habitats to promote healthy ecosystems, support wildlife diversity, and increase connectivity, including wildlife corridors.*

### *CEO Direction:*

- D 4.1.2.10.a. *Develop ecologically based habitat goals and levels of service for use in planning implementation.*
- D 4.1.2.10.b. *Develop Stream Restoration plans in collaboration with municipal governments.*
- S 4.1.2.11. *Identify and incorporate stream rehabilitation measures into capital projects and operations to avoid/minimize impacts.*
- S 4.1.2.12. *Improve water quality of listed impaired water bodies.*

# BAO Interpretations

## of the Board's Governance Policies

### E-4 Objective

4.1.3. Promote the protection of creeks, bay and other aquatic ecosystems from threats of pollution and degradation.

#### CEO Interpretation:

##### Outcome Measures:

- OM 4.1.3.a. *Three instream habitat features protected by 2017.*
- OM 4.1.3.b. *Maintain partnership with cities and County to address surface water quality improvements through 2028. (SCW B2)*
- OM 4.1.3.c. *Support 5 pollution prevention activities to improve surface water quality in Santa Clara County either independently or collaboratively with south county organizations through 2028. (SCW B2)*
- OM 4.1.3.d. *Provide 7 grant cycles and 5 partnerships that follow pre-established competitive criteria related to preventing or removing pollution through 2028. (SCW B3)*

##### Strategies:

- S 4.1.3.1. *Issue grants and conduct partnerships to reduce contaminants, such as pharmaceuticals, in surface or groundwater.*
- S 4.1.3.2. *Provide technical expertise for applying ecosystems functions knowledge.*
- S 4.1.3.3. *Promote the preservation of riparian corridors and provide guidance supporting watershed health to the entire community.*
- S 4.1.3.4. *Promote implementation of water resource protection guidelines by land use agencies.*
- S 4.1.3.5. *Work cooperatively with land use agencies to review potential projects to prevent encroachments into District property.*
- S 4.1.3.6. *Inform municipal planners on the impacts of encroachments into the floodplains.*
- S 4.1.3.7. *Respond to land development requests to communicate District and resource protection interests.*
- S 4.1.3.8. *Stabilize creek banks that pose an imminent impact to water quality or public health and safety.*

### E-4 Objective

4.1.4. Engage and educate the community in the protection of water quality and stream stewardship.

#### CEO Interpretation:

##### Outcome Measures:

- OM 4.1.4.a. *100% of Clean, Safe Creeks stewardship grant agreements are signed, according to schedule.*
- OM 4.1.4.b. *Fund District support of annual National River Cleanup day, California Coastal Cleanup Day, the Great American Pick Up, and fund the Adopt-A-Creek Program through 2028. (SCW B7)*

# BAO Interpretations

## of the Board's Governance Policies

*OM 4.1.4.c. Provide 7 grant cycles and 3 partnerships that follow pre-established competitive criteria related to cleanups, education and outreach, and stewardship activities through 2028. (SCW B7)*

### *Strategies:*

- S 4.1.4.1. Engage with stakeholders to leverage project funding for restoration efforts.*
- S 4.1.4.2. Support volunteer efforts through grants and partnerships for cleanup, education, outreach and watershed stewardship activities.*
- S 4.1.4.3. Advocate improvements to streams through District education.*
- S 4.1.4.4. Support Urban Runoff Pollution Prevention education components throughout the county.*

### E-4 Objective

4.1.5. Prepare and respond to emergencies that threaten local waterways.

### *CEO Interpretation:*

#### *Outcome Measures:*

*OM 4.1.5.a. Respond to 100% of hazardous materials reports requiring urgent on-site inspection in two hours or less through 2028. (SCW B5)*

#### *Strategies:*

- S 4.1.5.1. Coordinate with agencies to incorporate District emergency procedures into their Emergency Operations Center plans.*
- S 4.1.5.2. Maintain District capacity to respond to spills.*

### E-4 Objective

4.2.1. Support healthy communities by providing access to additional trails, parks and open space along creeks and in the watersheds.

### *CEO Interpretation:*

#### *Outcome Measures:*

*OM 4.2.1.a. Provide 7 grant cycles and additional partnerships for \$21 million that follow pre-established criteria related to the creation or restoration of wetlands, riparian habitat and favorable stream conditions for fisheries and wildlife, and providing new public access to trails through 2028. (SCW D3)*

#### *Strategies:*

- S 4.2.1.1. Work with other entities for planning, design, construction, maintenance, and operation of trails/open space amenities.*
- S 4.2.1.2. Increase public access to District lands as appropriate; extend trails network.*
- S 4.2.1.3. Support creek-side or water related recreation, as appropriate.*
- S 4.2.1.4. Monitor trail and open space grant agreements for completion.*
- S 4.2.1.5. Complete the Alviso Slough Restoration project.*

# BAO Interpretations

## of the Board's Governance Policies

### E-4 Objective

4.2.2. Support healthy communities by providing appropriate public access to District facilities.

#### CEO Interpretation:

##### Outcome Measures:

OM 4.2.2.a. *Agreements with responsible partner agencies are in place for appropriate public access to District facilities.*

##### Strategies:

S 4.2.2.1. *Enter into partnership agreements to provide appropriate public access to District facilities.*

##### CEO Direction:

D 4.2.2.1.a. *Provisions of partner agreements minimize District expenditures and ensure that partner agencies assume all liability for public access.*

D 4.2.2.1.b. *Provisions of partner agreements clearly confirm that any public access or recreation is subject to the district's ability to perform its primary mission, including the operation of reservoirs for water supply and flood control, sustaining water quality to meet regulatory standards, and meeting environmental objectives.*

### E-4 Objective

4.3.1. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions to achieve carbon neutrality by 2020.

#### CEO Interpretation:

##### Outcome Measures:

OM 4.3.1.a. *Maintain California Green Business Certification.*

OM 4.3.1.b. *By 2020, the amount of District greenhouse gas emissions is equal to or less than carbon offsets as calculated by the District carbon offset methodology.*

##### Strategies:

S 4.3.1.1. *Establish a District-wide internal carbon offset methodology to facilitate emission reduction including properly crediting emission reductions from water conservation programs, habitat restoration or enhancements or renewable energy production and contributions to countywide emission reduction efforts.*

S 4.3.1.2. *Increase fleet fuel use efficiency.*

S 4.3.1.3. *Maintain a portfolio of alternative energy supplies.*

S 4.3.1.4. *Increase energy use efficiency.*

S 4.3.1.5. *Identify and develop opportunities to employ sources of alternative energy that reduce greenhouse gas emissions.*

S 4.3.1.6. *Conduct periodic greenhouse gas emission inventories.*

S 4.3.1.7. *Review energy usage and options for reducing greenhouse gas emissions for District facilities.*

S 4.3.1.8. *Provide funding for management of the County Green Business Program.*

# BAO Interpretations

of the Board's Governance Policies

**Title:** General Principles  
**Category:** BAO Interpretations

**Interpretation of  
Policy No. EL-1**

**CEO Approval: July 28, 2014**

**Latest Revision: July 28, 2014**

The Board Appointed Officers (BAOs) shall promote practices, activities, decisions, and organizational circumstances that are lawful, and supportive of commonly accepted business and professional ethics. The BAOs shall foster the organization's credibility in ways that enhance the accomplishment of its mission. The BAOs shall operate consistently with the District Values Statement (GP-7).

*I-EL-1.a. The Clerk of the Board and District Counsel will utilize policies and procedures as developed by the CEO for the entire organization, unless one of the following exemptions is applicable:*

*I-EL-1.a.i. The procurement of legal services, for which District Counsel will establish and utilize its own written procurement policies and procedures.*

# BAO Interpretations

## of the Board's Governance Policies

**Title:** Customer Relations

**Category:** BAO Interpretations

**Interpretation of  
Policy No. EL-2**

**CEO Approval: July 28, 2014**

**Latest Revision: July 28, 2014**

The BAOs shall promote conditions, procedures, and decisions that fulfill reasonable customer expectations for good service, are safe, dignified, and nonintrusive. Customers include any persons conducting business or interacting with the District.

*I-EL-2.a. Provide multiple methods for customers to submit inquiries, including the Access Valley Water system, phone, e-mail, fax, letter, and the external website.*

2.1. Use application forms that elicit information for which there is a clear necessity.

*I-EL-2.1.a. Conduct a periodic review of the following application forms: well permits, encroachment permits, water conservation applications, grant applications, good neighbor fence permits, sponsorship applications, and Board committee applications.*

2.2. Use methods of collecting, reviewing, transmitting, or storing customer information that protects against improper access to the material elicited.

*I-EL-2.2.a. Conduct a periodic review of data transmission and storage methods for the following application forms: well permits, encroachment permits, water conservation applications, grant applications, good neighbor fence permits, sponsorship applications, and Board committee applications.*

2.4. Establish with customers a clear understanding of what may or may not be expected from the customer service offered.

*I-EL-2.4.a. Determine metrics for customer service and act on them accordingly.*

2.6. Provide correspondence addressed to the Board to each Board member within 5 working days from receipt and respond within 30 working days of receipt. In those individual situations where it is not possible for the BAOs to respond completely to an inquiry, sending a response to the originator, acknowledging receipt of the inquiry, an explanation of actions being taken, and timelines for preparing the complete response, is acceptable for complying with this 30 day response time.

*I-EL-2.6.a. Maintain a written procedure to track the receipt and response of Board correspondence.*

# BAO Interpretations

## of the Board's Governance Policies

**Title:** Human Resources  
**Category:** BAO Interpretations

<b>Interpretation of Policy No. EL-3</b>	<b>CEO Approval: March 1, 2007</b>	<b>Latest Revision: October 01, 2014</b>
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With respect to compensation and benefits, employment, and the treatment of employees and persons doing work for or on behalf of the District, a BAO shall:

3.1. Operate with written personnel rules which: (a) clarify rules for employees, (b) provide for effective handling of grievances, and (c) protect against wrongful conditions, such as preferential treatment for personal reasons.

*I-EL-3.1.a. The salary levels for the unclassified employee classifications will be periodically evaluated and the CEO will periodically benchmark them with comparator agencies according to the process set forth in Chapter 7 of the "At Will Policy for Employees in the Unclassified Service at the Santa Clara Valley Water District."*

*I-EL-3.1.b. Written work instructions that clarify rules for employees, provide for effective handling of grievances, and protect against wrongful conditions will be developed and periodically reviewed.*

3.3. Inform employees with their protections under this policy.

*I-EL-3.3.a. CEO will have work instructions related to this policy that will be posted on-line.*

*I-EL-3.3.b. CEO will provide awareness training to ensure employees are informed of their protections.*

3.4. Integrate, and operate within, written ethics policies and behavioral expectations that embody fairness, dignity and respect.

*I-EL-3.4.a. Maintain written ethics policies and procedures.*

*I-EL-3.4.b. Maintain written behavioral expectations of all district employees.*

*I-EL-3.4.c. Implement process(es) that promote awareness of ethics policies and expectations.*

*I-EL-3.4.d. Implement process(es) to report, investigate, and correct behavior.*

3.5. Operate without written employee health and safety policies which (a) ensure that standards, programs, and procedures meet or exceed acceptable industry standards as written in state and federal regulations, and (b) ensure a healthful and safe work environment for all District employees.

*I-EL-3.5.a. Every employee will be held accountable for effectively implementing this CEO Interpretation as well as safety program improvements within their area(s) of responsibility. To that end, the CEO Interpretation of this policy includes the following expectations:*

# BAO Interpretations

## of the Board's Governance Policies

- I-EL-3.5.a.i. Maintain an effective written management system for Health and Safety (H&S) that meets the Cal-OSHA Injury and Illness Prevention Program requirements of California Code of Regulations Title 8 §3203.*
- I-EL-3.5.a.ii. Every employee's Work Plan must incorporate health and safety goals and targeted outcomes.*
- I-EL-3.5.a.iii. All employees must comply with established workplace safety rules, practices and procedures. Violations are subject to disciplinary action.*
- I-EL-3.5.a.iv. Managers and supervisors must immediately eliminate or effectively control known hazards that expose employees to serious injury. Hazards, other than serious, identified through observations, employee reports, inspections, audits, or risk assessments should be eliminated or effectively controlled as soon as possible but no later than 30 days from notification of the hazard. If 30 days is not sufficient time to adequately address the hazard, a written control and mitigation plan must be developed within 30 days of recognition of the hazard and agreed upon by District Health and Safety personnel.*
- I-EL-3.5.a.v. Employees must attend mandatory safety training when identified and scheduled.*
- I-EL-3.5.a.vi. All employees are expected to participate in maintaining job related District health and safety program elements as defined by District Policies and Procedures.*

3.6. Subject to the District's Living Wage Policy, provide persons doing work for or on behalf of the District at least a living wage, and reasonable time off.

- I-EL-3.6.a. This policy will be implemented pursuant to the District's Living Wage Policy, which is maintained by the CEO's procurement designee.*

3.7. Retain no more than thirty-two (32) unclassified positions without Board approval.

- I-EL-3.7.a. The BAOs retain the following number of unclassified positions (including BAO positions); CEO, 24; District Counsel, 7; and Clerk of the Board, 1. In the event of a critical business need, the BAOs may submit a request to the Board to fill an additional unclassified position.*
- I-EL-3.7.b. The BAOs have the flexibility to assign existing unclassified employees to duties that best meet the interests of the District to carry out the District's mission. The CEO will inform the Board of organizational changes that involve movement at the Deputy level and above or changes to the unclassified reporting structure at the Chief level.*

3.11. Not change his or her own compensation and benefits.

- I-EL-3.11.a. The Chief Administrative Officer and/or Chief Financial Officer will report directly to Board any requests or directed requests to change BAO compensation or benefits.*

# BAO Interpretations

## of the Board's Governance Policies

3.12. Not promise or imply permanent or guaranteed employment.

*I-EL-3.12.a. Employment offer letters are clearly written and Memorandums of Understanding with employees do not promise or imply permanent or guaranteed employment.*

3.15. Assure there are capable employees with knowledge and expertise in subject matter integral to the future of water resource management in Santa Clara County.

*I-EL-3.15.a. Hire competent and qualified professional employees.*

*I-EL-3.15.b. Provide opportunities for professional development.*

*I-EL-3.15.c. Ensure required training is available to employees (e.g. technical training, health and safety training, other mandatory training).*

*I-EL-3.15.d. Ensure that there is a succession plan.*

*I-EL-3.15.e. Provide a rotation program for employees.*

3.16. Have no fewer than two other unclassified employees familiar with Board and BAO issues and processes in order to protect the Board from sudden loss of BAO services.

*I-EL-3.16.a. The BAOs will confirm annually that there are at least two other unclassified employees familiar with Board and BAO issues and processes.*

3.17. Operate in an environment where there are good labor relations.

*I-EL-3.17.a. Establish a mutual expectations agreement between management and the bargaining units.*

*I-EL-3.17.b. Establish a process to address actions inconsistent with the mutual expectations agreement.*

*I-EL-3.17.c. Labor contract (i.e. labor Memorandum of Understanding) negotiations are completed within established ground rules.*

# BAO Interpretations

## of the Board's Governance Policies

**Title:** Financial Management

**Category:** BAO Interpretations

**Interpretation of  
Policy No. EL-4**

**CEO Approval: April 8, 2008**

**Latest Revision: July 28, 2014**

Financial planning for any fiscal year shall be aligned with the Board's Ends, not risk fiscal jeopardy, and be derived from a multi-year plan. With respect to the actual, ongoing financial condition and activities, the BAOs shall provide for the development of fiscal sustainability.

- I-EL-4.a. Financial planning will include the following: meeting the minimum reserve, meeting debt service coverage ratio, a balanced budget, funding annual required Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) contribution, and a Board review of OPEB and funding levels annually.*
- I-EL-4.b. Present a 10-year projection to Board as part of the annual budget review and approval process.*

#### 4.2. Spend in ways that are cost-efficient.

- I-EL-4.2.a. Costs of the long-term Delta solution should be allocated fairly to all beneficiaries.*
- I-EL-4.2.b. The District favors a flexible approach to cost allocation that maximizes the opportunity for discretionary allocations of cost based on incremental benefits.*
- I-EL-4.2.c. The FAHCE Draft Settlement Agreement of 2003 established a balanced framework to achieve reliable future water supply, protect water rights, and enhance the quality of life in Santa Clara County without spending extravagantly or in ways more costly than necessary.*
- I-EL-4.2.d. Utilize a competitive procurement process (unless authorized by the Board or exempted).*
- I-EL-4.2.e. Limit spending to the budgeted amounts at the project level without executive approval.*
- I-EL-4.2.f. Conduct an open and transparent budget review process.*

#### 4.9.3. No investments will be made in fossil fuel companies with significant carbon emissions potential.

- I-EL-4.9.3.a. No investments will be made in the top 200 fossil fuel companies that control most of the world's oil, coal, and natural gas supplies.*

# BAO Interpretations

## of the Board's Governance Policies

**Title:** Procurement

**Category:** BAO Interpretations

**Interpretation of Policy No. EL-5**

**CEO Approval: March 22, 2005**

**Latest Revision: February 27, 2018**

With respect to purchasing and contracts activities, use a fair, open and expeditious process and stay within the Board's authorized expenditures. Further, a BAO shall:

5.1. Not make a single purchase, contract, 3rd party claim settlement of liability, or any other financial commitment in amounts greater than the following, unless authorized by the Board.

*I-EL-5.1.a. Unless exempted from a competitive procurement process as specified in EL-5.3, the following apply:*

*I-EL-5.1.a.i. If a purchase, contract, or commitment is expected to exceed the dollar limit set by the Board, any additional cost above the Board approved amount for the product or service requires Board approval, prior to the purchase, contract, or commitment, regardless of the mechanism used to expend the funds.*

*I-EL-5.1.a.ii. Supplementing Board approved expenditures through other means, such as District work force, i.e., force account labor, purchase orders, contracts, etc. requires Board approval.*

*I-EL-5.1.a.iii. Reducing the Board approved product or service, in order to stay within the Board approved amount of a purchase, contract, or cost-sharing agreement, is not acceptable.*

*I-EL-5.1.a.iv. Board notification of non-compliance with EL-5 is required for all existing purchases, contracts or commitments that are subject to this interpretation.*

*I-EL-5.1.a.v. Limit for construction contracts in EL-5.1.1 is established by the public contract code.*

*I-EL-5.1.a.vi. The CEO is authorized to decide whether to file a protest pursuant to Proposition 218 on behalf of the Board for proposed fees, rates, or taxes currently levied on District-owned parcels and provide timely notification to the Board.*

*I-EL-5.1.b. CEO will conduct the annual Comprehensive Annual Financial Report.*

5.3. Not make a single purchase, contract, or any other financial commitment without a competitive procurement process, unless authorized by the Board or one of the following exemptions is applicable:

*I-EL-5.3.a. Unless authorized by the Board, per the exemptions listed in EL-5.3, all purchases, contracts, and other financial commitments must be competitively procured.*

*I-EL-5.3.b. Utilize software systems which allow comprehensive reviews of purchases and contracts on-line and will conduct the annual Comprehensive Annual Financial Report.*

5.4. Not allow any sponsorship greater than \$5,000, unless authorized by the Board.

*I-EL-5.4.a. Maintain and periodically review a community partnering sponsorship procedure.*

# BAO Interpretations

## of the Board's Governance Policies

5.5. Not allow for any sponsorships, contributions, or memberships, that do not have a nexus to the District's mission, vision, or Board governance policies.

*I-EL-5.5.a. Maintain a procedure to consistently review sponsorship requests to determine if there is a sufficient nexus to the District's mission, vision, or Board governance policies.*

5.6. Not allow the splitting of orders to avoid the limits set forth in EL-5.

*I-EL-5.6.a. Utilize a software system with purchasing approval limits and conduct the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report.*

5.7. Not use consultant services if the work can be accomplished at the appropriate skill level by existing District employees.

*I-EL-5.7.a. Evaluate the use of consultant services and available District employees with the appropriate skill level during the budget development process.*

5.8. Consider the consultant's past performance history with the District prior to allowing the District to enter into a consultant agreement.

*I-EL-5.8.a. Maintain a procedure that requires internal reference checks as part of written and oral evaluation criteria.*

5.9. Provide access to opportunities for small and local businesses in providing services to the District.

*I-EL-5.9.a. Conduct outreach processes that include: match-making events, an annual open house, and the District website.*

5.10. Operate with written purchasing policies and procedures relating to non-competitive acquisition practices, to avoid conflicts of interests, and favoritism and to assure legal and fiscal compliance.

*I-EL-5.10.a. Purchasing policies and procedures will be maintained by the BAO's procurement designee.*

5.11. Apply procurement policies and practices that support environmental stewardship to include extended producer responsibility and the reduction of hazardous and solid waste generation.

*I-EL-5.11.a. The District will implement the following:*

*I-EL-5.11.a.i. Define the District's goals with regards to environmental procurement and provide general guidelines to be observed by all District employees.*

*I-EL-5.11.a.ii. Include a summary of the District's policies supporting environmental stewardship and extended producer responsibilities within all procurement solicitation packages.*

*I-EL-5.11.a.iii. Purchase products with recycled content and explore opportunities to increase recycled content of select purchased products.*

# BAO Interpretations

## of the Board's Governance Policies

- I-EL-5.11.a.iv. Purchase products that meet national environmental standards (e.g. Energy Star or Green Seal certifications, etc.).*
- I-EL-5.11.a.v. Encourage District employees to specify green products and services when submitting purchase requests to Purchasing and to consider the purchase of green products when making purchasing card purchases.*
- I-EL-5.11.a.vi. Evaluate support of, and/or participate in public and/or private collaborations, multi jurisdictional arrangements, and legislative strategies that support extended producer responsibility in a cost-effective way.*
- I-EL-5.11.a.vii. Purchase pesticide products that support environmental stewardship and minimizes hazardous waste generation.*
- I-EL-5.11.a.viii. Not allow the sale of single-serving bottled water at District facilities; and not allow the purchase of single-serving bottles of water using District funds except for declared emergencies and/or health and safety reasons.*
- I-EL-5.11.a.ix. Not allow the purchase of expanded polystyrene food service ware for use at District facilities.*
- I-EL-5.11.a.x. When appropriate, products used on District premises will be recycled to minimize solid and liquid waste generation.*
- I-EL-5.11.a.xi. Purchase hybrid vehicles when appropriate and available.*

# BAO Interpretations

## of the Board's Governance Policies

<b>Title: Asset Management</b>		
<b>Category: BAO Interpretations</b>		
<b>Interpretation of Policy No. EL-6</b>	<b>CEO Approval: April 18, 2007</b>	<b>Date of Latest Revision: September 18, 2014</b>

6.3. Prepare the organization to respond and recover from an emergency or disaster.

*I-EL-6.3.a. Utilize the National Incident Management System.*

6.4. Maintain an Asset Management Program.

*I-EL-6.4.a. Minimize asset life-cycle costs while sustainably delivering the levels of service that meet customer expectations at an acceptable level of risk as expressed through the Board.*

*I-EL-6.4.b. Develop and maintain the Asset Management Program.*

6.5. Protect water rights and rights of way.

*I-EL-6.5.a. Meet all legal requirements that apply to the District's water rights, and take action as needed to protect and preserve these rights for long-term beneficial use.*

*I-EL-6.5.a.i. As stated in the FAHCE draft Settlement Agreement of 2003, a primary purpose of the FAHCE Program is to protect the District's water rights.*

*I-EL-6.5.b. Meet all water contract terms and conditions, and take action as needed to protect and preserve water contract rights and benefits.*

*I-EL-6.5.b.i. Governance structures and operating agreements related to the long-term Delta solution must provide the ability to protect the value of the District's imported water assets, including water supply and banking contracts.*

*I-EL-6.5.c. The Board adopted Water Resources Protection Ordinance to protect District assets from the actions of external parties. Because enforcement resources are not unlimited, prioritizing ordinance violations based on the following criteria will enable employees to focus its enforcement efforts. As a general rule, the priority level assigned to a violation will be increased by one level if another agency will partner on an enforcement action (e.g. a Priority 3 violation for the District becomes a Priority 2 where there is a partnership enforcement).*

*I-EL-6.5.c.i. Priority 1 – This is the most serious type of violation that generally will pose a threat to public and/or environmental health and safety, impacts the District's ability to operate and maintain a facility, impacts the District's ability to proceed with the planned construction of a facility, or where the District has or will face possible civil or criminal liability by a third party. Examples include: suspected hazardous material drainage and dumping, major encroachment of structures*

# BAO Interpretations

## of the Board's Governance Policies

- on District property, denuding District property of vegetation, significant fill, grading or structures threatening or blocking flow in the creek.*
- I-EL-6.5.c.ii. Priority 2 – This covers most violations of a serious nature which may threaten water quality, stream stability, and habitat, expose the District to liability, may affect the District's ability to operate and maintain a facility, or may affect the District's ability to construct a future facility. This may also include violations of issued permits, instances where an unauthorized use of District property is conferring a material and quantifiable financial benefit on the user, and situations where the unauthorized use has or may result in adverse public opinion. Examples include: dumping, improperly constructed or failed outfalls that show evidence of erosion, fences or minor retaining walls below top of bank, minor grading or filling, deliberate obvious encroachments on District fee title property.*
- I-EL-6.5.c.iii. Priority 3 – This is an intermediate type of violation that is either a Priority 4 type violation of a more egregious nature or Priority 2 type violation of a less significant nature. An example is an improperly constructed outfall that shows no sign of erosion, discharges suspected from pools or spas where no evidence of damage is observed, removal of native vegetation that could affect habitat, and blocking District access.*
- I-EL-6.5.c.iv. Priority 4 – This covers activities where the responsible party (RP) did not obtain a permit in advance of the activity, but it does not pose any potential threat to public or environmental health and safety or affect District operations or maintenance. Examples include: temporary trespassing, replacement of a fence, landscaping on easement where District approval and permit is required, and removal of a minimal amount of vegetation.*

### 6.6. Maintain adequate insurance.

- I-EL-6.6.a. Maintain property insurance for occupied buildings and contents to at least the value of probable maximum loss, excluding any insurance for the value of non-occupied facilities such as pipelines, dams, canals, reservoirs and the like, and excluding any insurance for the value of vehicles.*
- I-EL-6.6.b. Maintain District Self-Insured Risk Retention for liability with appropriate insurance reserves funding at a level of 90 percent actuarial confidence and a policy or policies of insurance for not less than \$40 million excess coverage for Commercial General Liability. However, in the event that losses are paid from this reserve fund during a fiscal year, the fund balance may drop to a level representing 80 percent actuarial confidence, to be replenished in the next fiscal year.*

# BAO Interpretations

## of the Board's Governance Policies

**Title:** Communication and Support to the Board

**Category:** BAO Interpretations

**Interpretation of  
Policy No. EL-7**

**CEO Approval: July 13, 2006**

**Date of Latest Revision: July 28, 2014**

7.1. Inform the Board of relevant trends, anticipated adverse media coverage, or material external and internal changes, particularly changes in the assumptions upon which any Board policy has previously been established.

*I-EL-7.1.a. Provide the Board with timely information, including the following: daily media updates, weekly CEO reports, and Board agendas.*

7.3. Inform the Board of the intent to undertake negotiation of any imported water management agreement connected with proposed land development or involving a private or non-governmental party, and keep the Board informed of imported water management activities on an ongoing basis.

*I-EL-7.3.a. Provide at least quarterly updates to the Board on imported water management activities, including forecasts of water transfers or other imported water management agreements, and provide confirmation of executed agreements within one month of completion.*

7.4. Marshal for the Board as many employee and external points of view, issues, and options as needed for fully informed Board choices.

*I-EL-7.4.a. Notify public of Board meetings, workshops, and committees.*

7.5. Deal with the Board as a whole except when (a) fulfilling informal or oral individual requests for information or (b) responding to officers or committees duly charged by the Board. Responses to formal "Board Member Requests" should be given to the entire Board.

*I-EL-7.5.a. Capture all requests, including briefings, from Board members as individual or formal Board member requests and report back to the Board in weekly CEO Bulletins weekly. Information that is available on the District's website will not be re-distributed.*

7.6. Report in a timely manner an actual or anticipated noncompliance with any policy of the Board.

*I-EL-7.6.a. Based on the urgency of an actual or anticipated non-compliance with any policy of the Board, the CEO will notify the Board at the next Board meeting.*

*I-EL-7.6.b. Reporting shall consist of at least one of the following methods, based upon the CEO's determination of the level of urgency:*

*I-EL-7.6.b.i. Direct Verbal Report at a Board meeting by the CEO or authorized designee*

*I-EL-7.6.b.ii. CEO Bulletin*

*I-EL-7.6.b.iii. Non-Agenda Packet*

*I-EL-7.6.b.iv. Board Fax Alert by the CEO or authorized designee*

# BAO Interpretations

## of the Board's Governance Policies

*I-EL-7.6.b.v. Telephone Call by the CEO or authorized designee*

7.7. Supply for the consent agenda all items delegated to the BAOs yet required by law or contract to be Board-approved.

*I-EL-7.7.a. CEO will establish a process to identify all delegated items that are legally required to be Board-approved are on the consent agenda.*

7.9. Respond to individual Board member requests and Board requests within 30 calendar days, except as follows:

7.9.1. For Board member and Board requests for information, a BAO shall respond within 30 calendar days of the initial Board member request. In the event that the responsible BAO determines that a Board request will require more than 30 calendar days to complete, the BAO shall inform the Board within 30 calendar days of receiving the request. Upon making this notification, the BAO shall also specify the expected completion date for the request.

7.9.2. For Board member requests determined by a BAO to be non-routine and require redirection of employees to the detriment of their normally assigned duties, the BAO shall agendaize that request and report to the Board that fulfilling the request will require substantive work and request directions from the Board on whether to proceed with fulfilling the request.

*I-EL-7.9.a. Individual Board Member Requests (IBMR) are recorded as an IBMR and employees respond within 30 calendar days of receiving the request.*

*I-EL-7.9.b. For requests for information that is readily available, the information is provided directly to the Board. For requests that require "substantive" work, the request must go to the full Board for direction. Board member requests are considered to require "substantive" work when:*

*I-EL-7.9.b.i. Request requires more than 4 hours of employee time to complete per request, and/or*

*I-EL-7.9.b.ii. Individual request includes materials and supplies above \$50 and are not already a budgeted expense.*

# BAO Interpretations

## of the Board's Governance Policies

7.10. Make available to the public agendas and employee reports, if available, containing recommendations about any item on the agenda of a regular public meeting of the Board, or of a public hearing conducted by the Board, or of a Board Standing or Ad Hoc committee, no later than 10 days prior to the date of such a meeting or hearing except for the following reports, which shall be made available as soon as possible

*I-EL-7.10.a. Maintain instructions to ensure public agendas are made available within policy deadlines.*