



**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA
TRABUCO CANYON WATER DISTRICT
32003 DOVE CANYON DRIVE, TRABUCO CANYON, CA
ADMINISTRATIVE FACILITY, CONFERENCE ROOM
APRIL 6, 2022 AT 5:00 PM**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Stephen Dopudja, Committee Chair
Don Chadd, Committee Member

DISTRICT STAFF

Fernando Paludi, General Manager
Michael Perea, District Secretary

AGENDA NOTE:

Trabuco Canyon Water District (District) will make this meeting available by telephone audio as follows:

Telephone Audio: 1 (669) 900-6833

Access Code: 979 8688 5071

Persons desiring to monitor the Committee meeting agenda items may download the Executive Committee meeting agenda and documents on the internet at www.tcwd.ca.gov. You may submit public comments by email to the Committee at mperea@tcwd.ca.gov. In order to be part of the record, emailed comments on meeting agenda items must be received by the District, at the referenced e-mail address, not later than 10:00 a.m. (PDT) on the day of the meeting.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

VISITOR PARTICIPATION

Members of the public wishing to address the Committee regarding a particular item on the agenda are requested to complete a speaker card and submit it to staff. The Committee Chair will call on the visitor following the Committee's discussion about the matter. Committees do not constitute a quorum of the Board of Directors and Committee Members cannot make decisions on matters. The Committee makes recommendations only to the Board of Directors. Members of the public will be given the opportunity to speak to the Committee prior to making a recommendation on the matter. For persons desiring to make verbal comments and utilizing a translator to present their comments into English reasonable time accommodations, consistent with State law, shall be provided. Please limit comments to three minutes.

ORAL COMMUNICATION

Members of the public who wish to make comment on matters not appearing on the agenda are invited to identify themselves and encouraged to make comment at this time. The Committee Chair will call on the visitor following the Committee's discussion about the matter. Committees do not constitute a quorum of the Board of Directors and Committee Members cannot make decision on matters. The Committee makes recommendations only to the Board of Directors. Under the requirements of State Law, Committee Members cannot take action on items not identified on the agenda and will not make decisions on such matters. The Committee Chair may direct District Staff to follow up on issues as may be deemed appropriate. For persons desiring to make verbal comments and utilizing a translator to present their comments into English reasonable time accommodations, consistent with State law, shall be provided. Please limit comments to three minutes.

COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS

REPORT FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

**TRABUCO CANYON WATER DISTRICT
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA | APRIL 6, 2022**

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

ITEM 1: APPROVAL OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING RECAP

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Approve the following Executive Committee Meeting Recap and recommend that the Board receive and file the same (Consent Calendar):

1. February 7, 2022
2. March 14, 2022

ITEM 2: DISTRICT EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT POLICY AND PROCEDURES UPDATE

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Recommend the Board of Directors approve the proposed Expense Reimbursement Policy and Procedures Update and rescind the Expense Reimbursement Guidelines approved on January 17, 1996 (Action Calendar).

DISCUSSION MATTERS

ITEM 3: BOARD AGENDA PLANNING CALENDAR

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Committee to discuss information at the time of the Executive Committee Meeting and take action(s) as deemed appropriate.

OTHER MATTERS

ITEM 4: REPORTS OR COMMENTS FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER AND/OR STAFF

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Hear other matters from the General Manager and/or Staff.

ADJOURNMENT

AVAILABILITY OF AGENDA MATERIALS

Agenda exhibits and other writings that are disclosable public records distributed to all or a majority of the members of the Trabuco Canyon Water District Board of Directors in connection with a matter subject to discussion or consideration at an open meeting of the Board of Directors are available for public inspection at the District Administrative Facility, 32003 Dove Canyon Drive, Trabuco Canyon, California (District Facility). If such writings are distributed to members of the Board less than 72 hours prior to the meeting, they will be available in the lobby area of the District Facility at the same time as they are distributed, except that, if such writings are distributed immediately prior to or during the meeting, they will be available in the Boardroom at the District Facility.

COMPLIANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF CALIFORNIA GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54954.2

In compliance with California law and the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special disability-related modifications or accommodations, including auxiliary aids or services in order to participate in the meeting, or if you need the agenda provided in an alternative format, please contact the District Secretary at (949) 858-0277 at least 48 hours in advance of the scheduled meeting. Notification 48 hours prior to the meeting will assist the District in making reasonable arrangements to accommodate your request. The District office is wheelchair accessible.

www.tcwd.ca.gov



**TRABUCO CANYON WATER DISTRICT
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING | APRIL 6, 2022**

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

ITEM 1: APPROVAL OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING RECAP

The Executive Committee Meeting Recap for the following meeting(s) is attached for Committee review.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Approve the following Executive Committee Meeting Recap and recommend that the Board receive and file the same (Consent Calendar):

1. *February 7, 2022*
2. *March 14, 2022*

CONTACTS (staff responsible): PALUDI/PEREA



TRABUCO CANYON WATER DISTRICT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING RECAP | FEBRUARY 7, 2022

DIRECTORS PRESENT

Vice President Stephen Dopudja, Committee Chair
President Don Chadd, Committee Member

STAFF PRESENT

Fernando Paludi, General Manager
Michael Perea, Assistant General Manager

PUBLIC PRESENT

There were no members of the public present

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Vice President Dopudja called the February 7, 2022 Executive Committee Meeting to order at 4:00 PM.

VISITOR PARTICIPATION

No visitor participation was received.

ORAL COMMUNICATION

No oral communication was received.

COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS

No comments were received.

REPORT FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

No comments were received.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

ITEM 1: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING RECAP

Mr. Paludi presented the Executive Committee Meeting Recap for Committee review in accordance with the agenda.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

The Committee recommended that the February 7, 2022 Executive Committee meeting recap be forwarded to the Board of Directors for approval (Consent Calendar).

DISCUSSION MATTERS

ITEM 2: BOARD AGENDA PLANNING CALENDAR

Mr. Paludi presented this matter for Committee consideration, and he provided a handout highlighting certain proposed Board agenda planning calendar updates including, but not limited to:

February 2022

Special Board Meeting

- Agenda review

**TRABUCO CANYON WATER DISTRICT
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING RECAP | FEBRUARY 7, 2022**

Regular Board Meeting

- Agenda review

March 2022

- Rate Study Consultant Contract Award
- District Treasurer’s Annual Statement of Investment Policy
- MWDOC Preliminary Budget & Rates
- Water Awareness Day Event Update
- Preliminary District Budget & Capital Improvement Project (CIP) Budget

April 2022

Special Board Meeting

- Rate Study Kick Off – Board Input
- TCWD Long Range Planning

Regular Board Meeting

- TCWD Preliminary FYE 2023 Operating and Capital Budgets
- MWDOC Preliminary Budget & Rates
- Water Awareness Day Event Update

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

There was no action taken.

OTHER MATTERS

ITEM 3: REPORTS OR COMMENTS FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER AND/OR STAFF

There was no other matters reported.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

None

ADJOURNMENT

Vice President Dopudja adjourned the February 7, 2022 Executive Committee Meeting at 4:37 PM.



TRABUCO CANYON WATER DISTRICT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING RECAP | MARCH 14, 2022

DIRECTORS PRESENT

Vice President Stephen Dopudja, Committee Chair
President Don Chadd, Committee Member

STAFF PRESENT

Fernando Paludi, General Manager
Michael Perea, Assistant General Manager

PUBLIC PRESENT

There were no members of the public present

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Vice President Dopudja called the March 14, 2022 Executive Committee Meeting to order at 4:35 PM.

VISITOR PARTICIPATION

No visitor participation was received.

ORAL COMMUNICATION

No oral communication was received.

COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS

No comments were received.

REPORT FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

No comments were received.

DISCUSSION MATTERS

ITEM 1: BOARD AGENDA PLANNING CALENDAR

Mr. Paludi presented this matter for Committee consideration, and he provided a handout highlighting certain proposed Board agenda planning calendar updates including, but not limited to:

March 2022

Regular Board Meeting

- Agenda Review
- OC LAFCO Call for Nominations

April 2022

Regular Board Meeting

- Presentation by Vicki Osborne – WEROC
- SOCWA Joint Powers Agreement Update
- Water Awareness Day Event Update
- Reimbursement Policy revisions

**TRABUCO CANYON WATER DISTRICT
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING RECAP | MARCH 14, 2022**

May 2022

Special Board Meeting

- Rate Study Kickoff – Board input
- TCWD Budget Workshop

Regular Board Meeting

- Harris Grade Reservoir Cost-Sharing Agreement
- MWDOC Budget & Rates
- OC LAFCO Appointment of Regular/Alternate Special District Seats

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

There was no action taken.

OTHER MATTERS

ITEM 2: REPORTS OR COMMENTS FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER AND/OR STAFF

There was no other matters reported.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

None

ADJOURNMENT

Vice President Dopudja adjourned the March 14, 2022 Executive Committee Meeting at 5:21 PM.

DRAFT

**TRABUCO CANYON WATER DISTRICT
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING | APRIL 6, 2022**

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

ITEM 2: DISTRICT EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT POLICY AND PROCEDURES UPDATE

Trabuco Canyon Water District (District) has a Code of Conduct & Expense Reimbursement Policy that was adopted by the Board of Directors on January 17, 1996. District staff has worked with General Counsel to review the existing policy for outdated practices and to ensure that the policy is consistent with current State law and Fair Political Practices Commission rules. After careful review of the policy, District staff and General Counsel determined that bifurcating the existing policy would better serve the District. Included for Committee consideration and review is a proposed Expense Reimbursement Policy and Procedures that has been prepared and reviewed by District staff and General Counsel.

Additionally, District staff is working with General Counsel to prepare an updated Ethics Policy that will address the need to update the Code of Conduct portion of the 1996 Policy. Additional information may be presented at the time of the meeting.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Recommend the Board of Directors approve the proposed Expense Reimbursement Policy and Procedures Update and rescind the Expense Reimbursement Guidelines approved on January 17, 1996 (Action Calendar).

EXHIBIT(S):

1. Code of Conduct & Expense Reimbursement Policy (1996)
2. DRAFT Expense Reimbursement Policy and Procedures

CONTACTS (staff responsible): PALUDI/PEREA

**TRABUCO CANYON WATER DISTRICT
CODE OF CONDUCT AND
EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT GUIDELINES
BOARD APPROVED JANUARY 17, 1996**

The Board of Directors of the Trabuco Canyon Water District (“TCWD” or “District”) hereby establishes the following policy:

SECTION 1.0 GIFTS BY VENDORS, CONTRACTORS AND CONSULTANTS

- (a) The existing laws governing the acceptance and reporting of gifts are contained in the Fair Political Practices Act (Government Code, 82028 et. seq.).
- (b) The acceptance of plaques and commemorative mementos, of nominal value or of value only to the recipient, to the extent permitted by state law, is acceptable for all Directors and district employees, e.g., recognition pins, service awards, retirement mementos.

SECTION 1.1 ENTERTAINMENT FROM VENDORS, CONTRACTORS, AND CONSULTANTS

- (a) The acceptance of meals, travel, lodging and entertainment by vendors, contractors and consultants shall be reported on Form 730 filed annually by Directors and employees who are required to do so.

SECTION 1.2 VENDOR, CONTRACTOR, CONSULTANT REPORT OF GIFTS

- (a) By January 31st of each calendar year, all vendors, contractors and consultants of TCWD shall submit a summary of all gifts (including meals) made to, or on behalf of, employees or Directors of the District that have occurred in the normal course of business during the previous calendar year. Failure to provide this information to the District may result in the termination of services of the vendor, contractor or consultant.

SECTION 1.3 OUTSIDE CONSULTING/BUSINESS ACTIVITY BY DISTRICT EMPLOYEES AND DIRECTORS

- (a) District employees and Directors are prohibited from entering into consulting agreements or conducting work for consideration with any vendor, landowner, or consulting firm currently under contract with the District. Any outside consulting to be performed by the General Manager must receive pre-approval by the Board of Directors. District employees shall follow the guidelines as established in the current Board approved Personnel and Salary Policy.
- (b) All other business associations with vendors, contractors, consultants and District landowners shall be subject to disclosure on the annual “Statement of Economic Interest” Form 730 filed annually by each Director and District employees who are required to do so.

SECTION 1.4 VENDOR, CONTRACTOR AND CONSULTANT EMPLOYMENT OF DEPENDENTS OF DISTRICT EMPLOYEES

- (a) It is expressly forbidden for vendors, contractors and consultants of TCWD to employ dependents, as defined within the current Board approved Personnel and Salary Policy, of TCWD employees.
- (b) It is expressly forbidden for employees of TCWD to solicit jobs for immediate family or immediate relatives with vendors, contractors and consultants of TCWD.

SECTION 2.0 TRAVEL, EXPENSES WHILE TRAVELING

The following limits and guidelines shall apply to identified expense categories and items. Exceptions to these limits and items may be authorized by the District's Board of Directors only. This policy, its categories, limits and items shall be reviewed and approved annually by the Board of Directors. Amendments and/or adjustments in dollar values specified shall be included in the review and supported by the appropriate findings. All District travel shall be for the express purpose of performing tasks related to District business.

SECTION 2.1 TRAVEL AUTHORIZATION

All business travel shall be specified and justified by the appropriate supervisory personnel. The District Treasurer shall countersign all travel authorizations. All travel arrangements, including air transportation, hotel and rental car reservations, must be made through District-approved providers. The Administrative Assistant is designated as the person responsible for coordinating all travel arrangements. The Administrative Assistant will advise which carriers, travel agents, car rental company, etc. are to be used. Each provider has been instructed to secure air transportation and hotel accommodations at the lowest reasonable fares and rates. All reasonable attempts shall be made to take advantage of promotional air, hotel and ground transportation rates.

SECTION 2.3 AIR TRANSPORTATION

- (a) Cost saving opportunities are enhanced by providing general departure and arrival times, rather than specifying certain carriers and flight numbers. Significant savings are realized by planning in advance. TCWD employees *and* Directors are expected to exercise good business judgment and planning to avoid last minute ticket purchases which are most costly. Providers are instructed to provide the least expensive airline alternative.
- (b) All domestic air travel must be coach (upgrades will be paid personally). Changes to previously approved travel arrangements, while en-route, should not be taken for personal convenience purposes if it increases the cost of the flight.

- (c) Personal travel included within the itinerary of a business trip, which include additional costs, will be paid by the employee or Director.

SECTION 2.4 TICKETING PROCEDURES

- (a) Directors and employees will hold off on receiving tickets until as late as practical due to the possibility of changes or cancellations in travel plans or scheduled meetings. Changes enroute, if necessary, should be made with the travel agency office during their normal operation hours.
- (b) Unused Tickets: In the event a trip is canceled or changed and the traveler is in the possession of unused tickets, he/she is responsible for returning them to the Administrative Assistant for return to the travel agent. A photocopy of returned tickets must be kept for the traveler's records. Unused airline tickets should never be attached to the expense report.
- (c) Canceled prepaid arrangements should be reported to the District immediately so they can obtain authority to process a refund.
- (d) Lost Tickets: Lost tickets must be reported immediately so that the District can process the appropriate lost ticket application.

SECTION 2.5 LODGING

- (a) The District has requested that its designated travel agent select moderately priced facilities in reasonable proximity to the office or location where the traveler's business is being performed. Receipts for lodging must accompany the report of expenses.
- (b) When corporate rates have been negotiated locally with specific hotel properties, these hotels must be used.
- (c) All hotel rooms will be guaranteed for late arrival. In this case, if the traveler does not show up, the District will be charged for the room. Therefore, it is mandatory for the traveler to notify the travel agent or the hotel, if their itinerary changes, and a room needs to be canceled. No lodging expenses in Orange County shall be reimbursed unless specifically approved by the Board of Directors.

SECTION 2.6 AUTOMOBILE RENTAL

- (a) Rental cars should be used only when less expensive transportation is not available. Approved District travel providers shall use their best efforts to secure the most cost effective rental rates on compact and mid-size vehicles. The cost of the rental will not be reimbursed for weekend or holiday travel unless the car is required and used for District business during this time.
- (b) Do not obtain additional insurance when renting cars. Employees are covered for car rentals by existing District insurance policies, as long as the rental is being made for business purposes.

- (c) Traveling personnel must use their best efforts to fill up with fuel before returning the rental as gasoline charges from rental companies are excessive. Non compliance must be explained on the expense report.
- (d) Fines for parking or speeding violations are not reimbursable.
- (e) In the event of any accident, a police report must be obtained. The employee or Director must notify the District by telephone immediately. If the accident occurs after normal business hours, the employee or Director shall notify the District at the beginning of the next work day. Follow the accident instructions listed in the rental car company's rental agreement/receipt.
- (f) Employees driving rental vehicles on District business are bound by the same rules prohibiting alcohol consumption during working hours. Driving a rental vehicle while under the influence of alcohol or drugs will result in immediate disciplinary action, up to and including termination.

SECTION 2.7 MEALS

- (a) Actual costs of meals, plus associated tips are reimbursable. Receipts of all meals expenses must be submitted with the business purpose clearly stated. The reimbursable limit for all meals will not exceed \$50.00 per day, per Director or employee.
- (b) It is expressly stated that the District will not reimburse for alcoholic beverages consumed.
- (c) The daily meal limit is the amount that can be reimbursed. Any amount above prescribed limits will be the responsibility of the employee.

SECTION 2.8 PERSONAL EXPENSES

- (a) Personal expenses are not authorized and are not reimbursable by the District. Personal expenses are defined as those expenses not essential to the conducting of District business. Examples of such items are personal entertainment (theaters, nightclubs, sporting events, golf games, haircuts, shoe shines, newspapers, magazines, tobacco, etc.).

SECTION 2.9 TELEPHONE EXPENSES

- (a) TCWD business-related telephone calls will be reimbursed.

SECTION 2.10 LAUNDRY OR VALET SERVICE

- (a) The reasonable actual costs of such services are allowable when the travel exceeds five business days. On shorter trips, laundry or valet service will be allowed only in unusual circumstances.

SECTION 2.11 TIPS

- (a) Non-meal tips will be allowed if they are reasonable and directly related with the travel. Normal non-business standards are a good guide to reasonability; 12-15% is typical in most instances.

SECTION 2.12 ADDITIONAL NIGHTS STAY

- (a) When the overall net cost savings to the District is the result of an employee or Director extending a business trip to utilize lower excursion rates for airfare, the employee or Director shall be reimbursed for additional expenses incurred due to the extension of the trip. The additional expenses eligible will be limited to the cost of an additional night's lodging and a reasonable allowance for one additional day(s) meal(s) as prescribed in Section 2.7.

SECTION 2.13 TRAVEL REPORTING PROCEDURES

- (a) Travel Advances. Travel expense advances, not to exceed \$200.00, will be allowed upon pre-approval by the General Manager and the Treasurer.
- (b) Travel Authorization Request. Prior to any travel estimated to exceed \$50.00, travel expenses must be itemized on a Authorization Request, a photocopy of which is attached hereto. The Authorization Request will then be forwarded to the Accounting Department with appropriate approvals. Appropriate approvals are the signatures of the Director, employee, employee's supervisor and the Treasurer.
- (c) Travel Expense Reports. All travel expenses exceeding \$50.00 must be itemized on the standard Expense Report, a photocopy of which is attached hereto, and forwarded to the Accounting Department with appropriate approvals and receipts. Appropriate approvals are the signatures of the employee's supervisor and the Treasurer. All original receipts must be included with the exception of non-meal gratuity which may not exceed \$5.00 per day.
- (d) It is not intended that an employee or Director incur any financial loss while on District business nor is it intended that he/she realize a financial gain. If an employee or Director incurs expenses which do not appear to be covered under this policy but which are believed to be charges to the District, the employee or Director should submit these charges on an expense report with a full explanation and supporting receipts. The District will not be responsible for interest payments or late charges that occur on credit cards. It is the employee's and Director's personal responsibility to submit an expense report and make the payments in a timely manner, within 30 days. The District will in turn make every effort to reimburse properly documented and approved expenses in a timely manner.
- (e) The Accounting Department will reimburse approved Expense Reports within seven business days. Check signatories are not authorized to sign reimbursement checks to themselves.

SECTION 3.0 PERSONAL AUTOMOBILE USE CRITERIA

- (a) An employee or Director who uses a personal vehicle for District business will be reimbursed for mileage at the rate allowable under the District's current Board approved Personnel and Salary Policy and consistent with the most current limit permitted by the Internal Revenue Service. Parking and toll charges will be reimbursed upon submission of receipts.
- (b) No additional allowance will be paid for passengers who travel with the employee or Director, even if they are on District business.
- (c) Damage to the employee's or Director's vehicle which occurs on District business is the responsibility of the employee or Director.
- (d) All employees who are to use their personal automobile for District use are responsible for carrying the required level of general liability coverage, as required by state law. No reimbursements shall be made unless this insurance criteria is in place. Proof of insurance is required and must be kept on file with the District.

SECTION 4.0 FUELING OF VEHICLES

- (a) All District vehicles shall be fueled at a service station(s) on a monthly account established by TCWD. Purchases charged at the service station(s) shall be limited to fuel and oil.
- (b) The District shall designate, in writing, those vehicles which may be fueled or for which oil may be purchased on the District account.
- (c) At the time of the purchase the employee shall provide the license plate number of the vehicle, the vehicle mileage at the time of purchase, show identification as a designated purchaser, and provide a signature.

SECTION 5.0 USE OF DISTRICT VEHICLES

- (a) The General Manager, Sanitation Superintendent and Water Superintendent shall be provided with a district vehicle, for business purposes only, to include driving to and from the workplace. The vehicles shall be maintained in proper operating order by the District.
- (b) Standby duty personnel shall have use of a District vehicle during standby duty. The use of the vehicle shall be strictly limited to business use. Any abuse of the limitation will result in the elimination of standby duty.

SECTION 6.0 DISTRICT-ISSUED CREDIT CARDS

- (a) District credit cards shall not be issued.

SECTION 7.0 DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS FOR NON-COMPLIANCE

- (a) Intentional non-compliance with the District's Code of Conduct and Expense Reimbursement Guidelines by District employees shall subject the employee to disciplinary actions commensurate with the code violation, up to and including termination. Inadvertent non-compliance will be taken under consideration by a review committee comprised of the Budget/Personnel Review Committee and the General Manager.
- (b) The Code of Conduct and Expense Reimbursement Guidelines shall be reviewed annually by the District's Board of Directors and amended when appropriate. Amendments shall require majority consent of the Board.

attachments(2)

**TRABUCO CANYON WATER DISTRICT
CODE OF CONDUCT AND
EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT GUIDELINES
BOARD APPROVED JANUARY 17, 1996**

**REVISION TO SECTION 5.0
BOARD APPROVED JANUARY 21, 2004**

SECTION 5.0 VEHICLE ACCOUNTABILITY POLICY

- (a) The General Manager shall be provided with a District vehicle, for business purposes only, to include driving to and from the workplace. Pursuant to the Internal Revenue Code, applicable taxes will be withheld on an annual basis, as required. The vehicles shall be maintained in proper operating order by the District.
- (b) The Assistant General Manager shall be provided with a District-owned or leased vehicle, for business purposes only, to include driving to and from the workplace. Pursuant to the Internal Revenue Code, applicable taxes will be withheld on an annual basis, as required. The vehicle shall be maintained in proper operating order by the District.
- (c) At the discretion of the General Manager, the Wastewater System Chief Operator, Water System Chief Operator and Chief Mechanical Technologist may be provided with a District-owned or leased vehicle, for business purposes only, to include driving to and from the workplace. Pursuant to the Internal Revenue Code, applicable taxes will be withheld on an annual basis, as required. The vehicles shall be maintained in proper operating order by the District.
- (d) Standby duty personnel shall have use of a District vehicle during standby duty. The use of the vehicle shall be strictly limited to business use. Any abuse of the limitation will result in the elimination of standby duty. Pursuant to the Internal Revenue Code, no taxes will be withheld for standby duty personnel

**TRABUCO CANYON WATER DISTRICT
CODE OF CONDUCT AND
EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT GUIDELINES
REVISION TO SECTION 5.0
BOARD APPROVED JANUARY 21, 2004**

I HAVE READ, UNDERSTAND AND AGREE TO COMPLY WITH THE REVISION TO THE TRABUCO CANYON WATER DISTRICT CODE OF CONDUCT AND EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT GUIDELINES AS STATED HEREIN:

(Print Name)

(TCWD Position/Title)

(Signature) (Date)

cc: Employee Personnel File

Less Amount Advanced:

Room Deposit (_____)

Cash Advance (_____)

Balance Due To:

Individual(_____)

TCWD(_____)

Amount Paid _____

Date Paid _____

Received by _____

**TRABUCO CANYON WATER DISTRICT
EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT POLICY
BOARD APPROVED _____**

The Trabuco Canyon Water District (**District**) is obligated to ensure that expenditures made by the District are solely for public purposes. The District also is responsible to taxpayers and the public to be prudent and wise in making those expenditures. The purpose of this **Policy** is to govern and provide for a process by which a member of the District's Board of Directors or a District employee may seek reimbursement for expenses that they have incurred in the conduct of agency business.

This Policy is adopted pursuant to Government Code Section 53232.2, which provides that if a local agency reimburses members of its legislative body for actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of official duties, then the agency's governing board must adopt a written policy, in a public meeting, specifying the types of activities that qualify for reimbursement of expenses such as those related to travel, meals and lodging. District Board members and employees should ensure that their proposed expenses are reimbursable before incurring the expenses. Additional procedures are set forth in Attachment A, which may be amended from time to time by the General Manager in accordance with applicable laws and in furtherance of the purposes of this Policy.

SECTION 1. AUTHORIZED EXPENSES. Expenses incurred in connection with the following types of activities generally constitute authorized and reimbursable expenses, and do not need pre-expense approval of the Board, as long as the other requirements of this Policy and implementing procedures are met:

- (a) Communicating with representatives of regional, state and national governments on Board-adopted policy positions;
- (b) Attending conferences or educational seminars designed to improve the skills and knowledge of Board members or District employees, so long as the skills and knowledge relate to their position with the District;
- (c) Participating in regional, state and national organizations whose activities affect the District's interests;
- (d) Performing tasks related to District business;
- (e) All other expenses must be approved by the Board, in a public meeting, before the expense is incurred.

SECTION 2. EXPENSES NOT ELIGIBLE FOR REIMBURSEMENT. Expenses that are not eligible for reimbursement include:

- (a) The personal portion of any trip;
- (b) Political or charitable contributions;
- (c) Family expenses, including a partner's expenses when accompanying a Board member or an employee on District-related business, as well as child- or pet-related expenses;
- (d) Entertainment expenses, including theater, movies (either in-room or at the theater), sporting events (including gym, massage and/or golf-related expenses), or other cultural events;
- (e) Alcohol/personal hotel honor bar expenses;
- (f) Tips greater than 20 percent (unless automatically included in the bill);
- (g) Regular commuting costs and personal automobile expenses, including for vehicle maintenance and repairs, traffic and parking citations, insurance and gasoline;
- (h) Personal losses incurred while on District business; and
- (i) Visitor gym fees where the lodging includes free gym services.

Any questions regarding the propriety of a particular type of expense should be resolved by the approving authority before the expense is incurred.

SECTION 3. TRANSPORTATION. Board members and employees are encouraged to use public transit and carpool to the maximum extent possible when travelling on District business. If transportation is needed for Directors or employees to travel for District business other than in District vehicles, costs are eligible for reimbursement as follows:

- (a) Airfare: Airfares that are reasonable and economical (coach fare) are eligible for reimbursement. Ticket purchases should be made well in advance to take advantage of low fares when possible.
- (b) Automobile:
 - (1) Personal automobile mileage is reimbursed at Internal Revenue Service (IRS) rates in effect at the time of travel. Tolls are eligible for reimbursement, unless the charges are incurred as part of the Director or employee's normal commute to or from the District.
 - (2) An employee of the District, authorized to travel on District business by use of a privately-owned motor vehicle, shall be reimbursed for the actual miles traveled. Reimbursement for auto mileage shall not exceed the cost of coach airfare for the same trip when it would be less expensive to fly than drive.
- (c) Car Rental: Rental car costs and fees are authorized for reimbursement only when necessary and when other transportation is not feasible or car rental is more economical. Cars are to be reserved at a rate that does not exceed the standard-size car rate.
- (d) Taxis/Rideshare: Taxi/Rideshare fares and gratuity (of no more than 20%) will be reimbursed only when shuttle or public transportation is not practical.
- (e) Parking and Shuttles: Reasonable parking costs will be reimbursed. Long-term parking or shuttle service to and from the airport may be claimed as a miscellaneous expense for reimbursement.
- (f) Public Transit: Actual fares for public transit will be reimbursed.

SECTION 4. LODGING. Lodging costs are only reimbursable when Directors or personnel travel for purposes set forth in Section 1, above. Lodging expenses at the single-room rate will be reimbursed or paid for when travel on District business reasonably requires an overnight stay. If such lodging is in connection with a conference, training or other educational activity, lodging expenses must not exceed the group rate published by the conference sponsor or training provider for the event in question, if such rates are available at the time of booking. If the group rate or lodging is not available, reimbursement will be limited to within a reasonable percentage of the [U.S. General Services Administration \(GSA\) rate](#) at the time of travel.

SECTION 5. MEALS & INCIDENTAL EXPENSES. Meals and incidental expenses are reimbursable whenever Directors or personnel travel for purposes set forth in Section 1, above, and as otherwise set forth below.

- (a) Business Meetings: Actual and reasonable costs of business meals and gratuities are allowed when representing the District, regardless of geographic location.
- (b) Conference, Seminar or Training: When Directors attend conferences, seminars and trainings for the District, reimbursements will be provided for the actual cost of meals, capped by the maximum established GSA for all meals, based on the locations of the events. Employees are entitled to reimbursement at the GSA rates for all meals not provided under conference, seminar and training registration fees.
- (c) Alcohol: The District will not pay for alcohol or hotel-room personal bar/honor bar expenses.
- (d) Other: Employees may be reimbursed for other meal costs under the following conditions:
 - (i) When the employee is performing emergency work and cannot leave the job during the normal meal period.
 - (ii) When an exempt employee is required to work outside of their normal work hours.
 - (iii) When a meal is purchased for non-District personnel performing a complimentary service for the District, e.g., serving on a District oral interview panel.
 - (iv) When provided during staff meetings, open houses and other District-sponsored obligatory meetings.

SECTION 6. REGISTRATION FEES

Registration fees for conferences or meetings will be reimbursed at actual cost.

SECTION 7. FAX/INTERNET

Board members and employees will be reimbursed for actual fax or internet connection expenses incurred for District business.

SECTION 8. LAUNDRY OR VALET SERVICE

The reasonable actual costs of laundry or valet services are allowable when the travel exceeds five business days. On shorter trips, laundry or valet service will be allowed only in unusual circumstances.

SECTION 9. REPORTS TO THE BOARD

When a Board member attends a conference, training, seminar or other event for which they seek reimbursement from the District, the Board member must submit a brief oral or written report at the next regular Board meeting. If multiple members attended, a joint report may be made.

SECTION 10. COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS

District Board members and employees should keep in mind that some expenditures may be subject to reporting under the Political Reform Act and other laws. All District expense reports, Travel Authorization Forms and accompanying documentation are public records subject to disclosure under the Public Records Act and other applicable laws.

SECTION 11. IMPLEMENTING PROCEDURES

The District and its Board members and employees must follow the procedures adopted to implement this Policy. The procedures may be revised by the General Manager in compliance with all laws and in furtherance of this Policy.

SECTION 12. DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS FOR NON-COMPLIANCE

Misuse of public resources or falsifying expense reports in violation of District Policy or procedures may result in any or all of the following:

- (a) Loss of reimbursement privileges;
- (b) Required restitution to the District;
- (c) The District reporting the expenses as income to State and Federal tax authorities;
- (d) Civil Penalties of up to \$1,000 per day and three-times the value of the resources used (Gov't Code §§53232.4 and 8314);
- (e) Prosecution for misuse of public resources;
- (f) For employees, discipline up to and including employee termination; and
- (g) For Board members, censure by the Board or such other measure as may be determined by the Board.

**ATTACHMENT A:
PROCEDURES IMPLEMENTING
TRABUCO CANYON WATER DISTRICT
EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT POLICY**

1. PURPOSE

These procedures implement the Trabuco Canyon Water District (**District**) Expense Reimbursement Policy (**Policy**). The procedures provide guidance for how the District will reimburse Board members and employees for authorized expenses incurred in the normal conduct of District Business. These procedures may be amended from time to time by the General Manager in accordance with applicable laws and in furtherance of the Policy.

2. AUTHORIZING AUTHORITIES

- a. Only the following individuals can authorize travel and approve expense report forms:
 - i. The Board for the Board of Directors and the General Manager;
 - ii. The General Manager for the Assistant General Manager; and
 - iii. The General Manager or Assistant General Manager for all other District employees. The General Manager has the discretion to approve employee expenses that occur under unusual circumstances when there is clearly a benefit to the District.
- b. Additionally, check signatories are not authorized to sign reimbursement checks to themselves. In the event that a finance audit committee member is being reimbursed, the alternative committee member must sign reimbursement checks.

3. TRAVEL AUTHORIZATION REQUEST

- a. Directors must obtain approval from the Board of Directors and employees must submit travel authorization forms to the General Manager and Assistant General Manager before District travel:
 - i. To attend any meeting, conference, training or other event involving overnight accommodations;
 - ii. Outside of the counties of Orange, Los Angeles, San Diego, San Bernardino or Riverside.
- b. The District Secretary or Assistant District Secretary will coordinate all travel arrangements, including air transportation, hotel and rental car reservations, through District-approved providers.

4. TRAVEL ADVANCES – EMPLOYEES ONLY

- a. From time to time, it may be necessary for an employee to request a cash advance to cover anticipated expenses while traveling or doing business on the District's behalf.
- b. Such requests must be submitted to the General Manager on an Expense Report Form. Completed Expense Report Forms must document that the expense in question met the requirements of the Policy.
- c. Overpayment on advances shall be repaid no later than seven calendar days after the subject purchase is made or the employee returns from the subject travel, unless an extension of time is provided by the General Manager.
- d. No employee will be permitted an advance if that employee has an outstanding expense report.

5. EXPENSE REPORTS

- a. Expense report forms must be submitted within 30 calendar days of an expense being incurred, and must include the following attachments:
 - i. Approved travel authorization forms, when relevant for reimbursement of travel costs;
 - ii. Original receipts showing the claimed expenses (e.g., restaurant receipts as opposed to credit card receipts or statements), except for employee meals being reimbursed at per diem rates in accordance with the Policy;

- iii. Names and positions of participating individuals, as well as a description of the purpose of the meeting, for reimbursement of meals for individuals in addition to the Director or employee submitting the request.
- iv. A copy of the Program or Agenda of the event(s) attended, when relevant;
- v. If a Director or employee does not attend a planned trip and nonrefundable expenses have been incurred for registration, lodging and/or travel, a written explanation of the reasons for non-attendance; and
- vi. When original receipts are required under these procedures, but have been lost, a duplicate receipt if available;
- vii. If neither an original nor duplicate receipt is available, or if a receipt is not available for a small expenditure (e.g., parking meters), a detailed explanation of the expenditure and explanation of which receipts are not available; and
- viii. Telephone bills identifying calls made on District business, when relevant.
- ix. It is the employee's and Director's personal responsibility to submit an expense report and make payments in a timely manner. The District will not be responsible for interest payments or late charges that occur on credit cards. The District will in turn make every effort to reimburse properly documented and approved expenses in a timely manner, typically within seven business days.
- b. It is not intended that an employee or Director incur any financial loss while on District business nor is it intended that they realize a financial gain. If an employee or Director incurs expenses which do not appear to be covered under the Policy but which are believed to be charges to the District, the employee or Director should submit these charges on an expense report with a full explanation and supporting receipts. The approving authority shall determine if the expenses were reasonable, given all the circumstances, and if so may approve the reimbursement of those expenses.

6. AUDITS OF EXPENSE REPORTS

All evidence of expenses and related documentation are subject to verification that they comply with the Policy and these Procedures.

**TRABUCO CANYON WATER DISTRICT
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING | APRIL 6, 2022**

DISCUSSION MATTERS

ITEM 3: BOARD AGENDA PLANNING CALENDAR

Information will be presented at the time of the meeting.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Committee to discuss information at the time of the Executive Committee Meeting and take action(s) as deemed appropriate.

CONTACTS (staff responsible): PALUDI/PEREA

**TRABUCO CANYON WATER DISTRICT
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING | APRIL 6, 2022**

OTHER MATTERS

ITEM 4: REPORTS OR COMMENTS FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER AND/OR STAFF

Other matters may have arisen after the posting of the agenda and will be brought forward for discussion and/or information at the time of the Executive Committee.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Hear other matters from the General Manager and/or Staff.