
California Special Districts Association

SAMPLE POLICY HANDBOOK

POLICY TITLE: Sustainability Business Goal

POLICY NUMBER: 9000

9000.1 Purpose of the Policy The primary purpose of this policy is to establish Sustainability as a guiding principle for planning and daily operations as well as a framework for longer term business decisions for the District. The Board of Directors of the [DISTRICT] recognizes and accepts its responsibility to support a sustainable community through plans, policies, and procedures that promote clean air and water, reduce energy consumption and air pollution, promote water use efficiency, the use of alternative energy sources, recycling and solid waste management, and to provide awareness in these areas to its employees, customers, and the community.

9000.2 Definition - Sustainability is defined as “meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.” (United Nations, 1987)

9000.3 It shall be the Policy of the District to consider the financial, environmental, and social benefits of business practices, to make decisions that are cost effective to ratepayers and responsive to the environment. To support this policy the District will, when practical and prudent, make best efforts to:

9000.3.1 Encourage and develop connections between environmental quality and operational efficiency.

9000.3.2 Include long term and cumulative impacts in decision making and work to protect environmental quality in our community.

9000.3.3 Ensure commitment to equity so environmental impacts and the costs of protecting the environment do not unfairly burden the District’s ratepayers.

9000.3.4 Ensure environmental quality and understand environmental linkages when decisions are made regarding project development and implementation, District owned facility use, transportation needs, energy use, water conservation, and air quality impacts.

9000.3.5 Use resources efficiently and, when possible, reduce demand for natural resources.

9000.3.6 Use cost effective measures to mitigate additional pollution through planned, proactive measures rather than only corrective action.

9000.3.7 Act locally to reduce adverse global impacts by supporting and implementing innovative programs that maintain and promote the District as a sustainable business.

9000.3.8 Purchase products and services based on long term environmental and operating costs and find ways to include environmental and social costs in short term prices. The District will purchase products that are durable, reusable, biodegradable, made of recycled materials, and are non-toxic.

9000.3.9 Educate customers and employees about the District's sustainable programs. Work with other entities, not directly related to water or other utilities, to implement Best Management Practices if opportunities exist and take advantage of community resources.

9000.3.10 Solicit customer input on actions and solutions. Encourage customer participation in District policy decisions. Encourage individuals and businesses to take responsibility for their actions that impact water, energy and the environment.

9000.4 Policy Review This Policy shall be reviewed at least biennially to incorporate changes in technology and business practices.