



**THREE VALLEYS**  
MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT

---

# EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'MHL', is positioned above the name of the General Manager/Chief Engineer.

Matthew H. Litchfield, P.E.  
General Manager/Chief Engineer



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. PURPOSE AND ADMINISTRATION .....	1
1.1 Equal Employment Opportunity .....	1
1.2 Merit and Fair Employment Principles .....	2
1.3 Application of Rules .....	2
1.4 Prior Rules.....	2
1.5 Severability of Provisions .....	2
2. ADMINISTRATION.....	2
2.1 General Manager .....	2
2.2 Chief Executive Officers.....	2
2.3 Human Resources Officer.....	3
2.4 Employment At Will .....	3
2.5 Classification & Reclassification Plan .....	3
3. FILLING VACANCIES .....	4
3.1 Recruitment Policy .....	4
3.2 Qualifications of Applicants.....	4
3.3 Selection.....	4
3.4 Examinations .....	4
3.5 Rehiring of Employees .....	6
3.6 Nepotism .....	6
4. SEPARATION, PROMOTION, AND INTRODUCTORY PERIOD.....	6
4.1 Separations.....	6
4.2 Layoff .....	7
4.3 Job Abandonment .....	7
4.4 Promotion.....	7
4.5 Promotional Introductory Period .....	7
4.6 Temporary Upgrades .....	7
4.7 Initial Appraisal Process.....	8
4.8 Return of District Property.....	8

4.9	Employee Reference Requests .....	8
5	<b>WORK RULES.....</b>	<b>8</b>
5.1	Participation in Work Action .....	8
5.2	Participation on Boycott.....	9
5.3	Outside Employment or Activities.....	9
5.4	Employee Dress and Conduct.....	9
5.5	Rest Periods.....	9
5.6	Accommodation for Nursing Mothers.....	10
5.7	Financial Affairs.....	10
5.8	Workplace Civility.....	10
5.9	Workplace Violence.....	10
5.10	Drug & Alcohol Use.....	11
5.11	Ethics.....	11
5.12	District Vehicle Policy.....	11
5.13	Visitors in the Workplace.....	11
5.14	Computer, Internet, Instant Messaging & E-Mail .....	12
5.15	Cell Phone Use.....	12
5.16	Electronic Devices .....	13
5.17	Social Media .....	13
5.18	Standards of Conduct .....	14
5.19	Cause for Disciplinary Action.....	16
6	<b>DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES .....</b>	<b>17</b>
6.1	Forms of Discipline.....	17
6.2	Types of Counseling, Reprimands and Discipline.....	17
6.3	Notice of Proposed Disciplinary Action.....	19
6.4	Limitations and Exclusions.....	19
6.5	Order of Disciplinary Action.....	19
6.6	Appeal Procedure .....	20
6.7	Hearing Procedure.....	20

7	EFFECTS OF DISMISSAL.....	23
7.1	Effect of Dismissal.....	23
8	RECORDS.....	23
8.1	Personnel Records.....	23
8.2	Change of Status Report.....	24
9.	SALARY ADJUSTMENTS.....	24
9.1	Determinations.....	24
9.2	Performance Evaluations and Merit Increases.....	24
9.3	Accelerated Merit Increases.....	25
9.4	Certification Pay Increases.....	25
10.	ATTENDANCE, HOURS, PAY PERIODS AND PREMIUM PAY.....	26
10.1	Attendance.....	26
10.2	Pay Periods and Procedure.....	26
10.3	Meal Periods.....	26
10.4	Work Week.....	26
10.5	Exempt Employees.....	27
10.6	Administrative Leave.....	27
10.7	Overtime.....	27
10.8	Flexible Work Schedules.....	27
10.9	Compensatory Time.....	27
10.10	On-Call Operators.....	27
10.11	Shift Differential Pay.....	28
10.12	Fatigue Pay and Adjusted Hours Worked.....	29
11.	HOLIDAYS, VACATION AND LEAVES.....	31
11.1	Holidays.....	31
11.2	Holiday Observance.....	31
11.3	Vacation Accrual.....	32
11.4	Use of Vacation Time.....	32
11.5	Vacation Buy Back.....	32

11.6	Universal Leave.....	32
11.7	Sick Leave Accrual.....	33
11.8	Use of Sick Leave.....	33
11.9	Sickness Verification.....	34
11.10	Notification of Supervisor.....	34
11.11	Bereavement Leave .....	34
11.12	Reproductive Leave .....	35
11.13	Funeral of Deceased Employee.....	35
11.14	Military Leave .....	35
11.15	Jury Duty Leave .....	36
11.16	Quarantine Leave.....	36
11.17	Time Off to Vote .....	36
11.18	Time Off for Training.....	37
11.19	School Activity Leave.....	37
11.20	School Appearance Leave.....	37
11.21	Crime or Abuse Victim’s Leave.....	37
11.22	Crime Victim’s Leave .....	38
11.23	Organ or Bone Marrow Leave.....	38
11.24	California Family Right Act (CFRA) .....	38
11.25	Pregnancy Disability Leave (PDL).....	41
11.26	Workers Compensation Leave .....	41
11.27	Wage Replacement During Leave .....	41
11.28	Leave of Absence.....	42
<u>11.29</u>	<u>Education Reimbursement Program</u> .....	<u>42</u>
11.30	Water Related Certification Fees.....	43
11.31	Safety Footwear Allowance .....	43
11.32	Return to Work Program.....	44
12.	TRAVEL ALLOWANCE.....	45
12.1	Lodging.....	45

12.2	Transportation .....	45
12.3	Airfare.....	45
12.4	Automobile.....	46
12.5	Meals .....	46
12.6	Compensation for Travel Time.....	46
13	COMPLAINT PROCEDURE – NON-DISCIPLINARY MATTERS .....	46
13.1	Purpose.....	46
13.2	Matters Subject to the Complaint Procedure .....	46
13.3	Limitations of Complaint Procedure.....	47
13.4	Confidentiality of Complaint Procedure.....	47
13.5	Informal Complaint Adjustment .....	47
13.6	Next Level of Authority .....	48
13.7	Formal Complaint Procedure .....	48
13.8	General Consideration .....	48
13.9	Alternative Dispute Resolution .....	48
14	WHISTLEBLOWER POLICY.....	49
15	HARASSMENT & DISCRIMINATION.....	49
16	PROTECTIONS AGAINST RETAILATION.....	52
17	OPEN DOOR POLICY.....	52
18	REASONABLE ACCOMODATION .....	53
19	EMPLOYER-EMPLOYEE RELATIONS.....	54

## 1. PURPOSE AND ADMINISTRATION

The purpose of the District's Employee Handbook ("Handbook") shall be to create a fair and uniform system of rights, incentives, and work rules for current and prospective employees. This manual applies to employees (collectively, "employee", "staff", "you", "they", "their") of Three Valleys Municipal Water District (collectively "TVWMD", "District" "we", "our").

This manual describes many rules, policies and procedures regarding employment at TVMWD. It is important that new and existing employees read and understand the material within this manual. Employees should contact the General Manager or Human Resources with any questions relating to the Handbook .

This Handbook is intended only to summarize and highlight the Handbook contents. No Handbook can anticipate every circumstance or question about personnel related issues and rules. TVMWD will address situations as we become aware of them, and we expect and encourage employees to bring to our attention any employment issues that need to be addressed. As circumstances change, the rules described in the manual may also change from time to time. TVMWD reserves the right to change, add to or discontinue any of the rules in this manual, as it deems appropriate.

### 1.1 Equal Employment Opportunity

TVMWD is an Equal Opportunity Employer. It is our policy to comply with all federal, state and local equal opportunity and non-discrimination laws. Our policy is to afford equal opportunity in all aspects of employment to all persons without discrimination on the basis of age (over 40), race, religion/creed (including religious dress and grooming practices), color, national origin, ancestry, gender/sex (including pregnancy, childbirth, breastfeeding and/or related medical conditions), sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression, medical conditions, marital status, genetic information, military and veterans status, disability (mental and physical including HIV/AIDS, cancer, and generic characteristics) and any other status protected by law, provided, however, that the District may make employment decisions on the basis of a bona fide occupational qualification when permitted by law. Continued employment of those employees covered by these principles shall be subject to satisfactory work performance and the needs of the District.

This policy applies to all areas of employment including recruitment, hiring, training, promotion, compensation, benefits, transfer, disciplinary action, and social and recreational programs. It is the responsibility of every manager and employee to conscientiously follow this policy. Any employee with questions or concerns about any type of discrimination in the workplace are encouraged to bring these issues to the attention of Human Resources. Employees can raise concerns and make reports without fear of reprisal or retaliation. Anyone found engaging in any type of unlawful discrimination will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination of employment.



## 1.2 Merit and Fair Employment Principles

The District maintains a merit system governing personnel action. Employment and promotion shall be based on merit and ability, free of personal or political considerations, and shall in no way be affected or influenced by the protected classes listed in section 1.1.

## 1.3 Application of Rules

The District's Handbook shall apply to all officers and employees in the service of the District, except: members of the Board of Directors; the General Manager; voluntary personnel; persons engaged under contract to supply expert, professional, technical, or any other services. *Sections 5.9 Workplace Violence, Section 5.10 Drug & Alcohol Policy, Section 5.11 Ethics, Section 5.16 Social Media, Section 15 Harassment, and Section 16 Protections Against Retaliation* shall apply to all officers, employees, voluntary personnel, members of the Board of Directors, contractors and consultants.

## 1.4 Prior Rules

These Rules shall supersede any and all District policies, rules, regulations and procedures previously adopted.

## 1.5 Severability of Provisions

If any section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase of this Handbook is found to be illegal, such findings shall not affect the validity of the remaining portion of the Handbooks.

In the event that any provision of this Handbook conflicts with an otherwise applicable federal or state legal requirement, the federal and/or state requirement shall govern and control.

## 2. ADMINISTRATION

### 2.1 General Manager

The General Manager has the authority to provide day-to-day supervision of employees, hire, fire, discipline, assign duties to, and direct the activities of all District employees. The General Manager also shall have the authority to establish District employee positions and job classifications, subject to review by the Board.

### 2.2 Chief Executive Officers

The Chief Executive Officers, reporting to the General Manager, shall act and supervise in

the absence of the General Manager.

### 2.3 Human Resources Officer

The Human Resources/Risk Manager, shall serve as the Human Resources Officer and shall perform, as necessary, the following duties and responsibilities:

- a. Administer the provisions of these rules, policies, and guidelines.
- b. Prepare revisions to and/or interpretation of these rules, policies, and guidelines.
- c. Provide for the recruitment, examination, evaluation and recommendation of persons to District employment.
- d. Prepare and revise, as necessary, a plan for a position classification system.
- e. Recommend to the General Manager the reclassification of positions for approval by the Board of Directors.

### 2.4 Employment At Will

All employees are hired on an "at will" basis, unless you are employed under a written contract stating otherwise. This means that you may resign at any time and that the District may terminate you at any time, with or without cause.

*Appendix A* contains an "at will" employment agreement. Employees are responsible for reading the agreement carefully, signing and returning a copy to the Human Resources Department.

### 2.5 Classification & Reclassification Plan

#### Full-Time Employee

Defined as employees who have successfully completed their initial appraisal period, unless otherwise stated. Full-time employees are assigned a definite work schedule of at least 30 hours per week and their employment is expected to continue for an indefinite period of time, subject to Section 2.4. Full-time employees are eligible for benefits as described in this Handbook. Full-time employees that work less than 40 hours per week, but 30 or more hours per week, will have benefits pro-rated according to the number of hours worked, in accordance with the policies and requirements of vendors.

#### Part-Time Employee

Defined as employees who have successfully completed their initial appraisal process,

unless otherwise stated. Part-time employees are assigned a work schedule of less than 30 hours per week and it is expected to continue for an indefinite period of time, subject to Section 2.4. Part-time employees may be eligible for sick leave, and holiday benefits as described later in this Handbook.

### **Temporary Employees**

Defined as an employee who is hired to perform a specific task or to be employed for a temporary period of time. Temporary employees are limited to six (6) months on the job for full time employment or 1,000 hours or 125 days in a fiscal year. They are not eligible for vacation and holiday benefits; however, are eligible for sick leave as described later in this Handbook.

### **Exempt/Non-Exempt Employee**

Employees whose jobs are governed by the FLSA are either "exempt" or "non-exempt." Non-exempt employees are entitled to overtime pay; Exempt employees are not. Most employees covered by the FLSA are non-exempt.

### **Reclassification Plan**

The Chief Administration Officer, in consultation with the Human Resources/Risk Manager, shall ascertain and record the duties and responsibilities of all positions and, after consulting with affected department heads, shall recommend a classification plan, including job descriptions, for such positions. The plan and any revisions thereof shall become effective upon approval by the General Manager.

Following the approval of the classification plan, the Chief Administration Officer shall allocate every position to one of the classifications established by the plan.

When a new position is created, such position may not be filled, until the classification plan has been amended to provide for the new position.

The Human Resources/Risk Manager may initiate a job audit to determine whether the duties of a position have changed to such an extent that they necessitate reclassification of the position from the existing classification to a more appropriate classification. Upon completion of the job audit, Human Resources shall make a recommendation regarding reclassification to the General Manager.

## **3. FILLING VACANCIES**

### **3.1 Recruitment Policy**

While recognizing the need for introduction of persons from outside District employment, the policy of the District is to transfer or promote persons already employed by the District when their qualifications, training, work performance, and experience are determined to be comparable to applicants from other sources.

Candidates must meet the minimum qualifications, and any specific parameters noted in the job announcement, in order to compete in a recruitment . Only those candidates that meet or exceed the minimum qualifications may be invited to participate in the interview and assessment process.

Applicants requesting reasonable accommodation should contact the District's Human Resources/Risk Manager.

### **3.2 Qualifications of Applicants**

Only those applicants who possess the desirable qualifications may be considered and advanced to the next step in the interview process. Candidates that meet the minimum qualifications and rank above the applicant pool cutoff will be invited to participate in the recruitment process.

A candidate/applicant may not rate, score, or otherwise influence their own assessment evaluation. Panel members who have a close personal relationship with a candidate should be recused and replaced with an alternate rater.

### **3.3 Selection**

When a vacancy occurs, the Department Head shall notify the General Manager. The General Manager shall then decide whether to fill the position or leave it vacant. The General Manager shall fill vacant positions by reinstatement, transfer, demotion, promotion, acting appointment, temporary appointment, emergency appointment, or regular appointment. All appointments shall be made in accordance with merit and fair employment principles.

### **3.4 Examinations**

Examinations shall be given to applicants and employees to determine the following:

- a. Physical and mental ability to perform the duties of their job, considering reasonable accommodation.
- b. Problems that could potentially interfere with or otherwise have an adverse impact on the ability to perform their job.
- c. Factors that would create an undue risk to persons or property or bring discredit upon

the District. Examinations may include physical ability, mental fitness, job skills, drug/alcohol screening, credit history, background check, criminal history and other tests permissible by law.

**3.5 Rehiring of Employees**

Employees who are rehired following a break in service in excess of one (1) year, other than an approved leave of absence, must serve another initial appraisal process, whether or not such a period was previously completed. Such employees are considered new employees from the effective date of their re-employment for all purposes, including the purposes of measuring benefits.

**3.6 Nepotism**

A closely related person of a District employee may be employed, unless such employment would cause problems with supervision, safety or morale. The District shall not place a person in a position where a conflict of interest could exist or where a relationship with an employee would create a problem that a non-related person would not encounter. For purposes of this Section, a closely related person shall be defined as any of the following:

Spouse	Adopted child	Stepfather	Stepson
Daughter	Grandmother	Stepmother	Father-in-law
Son	Grandfather	Stepbrother	Mother-in-law
Father	Granddaughter	Stepsister	Brother-in-law
Mother	Grandson	Daughter-in-law	Sister-in-law
Brother	Aunt	Son-in-law	Cousin
Sister	Uncle	Stepdaughter	

**4. SEPARATION, PROMOTION, AND INTRODUCTORY PERIOD**

**4.1 Separations**

Employees of the District are considered "at will" and shall be subject to the requirements of these policies with respect to the tenure of employment. An employee who has failed to satisfactorily meet the requirements of their position or has violated District work rules, policies or procedures, as detailed in Section 5, may be discharged according to the procedures set forth in Section 6.

## **4.2 Layoff**

An employee of the District may be laid off for reasons of economy, efficiency or other non-disciplinary purposes. All layoffs will be made at the discretion of the General Manager based on a combination of factors, including, but not limited to, qualifications, productivity, performance and seniority. As far as practical, the employee shall be given two (2) weeks' notice prior to a layoff. Employees provided with the two (2) weeks' notice period will be expected to continue fulfilling their position's roles and responsibilities throughout their notice period. The General Manager has the discretion to provide two (2) weeks' pay in lieu of a layoff notice.

## **4.3 Job Abandonment**

An employee is deemed to have resigned from their position if they are absent for three (3) consecutive scheduled work days/shifts without prior authorization and without notification during the period of the absence. The employee will be given written notice, at their address of record, of the circumstances of the job abandonment, and an opportunity to provide an explanation for the employee's unauthorized absence. An employee who promptly responds to the agency's written notice, within the timeframe set forth in the written notice, can arrange for an appointment with the General Manager before final action is taken, to explain the unauthorized absence and failure of notification. An employee separated for job abandonment will be reinstated upon proof of justification for such absence, such as severe accident, severe illness, false arrest, or mental or physical impairment which prevented notification. No employee separated for job abandonment has the right to a post-separation appeal.

## **4.4 Promotion**

Appointment to a vacant position in the shift rotation or to a job class that is compensated at a higher rate shall constitute a promotion. All promotions are subject to a new Initial Appraisal period of one year. New performance goals may also be issued at the time of the promotion. Consistent with merit and fair employment principles, when possible, vacancies should be filled by promotion from District personnel where qualified candidates exist.

## **4.5 Promotional Introductory Period**

In the event an employee does not satisfactorily complete the initial appraisal process for a promoted position, they may be reinstated to their previous position if a vacancy exists.

## **4.6 Temporary Upgrades**

As a result of a vacancy, leave of absence, or for other reasons, it may be necessary to

temporarily appoint an employee to a vacant higher-level classification to perform the duties of that position on an interim basis. When such assignments require the employee to assume significant additional duties for an extended time period, which are outside the scope of their regular assignment, it may be appropriate to adjust the employee's salary to reflect the interim changes. This policy allows the District to recognize those additional duties by authorizing acting appointments and corresponding pay increases while also adhering to Government Code section 20480.

#### **4.7 Initial Appraisal Process**

As part of the hiring process, your manager will conduct an initial appraisal within the first 30 days on the job. This appraisal will provide expectations, goals, and objectives to be completed according to timelines set for a particular position. The timelines are six (6) months for Chief Executive Officers and one (1) year for all other employees.. Following the timeframe noted above, the department manager will then conduct a formal Performance Appraisal.

This appraisal process is considered part of the hiring process.

In the event an employee does not satisfactorily complete the initial appraisal process for a promoted position, they may be reinstated to their previous position if a vacancy exists.

#### **4.8 Return of District Property**

All TVMWD property in the employee's possession must be returned prior to separation from employment, including keys, key fobs, identification cards, equipment, credit cards, gas cards, devices, and any other TVMWD equipment.

#### **4.9 Employee Reference Requests**

All requests for references must be directed to Human Resources. No other manager, supervisor, or employee is authorized to release references for current or former employees. TVMWD discloses only the dates of employment and the title of the last position held by former employees. If former or current employees authorize a disclosure in writing, TVMWD will also inform prospective employers or lenders of the amount of salary or wages.

### **5 WORK RULES**

#### **5.1 Participation in Work Action**

Participation by a District employee in a strike, work stoppage, or work slowdown shall

subject the employee to disciplinary action as permissible by State law. As used in this section, "strike, work stoppage, or slowdown" means the concerted failure to report for work, the willful absence from the workplace, the refusal to work, the stoppage of work being done by others, picketing or the abstinence in whole or part from the full and faithful performance of the duties of employment for the purpose of inducing, influencing, or coercing a change in the conditions to compensation, or the rights, privileges or obligations of employment. Picketing on an employee's own time, outside District property, on public property, is permitted.

## **5.2 Participation on Boycott**

While on duty, no employee shall support, instigate, or honor any boycott impressed on any company, agency, individual, or employer that has a business relationship with the District.

## **5.3 Outside Employment or Activities**

Employees shall not carry on, concurrent with their public service, any private business or undertaking which affects the time or quality of their District employment, or which casts discredit upon or creates embarrassment for the District, or which creates any conflict of interest whether or not reportable under the District's Conflict of Interest Rules. Outside employment may be allowed upon written authorization of the General Manager.

## **5.4 Employee Dress and Conduct**

Employees shall at all times dress and conduct themselves in such a manner as to reflect no discredit upon the District.

## **5.5 Rest Periods**

The U.S. Department of Labor states that rest periods promote the efficiency of an employee, are customarily paid for as working time and must be counted towards hours worked. However, certain California labor code sections regarding paid rest periods do not apply to public agencies and the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) does not require employers to allow rest periods (exemption from California IWC Orders: 1, 2, 4, 10, and 20). However, participation by employees in a daily rest period is encouraged by the District and should be taken at intervals that do not interfere with critical or time sensitive duties. A rest period of up to 15 minutes may be taken during each half of the regular work shift for full-time employees and once during the work shift for part-time, intern and apprentice employees working less than 8 hours in a workday.



## **5.6 Accommodation for Nursing Mothers**

The District will accommodate nursing mothers who wish to express breast milk while at work. TVMWD will provide a private area (other than a restroom) for expressing breast milk. Employees can use their regular rest breaks for this purpose. Employees who need a different time or additional time will be accommodated and should make arrangements with their supervisor. Regular rest break time used for expressing breast milk will be paid, but additional break time may be unpaid.

## **5.7 Financial Affairs**

Employees shall conduct their personal financial affairs in such a manner that creditors and collectors will not have to make use of the District offices, resources, or employee time for the purpose of collecting legal debts.

## **5.8 Workplace Civility**

Employees shall speak positively about the District and its employees in the course of performing daily tasks and functions.

## **5.9 Workplace Violence**

The safety and security of employees and visitors are very important to the District. Threats, threatening behavior, acts of violence, or any related conduct which disrupts another's work performance or the District's ability to execute its daily business will not be tolerated. Any person who makes threats, exhibits threatening behavior or engages in violent acts on District property may be removed from the premises pending the outcome of an investigation. Threats, threatening behavior, or other acts of violence off District property, but directed at District employees, members or the public while conducting business for the District, is a violation of this policy. Off-site threats include, but are not limited to, threats made via telephone, text, social media, fax, electronic or conventional mail, or any other communication medium. Violations of this policy will lead to disciplinary action that may include dismissal, arrest, and prosecution. In addition, if the source of such inappropriate behavior is a member of the public, the response may also include barring the person(s) from District property, termination of business relationships with that individual, and/or prosecution of the person(s). Employees are responsible for notifying the Human Resources Officer, or any other available manager, of any threats that they witness, receive or have been told that another person has witnessed or received. Employees should also report any behavior they witness which they regard as threatening or violent when that behavior is job related or might be carried out on District property or in connection with employment. Each employee who receives a protective or restraining order which lists the District premises as a protected area is required to provide Human Resources with a copy

of such order.

## 5.10 Drug & Alcohol Use

It is TVMWD's desire to promote a drug-free, healthy, and safe workplace. To promote this goal, employees are required to report to work in appropriate mental and physical condition to perform their jobs in a satisfactory manner. While on TVMWD premises and while conducting business-related activities of TVMWD, no employee may use, possess, distribute, sell, or be under the influence of alcohol and/or marijuana, and/or illegal drugs.

The legal use of prescribed drugs is permitted on the job only if it does not impair an employee's ability to perform the essential functions of the job effectively and in a safe manner that does not endanger the employee or other individuals in the workplace. Employees are required to notify Human Resources if they are taking any prescription drug that is likely to impair their performance. Violations of this policy may lead to disciplinary action, up to and including termination of employment, and/or required participation in a substance abuse rehabilitation or treatment program.

## 5.11 Ethics

The successful operation and reputation of TVMWD is built upon the principles of fair dealing and ethical conduct of our employees. Our reputation for integrity and excellence requires careful observance of all applicable laws and regulations, as well as maintaining the highest standards of conduct and personal integrity. TVMWD will comply with all applicable laws and regulations and conduct business in accordance with the intent of all relevant laws and to refrain from any illegal, dishonest, or unethical conduct.

## 5.12 District Vehicle Policy

All District owned vehicles are restricted to official District use and the following:

- District owned vehicles may carry only those District employees whose duties require the use of a motor vehicle, and such other persons whose business activities are important to District interests.
- All District employees authorized to use District owned or privately owned vehicles must possess a valid California driver's license.
- All District employees who have a District owned vehicle permanently assigned to them and/or District owned vehicles assigned for use within their department are responsible for ensuring that only those persons with a valid driver's license and on official District business are allowed the use of a District owned vehicle.

Personal use of District vehicles is expressly prohibited, with the following exceptions.

1. Employees on 24-hour call that are required to take a District vehicle home to

- respond to emergencies.
2. Employees who have a District owned vehicle permanently assigned to them for District business.

Employees may drive with immediate family members. In the event of an accident or injury, non-District employees may not be covered by the District's insurance. Therefore, in order to qualify for the exceptions, District employees wanting to drive with immediate family members must add at least a \$5,000 limit of Medical Payments coverage to their personal auto insurance. Proof of insurance must be submitted to Human Resources yearly.

### **5.13 Visitors in the Workplace**

All visitors must check-in at the Reception Desk and disclose the visitors' name, company, reason for visit, phone number, arrival time and departure time using the check-in form located at the reception desk. If an unauthorized or suspicious individual is observed on TVMWD's premises, employees should immediately notify their supervisor or, if necessary, direct the individual to the reception area.

### **5.14 Computer, Internet, Instant Messaging & E-Mail**

When using a District computer or other portable electronic devices to access the Internet, Instant Messaging and E-mail, employees shall conduct themselves professionally and appropriately in accordance with the Internet Acceptable Use Policy, Email Acceptable Use Policy and Password Policy detailed in the District's Policy Manual.

Users have no reasonable expectation of privacy regarding communications or data transiting, stored on or traveling to or from this network/system. Any communications or data transiting, stored on or traveling to or from this network/system will be monitored and may be disclosed to third parties, including other governmental entities, or used for any lawful government purpose

### **5.15 Cell Phone Use**

The District establishes guidelines for the use of employee-owned cellular telephone (cell phone) and service plans by employees of the District.

If the District determines that use of a cell phone is a necessary component of an employee's job function, the employee shall be provided a monthly allowance to use their personal cell phone to conduct District business. District shall continue to operate District-owned cell phones only for the on-duty operator and for maintenance/standby.

For more complete information on cell phone usage, please refer to the District's Cell Phone

Policy.

## 5.16 Electronic Devices

The District establishes guidelines for the employee use of district-owned devices and service plans provided by the District. Electronic devices include but are not limited to tablets, laptops, workstations, and smartphones.

If the District determines that use of devices is a necessary component of an employee's job function, the employee shall be provided with a device to conduct District business.

For more complete information on device usage, please refer to the District's Device Policy (*See Appendix C – Policy Manual*).

## 5.17 Social Media

The Internet has become an accessible and powerful means of public communication, including through Social Media. Social Media as used in this policy includes e-mail, chat rooms, websites, blogs, and wikis (whether maintained by the employee or by a third party), and social networking sites including but not limited to Facebook, X (formally Twitter), LinkedIn and others. TVMWD respects the right of employees to use these vehicles of self-expression and communication.

TVMWD expects and insists, however, that our employees' use of Social Media be confined to non-work time and to employees' own electronic equipment. We do not permit employees to use Social Media during work time or on Company equipment. We also expect and insist that employees' use of Social Media does not damage TVMWD, its customers or the working environment. Employees should observe the following guidelines to ensure that their public activities on Social Media do not conflict with their responsibilities to TVMWD.

First and foremost, be thoughtful and exercise good judgment in how you present yourself online. If you identify yourself as a TVMWD employee or your affiliation with TVMWD is well known, what you say could have an impact on TVMWD, our employees and customers. Be aware that posting inappropriate information or content on Social Media potentially brings disrepute either to TVMWD or to you in your capacity as a TVMWD employee. Because Social Media typically is public space, we request that you be respectful to TVMWD, our employees, supervisors, General Manager, Board of Directors, customers, partners and affiliates.

Our strong preference is that you do not discuss TVMWD or TVMWD-related matters in any Social Media. However, if you choose to do so, note the following:

- Employees who choose to identify themselves as a TVMWD employee in Social Media, you are expected to also make clear to your readers that the views you express do not necessarily reflect the views of TVMWD, by posting a disclaimer in a prominent place (e.g., “The views expressed are mine alone and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Three Valleys Municipal Water District.”)
- Employees may not disparage TVMWD.
- Respect your audience and your coworkers. If you have disagreements or problems with TVMWD your fellow employees, supervisors, General Manager, Board of Directors, customers, partners, or vendors, you are prohibited from engaging in personal attacks.
- If you are unsure whether it is appropriate to post certain information, please check with a member of the Management Team or Human Resources.

When using Social Media, use good judgment. Be aware that there may be consequences to what you post or publish online. These consequences may include discipline up to and including termination of employment if the conduct violates TVWMD rules or policies, or if TVMWD determines that the posting or publication is not legally protected and harms (or has the potential to harm) TVMWD interests and obligations.

## 5.18 Standards of Conduct

The following examples are given in order to provide some guidance concerning unacceptable behavior. If the District chooses to discipline an employee who engages in unacceptable behavior, the employee may be subject to corrective action up to and including possible termination. Please note that it is impossible to provide an exhaustive list of behaviors that are not acceptable. The following is therefore intended to simply provide some examples:

- a. Unsatisfactory job performance and/or inefficiency.
- b. Using abusive or vulgar language or causing disruption to the workplace or to fellow employees or visitor.
- c. Unavailability for work, i.e. absenteeism or tardiness.
- d. Misuse of District monies.
- e. Conducting non-business activities during working hours.
- f. Any action indicating a disrespect or disregard for the District, its vendors or member agencies.
- g. Release of confidential information about the District or its members.
- h. Possessing or bringing open containers of alcohol, marijuana, illegal drugs or chemicals on or to the District’s property.

- i. Unauthorized possession or removal of property, records, or other materials that belong to the District.
- j. Theft
- k. Smoking of tobacco products and electronic cigarettes in restricted areas, subject to Government Code 7596, 7597 & 7598.
- l. Leaving District property without supervisor approval prior to the end of a scheduled workday.
- m. Sexual harassment, discrimination, or other unlawful harassment of another employee (see Section 15).
- n. Giving false or misleading information during the application and/or selection process.
- o. Willful failure to report to a supervisor any significant omissions, errors or mistakes or accidental damage affecting work assignment, property or equipment.
- p. Unauthorized opening of, or tampering with, locks in desks, doors, cabinets, etc., or unauthorized use of or duplication of keys.
- p. Threatening or intimidating other employees or supervisors.
- q. Behavior unbecoming of a District employee; that behavior or action which would adversely prejudice public opinion of the District.
- r. Failure to immediately report the loss of a California drivers' license due to suspension, withdrawal, forfeiture or confiscation by any court of law or by the California Division of Motor Vehicles. Further, employees are responsible for all tickets received when driving a District or personal vehicle. This rule applies to all employees of the District.
- s. Installing unauthorized software on the District's computer system.
- t. Misuse of electronic systems (email, internet, fax, telephones, cellular phones, iPads).
- u. Inability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with co-workers and those contacted during the course of work.
- v. Violation of any department rules, TVMWD policies or regulations, ordinances or resolutions.
- w. Making any false representation or statement or making any omission of a material fact.
- x. Dishonesty

Since all employees are "at will", the employment relationship may be terminated at any time by either the District or the employee with or without cause.

## 5.19 Cause for Disciplinary Action

The following is a non-exclusive list of conduct which is declared to be cause for disciplinary action against an employee, up to and including oral or written warnings and/or reprimands, suspension, demotion, or dismissal from employment with the District, although charges may also be based upon causes other than those identified below:

- a. Making excessive non-emergency personal calls during working hours interfering with productivity. Failure to immediately report an accident or injury occurring on the District premises, or involving District equipment, or giving false information in accident or insurance reports.
- b. Failure to maintain equipment assigned to the employee.
- c. Failure to immediately report breakdowns or unsafe operation of equipment or facilities.
- d. Failure to perform assigned tasks that are within the scope of the employee's position in a professional manner without undue waste or delay.
- e. Intentionally placing the District in a position of liability for damages or injury to another person or their property.
- f. Unauthorized binding of the District to a contract.
- g. Failure to maintain a positive working attitude in the daily course of District business.
- h. Use of intoxicants, narcotics, hallucinatory drugs or non-prescribed stimulating or depressing drugs, or being under the influence thereof while on duty. Employees suspected of being under the influence of any of the above will be required to undergo a medical evaluation at District expense to prove or disprove suspicion.
- i. Any form of insubordination or refusal to take direction from supervisors, including refusal to perform assigned tasks for any reason other than personal safety.
- j. Theft or misappropriation of any property of the District or its employees.
- k. Careless, negligent or intentional mishandling of any District property, records, vehicles, materials or equipment.
- l. Careless, negligent, abusive or other actions that endanger or threaten to endanger an employee or the public.
- m. Falsifying work records or the practice of fraud of any type.
- n. Leaving the job during duty hours without approval of supervisor.
- o. Violation of safety rules, procedures and regulations.
- p. Becoming uninsurable by standards of the District's insurance carrier for any reason.
- q. Sleeping on the job or repeatedly reporting to work later than the assigned hour, after having been duly warned.

- r. Unlawful possession of firearms or illegal weapons while on District property.
- s. Conviction of a felony, or misdemeanor involving moral turpitude, and incarceration for more than thirty (30) days.
- t. Unsatisfactory work performance.
- u. Discourteous treatment of the public or fellow employees, or other conduct unbecoming an officer or employee of the District.
- v. Unexcused and/or repeated tardiness or absenteeism.
- w. Insubordination or failure to comply with instructions.
- x. Any action which is inconsistent with, in violation of, or not in compliance with, this Handbook or any other rules, policies, practices, or regulations adopted by the District.

## 6 DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

### 6.1 Forms of Discipline

Employees may be subject to discipline in accordance with the provisions set forth in this Handbook. The General Manager has the authority to deviate from the discipline procedure and terminate an employee at his/her discretion.

Employees in the Initial Appraisal Process may be disciplined, warned, reprimanded, dismissed, demoted, reduced in salary , or suspended without cause, prior notice, right of review, or appeal, at the discretion of the General Manager. An employee may be demoted, reduced in salary , suspended, or dismissed in accordance with these procedures. An employee who receives an oral or written warning or reprimand may file a response thereto but shall have no further right of appeal.

### 6.2 Types of Counseling, Reprimands and Discipline

The following are types of counseling, reprimands and discipline which TVMWD may impose:

- Counseling Memo: A counseling memo will be provided to an employee to identify: a failure of appropriate conduct or performance issue; the performance the employee is to demonstrate in the future; and consequences for failure to correct the behavior or problem. A counseling memo will be retained in the supervisor's file until the completion of the evaluation year, and then documented in the performance evaluation, as the supervisor deems necessary. A counseling memo is not subject to the discipline or discipline appeal procedures described below.



- Verbal Reprimand: A verbal reprimand is a verbal direction from a supervisory employee to discontinue inappropriate conduct or to correct a performance issue. A verbal reprimand will be documented in writing and retained in the supervisor's file until the completion of the evaluation year and then documented in the performance evaluation, as the supervisor deems necessary. A verbal reprimand is not subject to the discipline or discipline appeal procedures described below.
- Written Reprimand: A written reprimand is written direction from a supervisory employee to discontinue inappropriate conduct or to correct a performance issue. A written reprimand will be retained in the employee's personnel file and documented in the performance evaluation. Unless required by law, a written reprimand is not subject to the discipline or discipline appeal procedures described below. The employee has the right to have their written rebuttal attached to the reprimand in the employee's personnel file, if the employee submits the rebuttal to the General Manager within 14 days after the reprimand is received.
- Suspension Without Pay: TVMWD may suspend an employee from their position without pay. Documents related to a suspension shall become part of the employee's personnel file when the suspension is final and documented in the performance evaluation. A suspension without pay is subject to the discipline and discipline appeal procedures described below. Employees who are FLSA exempt will only be suspended as permitted by the law.
- Reduction in Pay or Paid Leave: TVMWD may reduce an employee's pay or paid leave. A reduction in pay for disciplinary purposes may take one of the following forms: 1) a decrease in salary; or 2) a decrease in salary paid to an employee for a fixed period of time; Documents related to a reduction in pay shall become part of the employee's personnel file when the reduction in pay is final and documented in the performance evaluation. A reduction in pay is subject to the discipline and discipline appeal procedures described below.
- Demotion: TVMWD may demote an employee from their position to a lower position. Documents related to a demotion shall become part of the employee's personnel file when the demotion is final and documented in the performance evaluation. A demotion is subject to the discipline and discipline appeal procedures described below.
- Dismissal: TVMWD may dismiss an employee from the employees' position. Documents related to the dismissal shall become a part of an employee's personnel file when the dismissal is final. A dismissed employee is entitled to the discipline and discipline appeal procedures described below.

### **6.3 Notice of Proposed Disciplinary Action**

Prior to issuance of a written order to either suspend, demote, reduction in salary, or dismiss an employee, written notice of at least five (5) working days of the proposed disciplinary action shall be given before such action is to be taken, and such notice must include:

- a. Notice of the proposed action and the level of intended discipline.
- b. Reasons for the proposed action.
- c. A copy of the charges stating specific incidences or specific courses of conduct and a copy of the written materials pertaining to those incidences or course of conduct.
- d. A notice that the employee has the right to respond in writing and/or orally to the proposed disciplinary action before said discipline is imposed. The notice to the employee of the right to respond must specify at least a five (5) working day period except as provided below. A longer notice might be warranted in specific cases because of the volume of material or complexity of the issues involved but only upon written request and with the approval of the General Manager.
- e. Notice that failure to respond by the time specified constitutes a waiver of the right to respond prior to final discipline being imposed.

The notice of proposed disciplinary action must be in writing and signed by the General Manager or the General Manager's designee. Upon receipt of the employee's response, the General Manager, or designee, shall review the response and determine the appropriate course of action. This may include imposing the same level of disciplinary action, modifying with less severe disciplinary action, or rescinding the notice of proposed action.

### **6.4 Limitations and Exclusions**

Oral notice is insufficient as full notice to an employee and may be given only as the initial notice in extraordinary circumstances which call for immediate action. Employees may be suspended without prior written notice in extraordinary circumstances when it is essential to avert harm to the public, other employees, or to avert serious disruption of governmental business. Extraordinary circumstances include, but are not limited to, situations involving misappropriation of public funds or property, working while under the influence of alcohol, marijuana or other drugs, open insubordination, commission of a crime involving moral turpitude punishable by imprisonment for one (1) year, and disruption of the District's business through misconduct.

### **6.5 Order of Disciplinary Action**

Any employee response submitted in accordance with Section 6.2 will be considered and

a determination made by the General Manager or designee of appropriate action. The imposition of disciplinary action to suspend, demote, reduction in salary, or dismiss is constituted by the written order. Said order is similar to the notice of proposed disciplinary action in that it contains the effective date of disciplinary action, the right to appeal and specific charges upon which the disciplinary action is based. The effective date may be prior to the order, provided the circumstances warranted such immediate action. The order shall be signed by the General Manager. Notice of the time allowed for appeal and answer shall be stated in the order. A copy of the order shall be personally served to the employee or sent by certified mail to the employee's address on file.

## 6.6 Appeal Procedure

Notice of Appeal and Request for Hearing. An employee may appeal an order of suspension of more than three (3) days, demotion, reduction in salary, or dismissal, and request a hearing as provided for in these rules. The notice of appeal and request for a hearing must be in writing and must be filed with the District within five (5) -business days of receipt of the order.

Appellant's Answer to the Charges. If the employee appeals, a written answer to the charges must also be filed with the District within five (5) business days of the receipt of the order. The answer to the charges must be attached to the notice of appeal and request for a hearing. The answer must address each cause for discipline set forth in the order and may state specific facts or reasons as grounds for the appeal. If an answer denying the causes for discipline set forth in an order is not filed, said causes for discipline will be deemed admitted.

## 6.7 Hearing Procedure

### Review of the Appeal

- a. After receipt of the appeal and request for hearing, the Board of Directors shall review the appeal and answer to the charges at an executive session at the next regularly scheduled Board meeting subsequent to formal receipt of the appeal, or at such later date as mutually agreed upon by the Board of Directors and the appellant.
- b. The Board of Directors may elect to have the appeal heard by one of the following methods within thirty (30) days after their election:
  1. A full hearing by the Board of Directors.
  2. Appoint a hearing officer who shall present findings and a recommendation to the Board of Directors for a final disposition.
  3. Appoint a Disciplinary Review Board comprised of three members:

one member to be selected by the District, one member to be selected by the employee, and the third member to be selected by the two members previously described. The Disciplinary Review Board shall present findings and recommendations to the Board of Directors for final disposition.

- c. The Board of Directors shall have the final authority on all appeals and may uphold, reverse, or modify the disciplinary action.
- d. The Board of Directors shall notify the Appellant in writing as to the governing hearing proceedings.

### Hearing

- a. Time and Place

- 1. Pursuant to the Board's decision in Section 6.6, the General Manager shall take every appropriate action necessary and reasonable to convene a hearing within the time prescribed.
- 2. The District's representative, the appellant and/or their representative, and the hearing officer or Review Board shall meet in a pre-hearing conference to determine the time, place and manner in which the hearing will be conducted.

- b. Purpose – The purpose of the hearing is to determine the accuracy and the sufficiency of the facts attendant to the disciplinary action. The District shall have the burden of proof. The parties may stipulate to certain facts or evidence which shall be considered without abridgment or adulteration by the hearing body or officers upon whom the action was based and any pertinent information which may establish the truth or falsity of such evidence.

- c. Parties – The Appellant and their representative, if any, and the District's representative shall attend the meeting. Failure of the Appellant, with or without representation, to appear in person at the time and place set for the hearing shall be deemed a withdrawal of the appeal, unless otherwise excused by the Board of Directors.

- d. Rights – Each party shall have the right to:

- 1. Choose a representative.
- 2. Testify under oath.
- 3. Call witnesses and present documentary evidence.
- 4. Question all witnesses and examine the evidence.
- 5. Argue a case.

- e. Order of the Proceedings

1. The hearing shall be opened by the recording of the time, place and date of the hearing and the presence of the parties and representatives, if any. The District shall first present its case on which the disciplinary action was based. A hearing guide may be used and will be made available to all parties.
  2. If the appeal is to be heard by the Board of Directors, the President of the Board shall conduct the hearing. If the appeal is to be heard by the Disciplinary Review Board, the Disciplinary Review Board shall select a chairman to conduct the hearing. If a hearing officer is appointed to hear the appeal, the hearing officer shall have the sole discretion and authority to conduct the hearing.
- f. Report of the Hearings: A record of the proceedings shall be taken and maintained by the District. The District may choose to make a mechanical or electronic record of the proceedings. Costs for transcripts shall be borne by the requesting party.
- g. Adjournment: The hearing may be adjourned or recessed for good cause, upon the request of a party, hearing body or hearing officer.
- h. Exhibits and Witnesses:
1. The names of witnesses and exhibits shall be properly identified and shall be made part of the official record. The hearing body or officer may exclude witnesses not under examination and admonish witnesses to refrain from discussing the subject of their testimony with other witnesses or potential witnesses. The parties may remain at all times during the proceeding.
  2. Witnesses shall be required to testify under oath and affirmation. The oath shall read: *"Do you solemnly swear (or affirm) that the testimony that you are about to give in this matter shall be the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth."*
- i. Confidentiality: The hearing shall be closed to the public and shall not be a public record unless an open public hearing is requested by the appellant.
- j. Expenses: The expenses of witnesses for either party shall be paid by the party producing such witnesses.
- k. Closing of Hearing: The hearing body or hearing officer shall inquire if either side has anything further to offer. Upon receiving negative replies, the hearing shall be closed. The hearing body or hearing officer shall report its written recommendation to the Board of Directors and the parties within thirty (30) days after the closing of the hearing. The Board of Directors shall act upon that recommendation by upholding, reversing, or modifying the decision. The Board of Directors shall notify the parties within five (5) business days of the outcome of its final decision.

## 7 EFFECTS OF DISMISSAL

### 7.1 Effect of Dismissal

Dismissal of an employee from the District's service shall, unless otherwise ordered:

- a. Constitute a dismissal as of the same date from all positions that the employee may hold in the District service.
- b. Terminate the salary of the employee as of the effective date of the dismissal, except that they shall be compensated for any unpaid salary, unused vacation, unused universal leave for Chief Executive Officers, administrative leave and qualifying unused comp time for non-exempt employees as of the date of dismissal.
- c. Medical, Dental, and Vision benefits will end on the last day of the month of employment. Life and Disability coverages require "active" employment; therefore, coverage for these benefits will end on their last day worked. COBRA notification will be sent directly to the employee's address on file.
- d. Employee must contact CalPERS directly to determine their options.
- e. If an employee is enrolled in a deferred compensation program, employee must contact the plan carrier to discuss options.

## 8 RECORDS

### 8.1 Personnel Records

Human Resources shall maintain personnel records for each employee in the service of the District, showing the name, title of the position held, the department in which the employee is assigned, salary, changes in employment status, employee performance reviews, and such other pertinent information.

Inspection of File: A current employee may inspect their own personnel file, at a reasonable time and at reasonable intervals, within 30 days of a written request. A former employee is entitled to inspect their personnel records one (1) time per year. A current or former employee and/or their representative, who wish to review the employees personnel file should make a written request to the Human Resources/Risk Manager. The inspection must occur in the presence of the Human Resources/Risk Manager, General Manager, or designee and: at the District and at a time other than the employee's work time at another agreed upon location without loss of compensation to the employee.

Copies: A current or former employee is entitled to receive a copy of their personnel records within 30 days after TVMWD receives a written request. A current or former

employee who wishes to receive such a copy should contact the Human Resources/Risk Manager in writing. TVMWD may charge a fee for the actual cost of copying.

Representative's Inspection: If the current or former employee wishes to have another person/representative inspect their personnel file, the current or former employee must provide the person/representative with written authorization. The Human Resources Manager will notify the employee and/or representative of the date, time and place of the inspection in writing.

No Removal of File Documents: No person inspecting a personnel file is permitted to add or remove any document or other item to/from the personnel file.

Limitations on access or copying of personnel file: Prior to making a copy of personnel records or allowing inspection, TVMWD may redact the names of nonsupervisory employees. Under no circumstances will TVMWD provide access or copying of the following categories of personnel file documents: records relating to the investigation of a possible criminal offense; letters of reference; ratings, reports, or records that were obtained prior to employment, prepared by identifiable examination committee members, or obtained in connection with a promotional examination.

## **8.2 Change of Status Report**

Every appointment, promotion, change of salary rate, and any other temporary or permanent change in status of employees shall be approved by the General Manager and reported in such a manner as they may prescribe, prior to the effective date of the change.

## **9. SALARY ADJUSTMENTS**

### **9.1 Determinations**

Merit increases within salary ranges and reductions in pay within salary ranges shall be determined by the General Manager in accordance with Section 9.

### **9.2 Performance Evaluations and Merit Increases**

Employee Performance Evaluations and Merit Increases are conducted on a focal point basis every June. A Performance Evaluation period is from July 1st to June 30th of every year. Managers will set expectations, goals, and objectives for every Performance Evaluation period.

Merit increases within board-approved salary range shall not be automatic but may be

granted only for continued improvement by the employee in the effective performance of the duties of their position. Merit increases are calculated based on the employee's Performance Evaluation rating. The effective date of the merit increase is July 1st.

Employees hired on or after January 1st of every year will not be eligible for a merit increase until the following performance evaluation period. Employees hired before December 31st will be eligible for a merit increase. Merit Increases for new hires and promotions will be completed on a prorated basis based on their hire date or date of last salary increase.

### **9.3 Accelerated Merit Increases**

Accelerated merit increases for exceptional job performance in addition to those granted as a result of an employee's regular annual evaluation may be approved by the General Manager provided the increase is within budgetary constraints. Accelerated merit increases that are outside budgetary constraints may be recommended by the General Manager for approval by the Board of Directors.

### **9.4 Certification Pay Increases**

Full-time employees who have successfully completed their Initial Appraisal period and have received a performance rating of 2 or higher are eligible for certification pay increases. Part-time employees may also receive consideration with the recommendation of their supervisor and approval by the General Manager. Employees who earn a Treatment, Distribution, or Lab Analyst certification shall receive a 2% increase in their base salary. The certificate pay must be within budgetary constraints and within the Board approved salary range.

Employees must provide the State of California Department of Public Health certificate or the California-Nevada Section AWWA (American Water Works Association) certificate to the Human Resources department within 3 months of obtaining their certificate. The certificate pay will be effective the next available pay period after it has been approved by the General Manager. There is no retroactive payment.

Certification pay increases are only granted to employees where a Treatment, Distribution, or Lab Analyst certification is essential to the classification duties of the employee (as determined by the Chief Operations Officer and General Manager). The job classifications that qualify are Operations Supervisors, Compliance Specialists, Shift Operators, Plant Assistants, Instrumentation/Electrical System Operators, and Engineering department determined by the Chief Water Resources Officer.



## 10. ATTENDANCE, HOURS, PAY PERIODS AND PREMIUM PAY

### 10.1 Attendance

Employees shall attend their work in accordance with Section 10.. Employees are responsible for reporting accurate time worked.

### 10.2 Pay Periods and Procedure

Employees shall be compensated bi-weekly every other Friday. If these dates should occur on a scheduled fixed holiday, compensation shall take place on the last working day prior to such events. In the event an underpayment or overpayment is identified, appropriate corrections will be made on the next regular paycheck. Upon separation from TVMWD, compensation for any unpaid earnings, leave time, or any other compensation earned will occur on the same regularly scheduled days listed above.

### 10.3 Meal Periods

For administrative or part-time employees:

- Up to a one (1) hour non-compensated meal period will be provided to all full-time administrative and part-time employees each day they work five (5) hours or more.
- Employees can request their meal period at a time agreed to by their supervisor.

For operations employees:

- Meal periods are compensated because operations employees are required to be available to respond to any operational demands of the TVMWD system. Because of this, employees are expected to stay at the treatment plant or their field location for their meal period. Exceptions permitted:
  - Attendance at an offsite meeting, conference, etc.
  - At the specific approval of the Chief Operations Officer or Operations Supervisor(s)
  - Employees are permitted twenty (20) minutes to utilize a TVMWD vehicle to obtain their meal from a local establishment
- Employees can request their meal period at a time agreed to by their supervisor.
- Depending upon operational demands, supervisors will try to accommodate up to a one (1) hour meal period each day the employee works five (5) hours or more.

### 10.4 Work Week

The regular work week shall commence on Monday at 12:01am for all employees and conclude on Sunday at Midnight

## 10.5 Exempt Employees

In accordance with the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) regulations, job classifications determined to be exempt are not eligible for overtime. Based upon the FLSA, the following job classifications are exempt:

- Chief Administrative Officer
- Chief Finance Officer
- Chief Operations Officer
- Chief Water Resources Officer
- Compliance Specialist
- Engineer
- Human Resources/Risk Manager
- Information Technology Manager
- Operations Supervisor
- Water Resources Analyst I/II/III
- Finance Manager

TVMWD recognizes that on **occasion** exempt employees may have to attend to personal matters. TVMWD will attempt every effort to accommodate the employee's time off requested. However, TVMWD must ensure the District's needs are maintained at all times. Therefore, time off must be scheduled in advance and with prior approval of the employee's manager.

Exempt employees, in good standing with TVMWD, that request time off in increments of four (4) hours or less, do not have to use their available leaves. There is no legal requirement or obligation of TVMWD to grant such an arrangement. Therefore, the General Manager reserves the right to modify or terminate this practice at any time. Any abuse of this benefit will be immediately addressed with the employee. If it is determined that the employee abused such benefit, the benefit will be revoked for a period of time or revoked permanently, as determined by the General Manager.

## 10.6 Administrative Leave

Exempt employees, excluding Chief Executive Officers shall be eligible for 50 hours of Administrative Leave annually (pro-rated based on date of eligibility for leave). Administrative Leave shall be credited in a lump sum at the beginning of each calendar year. Unused Administrative Leave hours will be carried over from year-to-year, unless the exempt employees have met their vacation cap. Administrative Leave would then be converted to vacation hours for mandatory vacation cash-out purposes. Use of Administrative Leave hours must be approved by the employee's Supervisor and at times that are convenient to the District.

## 10.7 Overtime

A non-exempt employee who performs work in excess of forty (40) hours in a work week shall be compensated for such overtime work at the rate of one and one-half times their regular rate of pay. The regular work week shall commence on Monday at 12:01am for all employees and conclude on Sunday at Midnight. A non-exempt operations employee who performs work in excess of ten (10) hours per workday (excluding weekends) shall be compensated for such overtime work at the rate of one and one-half times a regular rate of pay. Overtime shall be rounded to the nearest quarter-hour of overtime worked. All non-emergency overtime must be authorized in advance by the appropriate Department Head.

## 10.8 Flexible Work Schedules

At the discretion of the General Manager or employee's direct supervisor, employees may be permitted to work a flexible work schedule equivalent to forty (40) hours in a work week.

Flexible Work Schedules allows an employee to work hours that differ from the normal district start and end time, while continuing to meet the needs of TVMWD.

## 10.9 Compensatory Time

Hours accrued in addition to forty (40) hours in a work week and not compensated as overtime shall accrue at a rate of one and one-half times as compensatory (comp) hours. Comp hours can be used at the approval of the employee's supervisor. Comp time is not available to exempt or operations employees. Comp time is capped at 240 hours. Any additional time earned will be compensated to the employee. Comp time balances will be paid down to a balance of fifty (50) hours, once per year, on December 31. Earned and unused comp time will be paid-out at the time of separation from employment.

## 10.10 On-Call Operators

Two (2) operators will be designated to serve in an on-call capacity each day. Failure to respond to an alarm/call while assigned to the on-call duty shift may be subject to disciplinary action. If an employee claims on their timesheet phone/tablet/laptop time incurred that is later found to be invalidated by the supervisor, that employee shall be subject to disciplinary action.

On-Call pay is not considered CalPERS pensionable compensation.

Standby Operator: One (1) operator will serve as the on-call standby operator and will respond to the on-call plant operator or supervisor as needed. The stand-by operator is

expected to and be capable of returning to the plant within thirty (30) minutes of receiving a call.

Standby Operators who serve in an on-call capacity will be paid \$45 per day (\$90 on holidays) and will take home a TVMWD vehicle in order to respond to incidents. If the on-call operator is unable to fulfill their on-call duty shift, the employee is responsible for locating a substitute operator from those that regularly serve in the Standby Operator role. The substitute operator will instead receive the standby pay. In addition to receiving the standby pay, the on-call operator will be paid for the additional time spent responding to the situation.

Lab Operator: One (1) operator will serve as the on-call plant operator and will be responsible for responding to plant operation alarms and incidents as needed during non-working hours (4 pm-6 am). This operator is expected to be capable of responding to alarms remotely within 15 minutes and be ready for work as in any other instance.

Lab Operators who serve in an on-call capacity will be paid \$100 per day (\$200 on holidays) and will take home a TVMWD vehicle in order to respond to incidents. If the on-call Lab Operator is unable to fulfill their on-call duty shift, the Lab Operator duties will be fulfilled by the designated backup (Plant Operator). The substitute operator will instead receive the Lab Operator pay. In addition to receiving the Lab Operator pay, the on-call operator will be paid for the additional time spent responding to the situation as described below.

The following pertains to either the Standby or Lab Operator:

- If responding by phone/tablet/laptop only, the Operator will be guaranteed at least 15 minutes of additional pay. All time over 15 minutes will be rounded up to the nearest 15-minute increment.
- If responding in person, the Operator will be guaranteed at least two hours of additional pay. All time over two hours (portal to portal) will be rounded up to the nearest 15-minute increment.
- Operators will be eligible for overtime and shift differential pay as applicable for time spent responding.

#### **10.11 Shift Differential Pay**

Operators and plant assistants will be compensated with an additional 10% of their hourly pay for hours worked Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

Shift differential is considered special compensation and will be reported to CalPERS as such.

## 10.12 Fatigue Pay and Adjusted Hours Worked

Fatigue Pay and adjusted hours worked is a function of safety and should be carried out using an interactive process between the employee and the supervisor or manager.

Any employee who accumulates two (2) hours or more of worktime between 10:00pm and 6:00am before a scheduled workday shall be eligible for fatigue pay and be subject to an adjustment to their work schedule the following day. This means the employee will take an equivalent number of hours off during the following scheduled workday to rest. In addition to granting the time off, TVMWD will pay the employee for the time taken off during that scheduled workday. The combination of fatigue time and time worked during the next scheduled workday will not exceed ten (10) hours.

Example # 1: an employee who is scheduled to work Monday from 6:00am – 4:00pm and Tuesday from 6:00am – 4:00pm and is called in to work for additional hours on Monday from 10:00pm – 1:00am would log their hours as follows –

Monday	6:00am – 4:00pm (10 regular hours of pay) + 10:00pm – 1:00am (3 hours of overtime pay)
Tuesday	6:00am – 9:00am (3 hours fatigue pay paid at regular hourly rate) + 9:00am – 4:00pm (7-regular hours of pay)  The employee will report to work at 9:00am to ensure they are given appropriate rest time between work shifts and will be compensated for this rest time (fatigue pay)

Example # 2: an employee who is scheduled to work Monday from 6:00am – 4:00pm and is called in to work for additional hours on Monday from 3:00am – 6:00am may stay at work and in turn leave the equivalent number of hours early. In this scenario, the employee would log their hours as follows:

Monday	3:00am – 6:00am (3 hours of overtime pay) + 6:00am – 1:00pm (7-hours of regular pay) + 1:00pm – 4:00pm (3 hours of fatigue pay at regular hourly rate)
--------	--

If hours worked accumulates over eight (8) hours from 4:00pm – 6:00am, with supervisor or managers approval, the employee will be eligible to take off the next day and receive ten (10) hours of fatigue pay.

If an employee reports to work on Friday, Saturday and/or Sunday, the employee

would be eligible for shift differential.

## 11. HOLIDAYS, VACATION AND LEAVES

### 11.1 Holidays

The District shall observe the following holidays:

1. New Year's Day (January 1)
2. Presidents' Day (Third Monday in February)
3. Memorial Day (Last Monday in May)
4. Independence Day (July 4)
5. Labor Day (First Monday in September)
6. Veterans' Day (November 11)
7. Thanksgiving Day & Day After (Fourth Thursday and Friday in November)
8. Christmas Day (December 25)

Additional holidays may be approved and observed. Unassigned floating holidays will be provided to full-time employees at the beginning of each calendar year to make a total of 12 holidays each calendar year. Holiday hours must be taken in full-day increments and must be approved by the supervisor.

The District will recognize a holiday break, typically between Christmas and New Years. The holiday break will be designated every year by the General Manager. Employees will receive an equivalent number of holidays based on their normal scheduled work week during the holiday break. Employees on leave of absence will not be eligible to receive hours.

Part-Time employees scheduled to work on an approved holiday are eligible to receive holiday pay based on their normal hours scheduled.

### 11.2 Holiday Observance

Any holiday falling on a Friday, Saturday or Sunday may be designated by the General Manager on an alternate day for the observance of a holiday, or its conversion to a floating holiday, when a holiday conflicts with a work schedule. A holiday may only be applied to a scheduled workday. Employees are not eligible to receive unassigned floating holidays until they satisfactorily complete their Initial Appraisal period. Any non-exempt shift operator who works on either the actual holiday or the observed holiday will be paid at one and one-half times the employee's regular rate of pay. Since the employee is working the holiday, the employee will also be paid the additional hours they are scheduled to work at regular pay for that holiday.

### 11.3 Vacation Accrual

Based on a bi-weekly pay period, vacation time shall be accrued as follows for full-time employees (except for the Chief Executive Officers):

Years of Service	Bi-weekly Pay Period Vacation Accrual Rate
0 – 4 years	3.08 hours
5 – 9 years	4.62 hours
10 years	4.93 hours
11 years	5.23 hours
12 years	5.54 hours
13 years	5.85 hours
14 + years	6.16 hours

Employees eligible for vacation accrual that regularly work less than a 40-hour work week will accrue at a rate equal to the number of hours worked divided by 40.

### 11.4 Use of Vacation Time

An employee shall be entitled to use the vacation time accrued upon successfully completing three (3) months of employment or prior if approved by the General Manager. Timing of vacations must be approved by the Department Head or General Manager at a time that is convenient to the District.

### 11.5 Vacation Buy Back

On December 31<sup>st</sup> of each year, vacation balances will be paid down to 420 hours for full-time exempt employees and 320 hours for all other non-exempt employees.

### 11.6 Universal Leave

Chief Executive Officers are eligible for universal leave, which shall accrue as follows:

Years of Service	Bi-weekly Pay Period Universal Leave Accrual Rate
0 – 4 years	8.93 hours
5 – 9 years	10.77 hours
10 – 14 years	11.70 hours
15+ years	13.54 hours

On December 31<sup>st</sup> of each year, universal leave balances will be paid down to 620 hours. Chief Executive Officers shall be entitled to use the universal leave accrued upon completing three (3) months of employment or prior if approved by the General Manager.

To comply with the Paid Sick Leave Act, Chief Executive Officers may use universal leave prior to completing the introductory period for the following purposes:

- Medical condition that prevents an employee from performing the duties of their position
- Diagnosis, care, or treatment of an existing health condition of, or preventative care for, an employee or an employees' family member
- For an employee who is a victim of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking

For the purposes of Sick Leave, a "family member" is defined as

- A child (biological, adopted, or foster child, stepchild, legal ward, or a child to whom the employee stands in loco parentis).
- A biological, adoptive, or foster parent, stepparent, or legal guardian of the employee or the employees' spouse or registered domestic partner, or person who stood in loco parentis when the employee was a minor.
- A spouse, registered domestic partner, grandparent, grandchild, and/or sibling.

### **11.7 Sick Leave Accrual**

All full-time employees, with the exception of Chief Executive Officers, shall be credited with 3.7 sick hours per pay period.

To comply with the expended Paid Sick Leave Law, effective January 2024, part-time employees will receive an upfront accrual of 40 hours of paid sick leave at the beginning of employment and at every January thereafter. Sick Leave balance shall not carry over year to year.

### **11.8 Use of Sick Leave**

Upon the verbal or written request of an employee, sick leave will be provided for the following purposes:

- Medical condition that prevents an employee from performing the duties of their position
- Diagnosis, care, or treatment of an existing health condition of, or preventative care for, an employee or an employee's family member
- For an employee who is a victim of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking

For the purposes of Sick Leave, a "family member" is defined as

- A child (biological, adopted, or foster child, stepchild, legal ward, or a child to whom



the employee stands in loco parentis).

- A biological, adoptive, or foster parent, stepparent, or legal guardian of the employee or the employees' spouse or registered domestic partner, or person who stood in loco parentis when the employee was a minor.
- A spouse, registered domestic partner, grandparent, grandchild, and/or sibling.

Employees that retire from CalPERS and meet the TVMWD retiree eligibility will get their unused sick hours converted to CalPERS service credit upon retirement from TVMWD.

### 11.9 Sickness Verification

If an employee is absent from work and misses more than three (3) consecutive days of service, the employee may be required to provide a medical release before returning to work at the request of the Department Head.

### 11.10 Notification of Supervisor

Absent employees when practicable should notify their supervisor prior to the beginning of their work shift each day they will be off/unable to work. Employees are required to notify their supervisors as far in advance as possible of known absences. If the employee's supervisor is unavailable, the employee must contact the front office and notify a TVMWD employee of their absence.

### 11.11 Bereavement Leave

In the event of a death of a member of an employee's family, the employee shall be granted a maximum of five (5) days of paid bereavement leave. Subject to the approval of the General Manager, employees may take additional days of bereavement leave for deaths outside the state boundaries, with such time to be deducted from the employee's sick, vacation, administrative, universal or comp leave. For purposes of this policy, a family member shall be defined as any of the following:

Spouse	Adopted child	Stepfather	Stepson
Daughter	Grandmother	Stepmother	Father-in-law
Son	Grandfather	Stepbrother	Mother-in-law
Father	Granddaughter	Stepsister	Brother-in-law
Mother	Grandson	Daughter-in-law	Sister-in-law
Brother	Aunt	Son-in-law	Domestic Partner
Sister	Uncle	Stepdaughter	Legal Guardian

## 11.12 Reproductive Leave

Effective January 1, 2024, qualified employees that experience a reproductive loss event. When a qualified employee suffers a reproductive loss event, the employee is entitled to up to five (5) days of leave following the day of the reproductive loss event, or the final day of a reproductive loss event for a multiple-day event. A qualified employee is defined as a person employed by the employer for at least 30 days prior to the commencement of the leave.

The leave need not be taken immediately following the reproductive loss event but must be taken within three (3) months from the event. If an employee experiences more than one reproductive loss event within a 12-month period, the employee is only entitled to a total of 20 days of leave within the 12-month period. An employee may use leave balances available to the employee, including accrued and available paid sick leave, for the absences.

A reproductive loss event are defined as:

- An “unsuccessful assisted reproduction” includes “method[s] of achieving a pregnancy through an artificial insemination or an embryo transfer,” but does not include an attempt to become pregnant through sexual intercourse.
- A “failed adoption” includes “the dissolution or breach of an adoption agreement with the birthmother or legal guardian, or an adoption that is not finalized because it is contested by another party.”
- A “failed surrogacy” includes both the “dissolution or breach of a surrogacy agreement, or a failed embryo transfer to the surrogate.”
- A “miscarriage” includes not only a miscarriage suffered by the employee or the employee’s spouse or registered domestic partner, but also a miscarriage suffered “by another individual if the person would have been a parent of a child born as a result of the pregnancy” – it would therefore appear, for example, that a miscarriage suffered by a surrogate after an initially successful embryo transfer would qualify as a reproductive loss event for the intended parent (s).

## 11.13 Funeral of Deceased Employee

District employees may be excused by immediate supervisors to attend the funeral of deceased District employees without loss of pay.

## 11.14 Military Leave

Military leave shall be granted in accordance with the provisions of state and federal law. In general, if the employee has been absent from a position of civilian employment by reason of service in the uniformed services, the employee will be eligible for reemployment

under the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA) by meeting the following criteria:

- The employer had advance notice of the employee's military obligation;
- The employee has been away from this employer five (5) years or less due to military obligations (excluding exemptions);
- The employee returns to work in a timely manner as defined under USERRA; and,
- The employee has not been separated from uniformed services with a disqualifying discharge or under other than honorable conditions

The Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA)

USERRA also requires that service members provide advance written or verbal notice to their employers for all military duty unless giving notice is impossible, unreasonable, or precluded by military necessity. An employee should provide notice as far in advance as is reasonable under the circumstances. Additionally, service members are able (but are not required) to use accrued vacation or annual leave while performing military duty.

#### **11.15 Jury Duty Leave**

Employees are authorized to take a leave of absence with pay for jury duty service selection. The District will pay for a maximum of ten (10) days during any 24-month period. Employee will remit to the District any jury compensation (excluding mileage) received for the ten (10) days. Employees are required to notify their supervisors as far in advance of their reporting date as possible. All such leave must be coordinated with the immediate supervisor.

The General Manager is authorized to allow employees leave of absence with pay for selection to perform jury duty service, if the need of a jury duty leave is in excess of ten (10) working days. Notify your supervisor that you have been selected for jury duty service. You must provide proof of your selection prior to serving. At the conclusion of your service, you must provide court certification of the day(s) served to the District's payroll department. The court will issue this certification to you on the last day of your jury duty service.

#### **11.16 Quarantine Leave**

An employee who is quarantined may elect to take as much of their accumulated leaves as is necessary to avoid loss of pay.

#### **11.17 Time Off to Vote**

If an employee cannot make sufficient time outside of working hours to vote in a statewide election, they can use up to two (2) hours of working time to vote without loss of pay. This time must be used at the beginning or end of the regular working shift, whichever allows

the most-free time for voting and the least time off from working. The employee must notify their supervisor at least two (2) working days in advance to arrange a voting time.

### **11.18 Time Off for Training**

TVMWD will allow paid time off for employees to attend a work-related seminar or training course, subject to Supervisor approval, when it overlaps or conflicts with the employee's work shift. TVMWD allows sufficient time for employees to complete any required certification renewal. Employees should plan training appropriately to avoid requesting various training that will interfere with operations.

If time off for training overlaps or conflicts with an employee's work shift, the employee may request paid personal time off, subject to Supervisor approval.

### **11.19 School Activity Leave**

Any employee who is the parent of a child through grade 12 may request up to 40 hours off per year for the purpose of participating in school activities, such as teacher conferences, award ceremonies or school plays. The leave can also be used for locating and/or enrolling in school or childcare, or for school or childcare emergency. This time will be unpaid unless you choose to use wage replacement through accrued qualifying leaves available. You will be limited to no more than eight (8) hours off for this purpose in any one calendar month unless it is due to a childcare provider or school emergency. Upon request, the District reserves the right to require documentation for this leave.

"Parents" are specifically defined to include parents, guardians, grandparents, stepparents, foster parents, and persons standing in loco parentis to a child.

### **11.20 School Appearance Leave**

Any employee who is the parent or guardian of a child through grade 12 may request leave to appear at his/her child's school in connection with disciplinary action by the school. The Education Code allows school districts to adopt policies requiring that parents or guardians attend class with their student after the student returns school from a suspension. The time will be unpaid unless you choose to use wage replacement through eligible leaves. Upon request, the District reserves the right to require documentation for this leave.

### **11.21 Crime or Abuse Victim's Leave**

Any employee who is the victim of crime or abuse, including domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, or a crime that caused physical injury or, in certain cases, mental injury, or that resulted in the death of an immediate family member has a right to reasonable

accommodation and unpaid leave to attend legal proceedings or to obtain or attempt to obtain any relief necessary, including a restraining order or for medical treatment, to ensure the employee's own health or welfare, or that of the employee's child or children. Leave shall be supported by appropriate documentation.

### **11.22 Crime Victim's Leave**

Any employee who is the victim of certain, specified felony crimes, or who is an immediate family member of a victim, a registered domestic partner of a victim of certain, specified felony crimes, has a right to unpaid leave to attend and participate in judicial proceedings related to the crime. Leave shall be supported by appropriate documentation.

### **11.23 Organ or Bone Marrow Leave**

Employees may take up to 60 days (workdays) of leave in any one-year period for the purpose of donating an organ to another person. The District requires that employees taking leave for organ donation use two (2) weeks of accrued but unused sick leave vacation and/or universal leave. The District will pay the remaining two weeks up to 30 days. The remaining 30 days are not paid, though the employee can use wage replacement. The District will continue to provide and pay for current group health plan benefits.

Employees are required to provide written verification of the need for leave, including confirmation that the employee is an organ or bone marrow donor and that there is a medical necessity for the donation.

Employees may take up to five (5) paid days (workdays) of leave in any one-year period for the purpose of donating bone marrow to another person.

### **11.24 California Family Right Act (CFRA)**

The California Family Rights Act (CFRA) provides eligible employees the opportunity to take unpaid, job-protected leave for certain specified reasons. The maximum amount of leave employees may use under this policy is twelve (12) weeks within a 12-month period. For more information regarding leave under this policy, employees should contact Human Resources.

#### **Eligibility**

To be eligible for CFRA leave, employees must:

- Have worked at least twelve (12) months of continuous service.
- Have worked a minimum of 1250 hours over a twelve (12) month preceding the date the leave would commence.

## Conditions Triggering Leave

Leave may be taken for one (1) or more of the following reasons:

- The birth of the employee's child, or placement of a child with the employee for adoption or foster care;
- To care for the employee's spouse, child (no age limit), parent, grandparent, grandchild, sibling, parent-in-law, domestic partner, or designated person (defined as any individual related by blood or whose association is equivalent of a family relationship, limited to one per 12-month period) who has a serious health condition;
- For a serious health condition that makes the employee unable to perform his or her job, except for leave taken on account of pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical condition;
- For any "qualifying exigency" (defined by Section 3302.2 of the Unemployment Insurance Code) because the employee is the spouse, son, daughter, or parent of an individual on active military duty (or has been notified of an impending call or order to active duty) in the Armed Forces of the United States; or
- An employee who is the spouse, son, daughter, parent, or next of kin of a covered service member shall be entitled to a total of 26 work weeks of leave during a 12-month period to care for the service member.

## Definitions

A "serious health condition" is an illness, injury, impairment, or physical or mental condition that involves either an overnight stay in a medical care facility or continuing treatment by a health care provider, and either prevents the employee from performing the functions of his or her job or prevents the qualified family member from participating in school or other daily activities. Subject to certain conditions, the continuing-treatment requirement includes an incapacity of more than three full calendar days and two visits to a health care provider, or one visit to a health care provider and a continuing regimen of care; an incapacity caused by a chronic condition or permanent or long-term conditions; or absences due to multiple treatments. Other situations may also meet the definition of "continuing treatment."

## Calculating the 12-month Period

The 12-month period is measured forward from the date the leave begins. Successive 12-month periods commence on the date of an employee's first use of such leave after the preceding 12-month period has ended.

## Intermittent or Reduced-Schedule Leave

Eligible employees may take CFRA leave in a single block of time, intermittently (in separate blocks of time), or by reducing the normal work schedule when medically necessary for the

serious health condition of the employee or immediate family member. Intermittent leave to bond with a new child must be taken in two-week increments, with a shorter duration allowed on two occasions.

Employees who require intermittent or reduced-schedule leave must try to schedule their leave so that it will not unduly disrupt TVMWD's operations. Intermittent leave is permitted in intervals of at least half an hour.

### **Leave to Care for a Family Member or Designated Person**

If the leave is needed to care for an eligible family member or designated person (defined as any individual related by blood or who's association is equivalent of a family relationship, limited to one per 12-month period), the employee must provide a certification from the health care provider stating:

- Date of commencement of the serious health condition;
- Probable duration of the condition;
- Estimated amount of time for care; and
- Confirmation that the serious health condition warrants the participation of the employee.

### **Leave for Birth, Adoption, or Foster Care**

Leaves taken due to the birth of the employee's child, or placement of a child with the employee for adoption or foster care, may need to be supported by a certification, such as a birth certificate or adoption and foster care paperwork.

A female employee's request for leave for the birth of her child will begin once her pregnancy disability leave has ended.

### **Procedures**

When seeking leave under this policy, employees must provide the following to Human Resources:

1. Thirty (30) days' notice of the need to take CFRA leave if the need for leave is foreseeable, or notice as soon as practicable in the case of unforeseeable leave and in compliance with TVMWD's normal call-in procedures, absent unusual circumstances.
2. Medical certification supporting the need for leave due to a serious health condition affecting the requesting employee or an immediate family member within fifteen (15) calendar days of the District's request for the certification (additional time may be permitted in some circumstances). Failure to do so may result in delay of the

commencement of leave or denial of a leave request. Second or third medical opinions may also be required when allowed.

3. Periodic reports as deemed appropriate during the leave regarding the employee's status and intent to return to work.
4. A return-to-work release before returning to work if the leave was due to the employee's serious health condition.

If you have questions or would like further clarification about your rights under the CFRA or other types of leave, please contact Human Resources.

### **11.25 Pregnancy Disability Leave (PDL)**

Any full or part-time employee who is disabled by pregnancy, childbirth, or a related medical condition will, upon request and approval, be granted PDL without pay not to exceed four (4) months.

If you require PDL, you must notify your manager and the Human Resources as soon as possible, at least 30 days in advance if foreseeable. The written notice should specify the commencement date of the leave, the expected duration of the leave and be accompanied by a signed physician's statement. TVMWD has ten (10) calendar days to respond to the request.

For employees on PDL, the District guarantees reinstatement to the same or similar job with the same or similar duties, pay, and location unless granting such a leave would substantially undermine the District's ability to operate the business safely and efficiently.

### **11.26 Workers Compensation Leave**

An employee injured in the scope and course of employment with the District may elect to take accumulated leaves, in minimum of one (1) hour increments, to offset their workers' compensation indemnity up to their full salary.

### **11.27 Wage Replacement During Leave**

Use of wage replacement during a leave does not change the status of the leave from Unpaid to Paid.

If the employee is receiving benefits from a paid disability plan such as Worker's Compensation, State Disability or provided supplemental disability insurance, the employee may use available leaves to supplement partial wage replacement benefits as long as the employee does not receive more than he/she would normally earn at work.



All requests for wage replacement must be made in writing (email is acceptable) to the Human Resources Department before the close of the relevant pay period(s).

In addition to family, medical or pregnancy-related disability leaves described in previous section 11.19, employee may be eligible take a temporary disability leave of absence, if necessary, to reasonably accommodate a workplace injury or a disability under the ADAAA or the FEHA. Any disability leave under this section will run concurrently with any medical leave to which the employee is entitled.

### **11.28 Leave of Absence**

The General Manager shall have the power to grant a leave of absence (LOA) without pay when the employee has two (2) or more years of continuous employment. In special cases, the General Manager may waive the two (2) year employment requirement if it is in the best interest of the District. An employee shall not be eligible for a leave of absence without pay until all of the employee's accumulated leave time with pay has been used. While on leave, the employee will not accrue any additional leave time. During the period of a leave of absence without pay, the employee shall not accept any other employment except with express written permission of the General Manager. An employee on such a leave may continue within the limits set by the provider, any insurance available to him/her as an employee by paying, in advance, all costs of such continued insurance. An employee granted leave must return to work not later than the start of the first working day following the end of the leave.

### **11.29 Education Reimbursement Program**

TVMWD encourages a continuous learning environment. Formal education and professional advancement opportunities for employees encourages professional development and boosts employee knowledge, skills and abilities. To assist employees with the financial burden of formal education and continuing education, TVMWD provides education reimbursement.

For full-time employees in good standing with TVMWD and have satisfactory completed their initial evaluation period or have received General Manager approval shall be eligible to receive reimbursement up to \$5,000 per calendar year.

Reimbursement may be received for reimbursement of tuition, registration fees, laboratory fees, placement testing, required examination fees, parking and books. To receive reimbursement, employees must successfully complete the course(s) (e.g., grade of "C" or better or "pass" when grade is pass/fail, "complete" when grade is complete/incomplete, etc.). Courses must be work-related or count toward a degree. For a non-accredited program, completion of the course with proof of passing all related course work and exams

is required.

Employees interested in participating in the program must submit the Participation and Reimbursement Agreement form to the General Manager for approval, in advance of starting course work.

To request reimbursement, employee should complete a Check Request Form and provide sufficient documentation to demonstrate the expense was incurred, when the expense incurred, and outcome of the course(s) showing successful completion. The reimbursement form should be submitted to the Human Resources Department.

### **11.30 Water Related Certification Fees**

The program intends to recognize the mutual benefits derived from personal growth by furthering advancing their water certification. To be eligible, an employee must have completed their initial appraisal period process, unless a job requirement, or by approval of the General Manager.

Certifications are the responsibility of the employee. Upon successfully obtaining the certification and providing a copy, TVMWD will reimburse 100% of water related certification fees for Water Treatment, Distribution and Water Quality Analyst certification. Any late fees, penalties or unsuccessful attempts will not be reimbursed.

Fees associated with the certification testing, certificate and re-certification are eligible for reimbursement. Employees must submit the Check Request Form with supplementary documentation for approval by the department head or General Manager. Supplementary information is defined as:

- Water Certification Testing: Receipt of payment for taking the water certification test and confirmation that certification test was successfully passed.
- Certification: Receipt of payment for certification fees.
- Re-Certification: Receipt of payment for re-certification fees.

### **11.31 Safety Footwear Allowance**

The District requires safety footwear for employees engaged in work activity creating reasonable potential for foot injury. The Chief Executive Officers shall determine who, by title and or job duties, shall be required to wear safety footwear. Employees deemed eligible by management shall receive an annual safety footwear allowance of up to \$275, provided it's either the initial purchase or current boots that are worn and warrant replacement. The allowance can also be used toward items that would enhance the comfort or safety of the purchased boot, such as water proofing, replacing insoles or laces

To be eligible to receive reimbursement or purchase boots according to the program, an employee must be scheduled (or plan) to work a minimum of 30 calendar days following the purchase, prior to a separation from the District or retirement.

Employees should notify the Program Manager when a need of safety footwear replacement is needed by submitting a Safety Footwear Request Form. After verifying eligibility, the Program Manager will provide employees with an available vendor voucher. Employees may choose to purchase safety footwear at a higher cost than the annual allowance at the employees' expense. The Program Manager shall verify that safety footwear purchased independently by employees meets all department requirements. An employee shall only receive one (1) pair of approved safety footwear for the annual allowance to ensure higher quality. Upon substantiation by management of an employee's claim that safety footwear is damaged

beyond further useful wear as a result of work performance (not by negligence, misuse, or loss), the Department shall replace safety footwear. The employee shall surrender the damaged pair upon replacement. Individual claims for replacement shall be decided by the designated Program Manager. Employees will be eligible for the annual allowance (a new pair of safety shoes) one year from the replacement date.

### **11.32 Return to Work Program**

The District recognizes that our employees are a critical part of our operation, and even if an employee becomes injured (on or off the job) or has a temporary disability because of surgery or an illness, they remain a valuable part of the staff. A Return-to-Work Program (RTW) is a proven essential cost containment element of our overall risk management program and is used in conjunction with our Safety Program.

If an employee is injured on or off the job, or have a temporary disability because of an injury or illness, the Program will look at ways to bring the employee back to work as soon as the doctor determines that they are medically ready. This may mean making temporary modifications to the job duties or work hours to accommodate the recovery.

If the employee does not report to work (modified duty or regular work) when the doctor releases the employee or leave has expired, the employee may not be eligible for temporary disability payments, workers' compensation payments, or regular wages, and the employee could be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination.

For complete information and to obtain the appropriate forms, please refer to the RTW Program documentation.

The District may recover from the employee the premiums that TVMWD paid to maintain

coverage for the employee under the group health plan if the employee fails to remit such payment during the course of their leave of absence or if the employee failure to return from their leave of absence.

## 12. TRAVEL ALLOWANCE

The District reimburses employees traveling on District business for typical expenses incurred: conference/seminar registration, meals, lodging and door-to-door transportation. Employees are expected to use the most economical means possible for travel expenses. A conference *Request to Attend* form must be submitted for approval prior to registering for the conference or booking any travel. To be reimbursed, a request form for expense reimbursement must be completed with all original receipts attached. Costs that normally would not have a receipt (i.e. tips) should be documented on the expense reimbursement form. Otherwise, missing receipts will not be reimbursed.

### 12.1 Lodging

Employees are expected to request government or group rates for lodging when available. The following stipulations must occur for the employee to incur lodging expenses:

- The event/conference occurs more than 30 miles from the employee's home, and:
  - To incur lodging expenses for the night before, the event/conference would cause the employee to leave their home before 6:00am.
  - To incur lodging expenses for the night of, the event/conference would cause the employee to not return to their home that night until after 7:00pm.

### 12.2 Transportation

Employees are expected to request government rates for transportation costs when available. Employees will be reimbursed for transportation based on the most economical means possible. For instance, if transportation normally would require flying, the employee may instead choose to drive. However, reimbursement will not be provided for mileage or the cost of rental vehicle and fuel that exceeds the cost of round-trip coach airfare. If an employee chooses something other than logical transportation, they are expected to document costs to verify reimbursement is the most economical.

### 12.3 Airfare

Employees will be reimbursed for round-trip coach airfare, transportation to the airport and parking if necessary. Non-exempt employees will be compensated for flight time and time from destination airport until the employee reaches their hotel/event/conference. Likewise, employees will be compensated for time from hotel/event/conference to destination

airport and flight time.

#### **12.4 Automobile**

Use of the District's vehicles is encouraged whenever possible. Use of your personal vehicle requires the use of your insurance for any accidents encountered. Mileage reimbursement shall be given when personal vehicles are used. If an employee attends an all-day event instead of coming to work, mileage will be calculated based on round-trip miles to the event less normal miles the employee would incur driving back and forth to work. The reimbursable mileage rate will be set equal to what is allowed by the Internal Revenue Service. Employees will also be reimbursed for parking if necessary. If the employee is choosing to drive rather than fly, non-exempt employees will be compensated only for the amount of time necessary had they flown, as outlined above.

#### **12.5 Meals**

Expenditures for meals shall be reimbursed only with original, itemized receipts. Alcohol will not be reimbursed. When meals are included in a conference/seminar registration packet, outside meals will not be reimbursed. Expenses for spouses/guest and special activities provided in conjunction with conferences will not be reimbursed. If employees are away from work for a portion of the day, meals will be reimbursed up to \$100 per day at their discretion.

#### **12.6 Compensation for Travel Time**

Non-exempt employees will be compensated for all hours worked. Travel time is considered compensable time, less the normal home-to-work commute. Travel time includes all necessary time spent driving, waiting to board a flight, time in flight and time commuting to the hotel.

### **13 COMPLAINT PROCEDURE – NON-DISCIPLINARY MATTERS**

#### **13.1 Purpose**

The purpose of this section is to enhance communications between the District and its employees by providing a fair and impartial review and consideration of complaints at the level closest to their point of origin within a reasonable time without jeopardizing the employee's position or employment.

#### **13.2 Matters Subject to the Complaint Procedure**

A complaint may be filed with Human Resources for the alleged violation of the Employee

Handbook; alleged improper treatment of an employee; or alleged violation of commonly accepted safety practices or procedures, or other matters pertaining to employment with the District.

### **13.3 Limitations of Complaint Procedure**

The complaint procedure shall not be used to establish new policies or change any existing rules. It shall not be used in matters resulting from disciplinary action.

### **13.4 Confidentiality of Complaint Procedure**

Any matter leading to a complaint by an employee shall be kept confidential, to the extent permissible by law. During the course of workplace investigations, the District can only guarantee limited confidentiality – that the information will be limited to those who need to know, because it may be necessary to disclose information obtained during the investigation in order to complete the investigation and take appropriate action. It is not possible to promise that a complaint can be kept entirely confidential for several reasons:

- If the complaint is of potential violation of law or policy, the employer will need to investigate, and in the process of investigating it is likely that people will know or assume details about the allegations, including the identity of the person who complained. This is true even when the name of the complainant is kept confidential since allegations are often clear enough for people to figure out who complained about what.
- The individual receiving the complaint will usually have to consult with someone else at the company about what steps to take and to collect information about whether there have been past complaints involving the same employee, etc. That means the complaint will be discussed with others within the organization.
- The District may need to take disciplinary action. Again, while the identity of the person who brought the complaint may in some cases be kept confidential, the complaint itself cannot be.

### **13.5 Informal Complaint Adjustment**

Whenever possible, an employee who has a complaint should try to solve the problem through informal discussion with their supervisor without delay. The supervisor shall make whatever investigation they deem necessary and reply within five (5) calendar days. All matters for which they do not have authority to make a decision, should be brought to the attention of a higher-level supervisor who does have the proper authority.

### **13.6 Next Level of Authority**

If the employee is not satisfied with the decision reached through the informal discussion, and/or some other extenuating circumstances exist, they may bring the matter to the attention of the next level of authority. If the employee is still not satisfied with the decision, they may file a formal complaint within 15 calendar days of the occurrence of the event or action giving rise to the complaint.

### **13.7 Formal Complaint Procedure**

The formal complaint procedure may be followed only after failure to resolve a problem through informal complaint adjustment. If the employee is not in agreement with the decision reached, they may, within 15 calendar days of the occurrence of the event or action giving rise to the complaint, file a formal complaint in writing with the General Manager and/or Human Resources. The General Manager and/or Human Resources shall make whatever investigation they deem necessary to allow fair consideration of the situation and shall present a written reply to the employee within ten (10) calendar days after receipt of the complaint. In the case of a complaint against the General Manager, an employee may file a complaint in writing with any member of the Board of Directors. The member with whom the complaint is filed shall submit the complaint to an Executive Committee. The committee will review the matter and shall then make a recommendation to the Board of Directors. Subsequently, the Board will make a written decision.

The written decision of the General Manager in partnership with Human Resources and/or the Board shall constitute the final step of the District's administrative process. All matters complained of by an employee in writing shall be kept confidential, except as to those matters required by law.

### **13.8 General Consideration**

The Human Resources Department shall receive and retain copies of all written material pertaining to the complaint. Employees may represent themselves or select whomever they desire to represent them in the complaint procedure. If an employee fails to proceed with a complaint within any of the time limits specified in this section, the complaint shall be deemed settled on the basis of the last decision reached. Any of the time limits specified in this section may be extended when mutually agreed upon by all parties concerned.

### **13.9 Alternative Dispute Resolution**

The District may, as an option, offer arbitration for workplace disputes involving alleged wrongful termination, workplace harassment, or discrimination based on the protected classes outlined in section 1.1.

## 14 WHISTLEBLOWER POLICY

It is TVMWD's intent to protect its integrity, ensure the highest standards of conduct among its employees, and adhere to all applicable laws and regulations. TVMWD therefore encourages employees to report any reasonable belief that a violation has potentially occurred due to any rule, policy, procedure, practice or activity by TVMWD or its employees, districts, or vendors. Reports of any such potentially improper activity may be submitted on a confidential basis to any of the Chief Executive Officers or Human Resources. Alternatively, employees may provide an anonymous report through the Fraud Hotline by calling: 1-855-FRAUD-HL (1-855-372-8345).

Reports of discrimination, harassment or retaliation should be made under the Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation Prevention Policy, below.

TVMWD will not retaliate against an employee who, in good faith, reports any potentially improper activity, whether to TVMWD or to a government enforcement agency. Nor will TVMWD tolerate any other employee retaliating against or attempting to influence the employee for such reports. Any employee who engages in retaliation will be subject to discipline up to and including termination of employment. TVMWD will conduct a prompt and appropriate investigation into all reports of potentially improper activity.

All employees are required to cooperate with TVMWD's internal investigations by providing any requested information and truthfully and fully answering questions. Failure to cooperate with or impeding an investigation, or knowingly providing false information, will result in disciplinary action. Reports of potentially improper activity and related investigations will be kept confidential to the extent possible, consistent with the need to conduct an appropriate investigation.

Anyone found to have engaged in improper activity will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including termination of employment.

## 15 HARASSMENT & DISCRIMINATION

This Discrimination, Harassment and Retaliation Prevention Policy reflects TVMWD's commitment to a respectful workplace and commitment to preventing unlawful discrimination, harassment and retaliation from occurring in the work environment. This policy protects individuals who perform services for TVMWD in the workplace, including District employees, contractors, interns, and volunteers. This policy refers to this broad category of protected persons as "individuals."

Sexual harassment is the unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other



verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature that tends to create a hostile or offensive work environment. Discriminatory harassment is any unwelcome, typically repeated offensive conduct that is directed at an individual because of their membership in a legally protected class.

State and federal law protect individuals from workplace discrimination and harassment based on certain legally protected characteristics. This policy uses the term "Legally Protected Characteristics" to encompass all legally protected categories, including:

- Age (over 40)
- Race
- Religion/creed (including religious dress and grooming practices)
- Color
- National origin
- Ancestry
- Gender/sex (including pregnancy, childbirth, breastfeeding and/or related medical conditions)
- Sexual orientation
- Gender identity and gender expression
- Medical conditions
- Marital status
- Genetic information
- Military and Veteran status
- Disability (mental and physical)

Harassment of employees due to their Legally Protected Class, by fellow employees, officers, directors, consultants, or non-employees will not be tolerated by the District. Harassment shall be reported either verbally or in writing to the General Manager, Human Resources or the President of the Board of Directors if the complaint is against the General Manager. Upon receipt of a harassment complaint, Human Resources in partnership with the General Manager or the President of the Board of Directors, as appropriate, shall take prompt action to conduct an investigation to determine whether harassment has taken place and/or is presently taking place. Where found appropriate, actions shall be taken to effectively stop such behavior where it does exist.

Sexual harassment of the District's employees, by a person in or from the work environment, is strictly prohibited. Sexual harassment includes, but is not limited to, unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, or other verbal, visual, or other physical conduct of a sexual nature when:

- Submission to such conduct is made either expressly or by implication a term or condition of an individual's employment.

- Submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for employment decisions affecting the individual; or
- Such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's work performance; creating an intimidating, hostile, threatening or offensive working environment; or adversely affecting the employee's performance, appraisal, assigned duties, or any other condition of employment or career development.

Harassment also includes any act of retaliation against an employee for reports of violation of this policy or for participating in the investigation of a harassment complaint.

Other examples of sexual harassment include, but are not limited to, unwelcome sexual flirtations or propositions; verbal abuse of a sexual nature; graphic verbal comments about an individual's body; sexually degrading words used to describe an individual; emails that may be inappropriate, offensive, harassing, and/or creating a hostile work environment; and the display in the work environment of sexually suggestive objects or pictures, posters, jokes, cartoons, or calendar illustrations. Sexual harassment conduct need not be motivated by sexual desire.

If you feel that you have been or are being harassed or sexually harassed or are aware of or suspect the occurrence of harassment or sexual harassment, immediately contact your supervisor, Human Resources, Chief Executive Officers or the General Manager. Any and all complaints will be treated confidentially to the extent possible. The complaint will be responded to in a timely fashion, investigated promptly and thoroughly by impartial and competent personnel; documented and tracked to ensure reasonable progress; met with appropriate remedial action when misconduct is found; and afforded a timely closure.

Any person who is found to condone, participate, or initiate any of the above forms of harassment will be disciplined, in the form of written warning, demotion, suspension or termination. No employee will be disciplined for initiating a harassment complaint, or for participating in a harassment investigation.

Any individual who engages in prohibited harassment, including Supervisors or Managers who knew about the harassment but took no action to stop it, may be held personally liable under the law for monetary damages. Any Supervisor or Manager who knew about prohibited harassment and failed to report the harassment as stated in this policy, may also be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination of employment.

Every effort will be made to assure the confidentiality of complaints made under this Policy to the greatest extent permissible by law. Complete confidentiality cannot occur due to the need to fully investigate and the duty to take effective remedial action. An employee

who is interviewed during the course of an investigation is prohibited from attempting to influence any potential witness while the investigation is ongoing. An employee may discuss their interview with a designated representative. TVMWD will not disclose a completed investigation report except as it deems necessary to support a disciplinary action, to take remedial action, to defend itself in adversarial proceedings, or to comply with the law or court order.

## 16 PROTECTIONS AGAINST RETAILATION

Retaliation is strictly prohibited against any individual by another employee or supervisor for using the employee complaint procedure, reporting proscribed harassment or discrimination, objecting to such conduct or filing, testifying, assisting or participating in any manner in any investigation, proceeding or hearing conducted by the District.

Prohibited retaliation includes, but is not limited to, termination, demotion, suspension, failure to hire or consider for hire or promote. Anyone found to be engaging in any type of prohibited discrimination or retaliation will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination of employment.

## 17 OPEN DOOR POLICY

TVMWD has an open-door policy that encourages employees to participate in decisions affecting them and their daily professional responsibilities. Employees who have job-related concerns or complaints are encouraged to discuss them with their supervisor or any other management representative with whom they feel comfortable. The District believes that employee concerns are best addressed through this type of informal and open communication. Employees are encouraged to raise work-related concerns with their immediate supervisor, or with a supervisor or other management representative of their choice, as soon as possible after the events that cause the concern.

Employees are further encouraged to pursue discussion of their work-related concerns until the matter is fully resolved. Although TVMWD cannot guarantee that in each instance the employee will be satisfied with the result, the District will attempt in each instance to explain the result to the employee if the employee is not satisfied. TVMWD will also attempt to keep all such expressions of concern, the results of any investigation, and the terms of the resolution confidential. In the course of investigating and resolving the matter, however, some dissemination of information to others may be necessary or appropriate. Furthermore, if employees have concerns about work conditions or compensation, they are strongly encouraged to voice these concerns openly and directly to their supervisors. We believe that TVMWD amply demonstrates its commitment to employees by responding effectively to employee concerns.

## 18 REASONABLE ACCOMODATION

TVMWD is committed to complying fully with the federal and state laws regarding equal opportunity in employment for qualified persons with disabilities. All employment practices and activities are conducted on a non-discriminatory basis. TVMWD will make reasonable accommodations for the known physical or mental limitations or an otherwise qualified individual with a disability who is an applicant or an employee, unless doing so would result in an undue hardship to the organization.

If the disability or the need for reasonable accommodation is not obvious, TVMWD may require the individual to provide reasonable medical documentation confirming the existence of the disability and the need for reasonable accommodation, along with the name and credentials of the individual's health care provider. If the individual provides insufficient documentation, the agency will: 1) explain the insufficiency; 2) allow the employee or applicant to supplement the documentation; and 3) pursue the interactive process only to the extent that the request for reasonable accommodation is supported by the medical documentation provided.

If a pregnant employee, or an employee with a pregnancy-related condition, requests a reasonable accommodation or transfer due to pregnancy, TVMWD will provide the employee with notice of the need for a medical certification within two (2) business days after the employee's request for accommodation. A medical certification confirming the need for a reasonable accommodation, including transfer, is sufficient if it contains: a description of the requested accommodation or transfer; a statement describing the medical advisability of the accommodation or transfer due to pregnancy; and the date that the need for the accommodation or transfer will become necessary and the estimated duration of the accommodation or transfer.

TVMWD will also make reasonable accommodations for employees who are victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking; and for applicants and employees based on their religious beliefs and practices.

- An employee who is a victim of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking and who requests an accommodation to provide for their safety while at work must provide both of the following:
  - (a) A written statement signed by the employee or an individual acting on the employee's behalf, to certify that the accommodation is to address victim-safety concerns while at work; and
  - (b) A certification demonstrating the employee's status as a victim of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking, which can be in the form of: a police report indicating the employee's victim status; a court order separating the perpetrator

from the employee or that the employee has appeared in court for that purpose; or documentation from a medical professional or counselor that the employee is undergoing treatment for physical or mental injuries or abuse resulting from an act of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking

This policy governs all aspects of employment, including selection, job assignment, compensation, discipline, termination, and access to benefits and training.

## 19 EMPLOYER-EMPLOYEE RELATIONS

The Employer-Employee Relations Policy provides procedures for the administration of employer-employee relations between the District and its employee organizations. Resolution 9-95-347.

# # #

## Acknowledgment of Receipt of Handbook and At-Will Agreement

After you have read this Handbook and have clarified any issues with your manager and or Human Resources Department, please complete, sign and return the agreement to the Human Resources Department.

I have received my copy of the TVMWD Employee Handbook. I understand and agree that it is my responsibility to read and familiarize myself with and the policies and procedures contained in the Handbook. I understand that, except for employment at-will status, any and all policies or practices can be changed at any time by the District. I understand and agree that other than the General Manager, no manager, supervisor or representative of the District has authority to enter into any agreement, expressed or implied, for employment for any specific period of time, or to make any agreement for employment other than at will; only the General Manager has the authority to make any such agreement and then only in writing, signed by the General Manager.

My signature below certifies that I understand that the foregoing agreement on at-will status is the sole and entire agreement between the District and me concerning the duration of my employment. It supersedes all prior agreements, understandings, and representations concerning the duration of my employment.

Employee's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Employee's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_