



- Board of Directors
Executive Committee

11/23/2021 Special Board Meeting

7-2

Subject

Consider and adopt the Board's Principles of Governance Statement; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA

Executive Summary

This board letter presents the Board's Principles of Governance Statement for consideration as recommended by Chairwoman Gray for the Board of Directors' review and adoption.

Details

As a follow-up item from the September 29-30, 2021 Board of Directors Retreat, the attached proposed Statement of Metropolitan's Board Principles of Governance (Attachment 1) is for the Board's consideration and adoption. Rhonda Hilyard, who facilitated the discussion with the Board at the Retreat, assisted with the preparation of the proposed Statement. Adoption of the Statement is an intentional commitment by the Board that will provide the Board guidance and support to recognize and value the diversity of the Board members' backgrounds, experiences, skills, styles, perspectives, and interests. These principles of governance are supplemental to the current governing policies set forth for Directors in Metropolitan's Act and Administrative Code.

Policy

Metropolitan Water District Administrative Code Section 11104: Delegation of Responsibilities

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

CEQA determination for Option #1:

The proposed action is not defined as a project under CEQA because it involves legislative proposals that do not involve any commitment to any specific project, which may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment (Public Resources Code Section 21065 and Section 15378(b)(1) of the State CEQA Guidelines). The proposed action is also not defined as a project under CEQA because it involves continuing administrative activities, such as general policy and procedure making (Section 15378(b)(2) of the State CEQA Guidelines). In addition, where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the proposed action in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the proposed action is not subject to CEQA (Section 15061(b)(3) of the State CEQA Guidelines).

CEQA determination for Option #2:

None required

Board Options

Option #1

Adopt the Board's Principles of Governance Statement.

Fiscal Impact: None

Business Analysis: Adoption of the Statement is an intentional commitment by the Board that will provide guidance and support to recognize and value the diversity of the Board members' backgrounds, experiences, skills, styles, perspectives, and interests.

Option #2

Do not adopt the Board's Principles of Governance Statement.

Fiscal Impact: None

Business Analysis: Absence of the adoption of the Board's Principles of Governance Statement could encumber the Board's ability to work together with mutual understanding, respectful discourse, and productive deliberations.

Staff Recommendation

Option #1



Gloria D. Gray
Chairwoman of the Board

11/19/2021
Date

Attachment 1 – Statement of Metropolitan's Board Principles of Governance

Ref# bd12681230

Statement of Metropolitan's Board Principles of Governance

PREAMBLE:

Metropolitan Board members recognize and value the diversity of their respective backgrounds, experiences, skills, styles, perspectives, and interests. Board members will not always agree, but will work together in the following ways to enhance mutual understanding, respectful discourse, and productive deliberations:

RESPECTFUL CONDUCT

Directors will express views in a professional manner and with consideration for one another.

Directors will respect differing opinions and ensure all views are heard.

Directors will treat each other with dignity and respect, according to the Golden Rule. (Treat others as you wish to be treated).

PARTICIPATION and INCLUSION

Directors will actively listen to better understand one another, while maintaining an open mind and seeking common ground.

Adequate airtime will be afforded to all.

When conducting meetings, the Chairs will be afforded respect in carrying out their responsibilities.

CONSENSUS and COMPROMISE

Directors will maximize opportunities to build trust and to reach timely agreements based on compromise or consensus.

They will do so by:

1. Being open, honest, and consistent in words and actions.
2. Seeking to understand one another and the source of differing views.
3. Being patient.
4. Expressing interests rather than positions.
5. Seeking the facts.
6. Avoiding blame.
7. Maintain a Metropolitan perspective that values win-win outcomes.

EFFECTIVENESS and EFFICIENCY

Directors will enhance the success of their deliberations by coming prepared, staying on task, being focused, and clearly communicating their interests.

Directors will address questions to the Chair to prevent misunderstandings of intent.

Directors will strive to determine the will of the group while being considerate of different interests.

These principles of governance are supplemental to the current governing policies set forth for Directors in Metropolitan's Act and Administrative Code.