

**SOUTH SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY SANITATION DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS BYLAWS  
FEBRUARY 2019 UPDATE**

**1. OFFICERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

- 1.1 The officers of the Board of Directors are the Chair and Vice Chair.
- 1.2 The Chair of the Board of Directors shall serve as Chair at all Board meetings. He/she shall have the same rights as the other Directors of the Board in voting, introducing motions, resolutions and ordinances, and any discussion of questions that follow said actions.
- 1.3 In the absence of the Chair, the Vice Chair of the Board of Directors shall serve as Chair over all meetings of the Board. If the Chair and Vice Chair of the Board will both be absent, the Chair may name any member of the Board to perform the duties of the presiding officer prior to the meeting. If the Chair's absence is unexpected, the Chair shall be as specified by standing order of the Chair.
- 1.4 The Chair and Vice Chair of the Board shall be elected annually at the second meeting in January of each calendar year.
- 1.5 The term of office for the Chair and Vice Chair of the Board shall commence on February 1 following their election as Chair and Vice Chair.
- 1.6 The Chair, or in his/her absence, the Vice Chair, are authorized to attend meetings of the San Luis Obispo County Planning Commission, meetings of the California Coastal Commission, meetings of the San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors, meetings between District Staff and Water Board Personnel, including either Regional Water Quality Control Staff or State Water Board Staff on behalf of the District, without compensation except reimbursement for use of his/her private vehicle to attend such meetings pursuant to District Policy 11.1(b). If the Chair is absent, the Vice Chair or Board member may attend these meetings.
- 1.7 The Chair, or in his/her absence, the Vice Chair shall meet with the District Administrator in advance of a regularly scheduled meeting to review all Warrants to be presented at the next regular Board meeting.

**2. MEETINGS**

- 2.1 Subject to holidays and scheduling conflicts, regular meetings of the Board of Directors shall commence at 6:00 p.m. on the first and third Wednesday of each calendar month at such meeting location within the District boundaries designated by the Board. The Board of Directors reserves the right to cancel and/or designate other dates, places and times for Director Meetings due to scheduling conflicts and holidays.

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**2.2 SPECIAL MEETINGS**

Special meetings may be called by the Chair or if two (2) Directors individually contact the District Administrator and request a special meeting with a minimum of twenty-four (24) hours public notice. A special meeting agenda shall be prepared and distributed pursuant to the procedures of the Brown Act by the District Administrator in consultation with the Chair, or in his or her absence, the Vice Chair or those Directors calling the meeting.

**2.3** Directors shall attend all regular and special meetings of the Board unless there is good cause for absence.

**2.4** No action or discussion may be taken on an item not on the posted agenda; provided, however, matters deemed to be emergencies or of an urgent nature may be added to the agenda under the procedures of the Brown Act. Pursuant to the Brown Act:

- (a) Directors may briefly respond to statements or questions from the public;
- (b) Directors may, on their own initiative or in response to public questions, ask questions for clarification, provide references to staff or other resources for factual information, or request staff to report back at a subsequent meeting;
- (c) A Director individually, or the Board by motion, may take action to direct the District Administrator to place a matter on a future agenda. If requested by a Director individually, the District Administrator shall inquire whether a majority of the Board wishes to entertain the item; and
- (d) Directors may make brief announcements or make a brief report on his/her own activities under the Director Comment portion of the Agenda.

**2.5 MEETING PROTOCOL**

(a) Policy. The purpose of oral presentation at District meetings, as well as written presentations, is to formally communicate to the Board of Directors on matters (1) listed on the Agenda, or (2) matters that are within the jurisdiction of the Board of Directors during general public comment. Such presentations are helpful to the Board in its decision-making process. The Board of Directors welcomes information and expressions of opinion from members of the public on any item which it may be considering. However, the Board of Directors is not required to provide a public forum for remarks or conduct in violation of the Rules of Decorum.

(b) Public Comment. Subject to the following rules, the Board of Directors shall set aside 30 minutes on each agenda item for public comment.

(c) The Chair, after consideration of the length of the Agenda, the nature of the agenda item, and the meeting limitations of Section 2.1, may expand or further limit the 30-minute time allocation for public comment.

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- (d) Each public commenter shall be limited to three (3) minutes unless shortened or extended by the Chair with consideration of the length of the Agenda, the nature of the agenda item, and the meeting limitations of Sections 2.1, above.

**2.6 DISTURBANCE OF BOARD MEETINGS**

**2.6.1 Rules of Decorum.** The rules of decorum, below, shall apply to public comment and attendance at District meetings.

- (a) No person shall address the Board of Directors without first being recognized by the Chair.
- (b) Persons addressing the Board have the option to state their name and their general place of residence.
- (c) Public comment and public testimony shall be directed to the Chair and shall be addressed to the Board of Directors as a whole. Persons addressing the Board of Directors shall not engage in a dialogue with individual Directors, District staff or members of the audience. The Chair shall determine whether, or in what manner, the District will respond to questions.
- (d) Persons addressing the Board are limited to one opportunity per Agenda item unless otherwise directed by the Chair in his/her discretion.
- (e) A person cannot defer his/her time allocation to another person.
- (f) When a group or organization wishes to address the Board on the same subject, the Chair may request that a spokesperson be chosen to speak for that group. The spokesperson's three (3) minute time allocation may be extended by the Chair in his/her discretion.
- (g) Persons addressing the Board shall confine the subject matter of their comments to the Agenda item being considered by the Board of Directors.
- (h) Each person addressing the Board of Directors shall do so in an orderly and civil manner and shall not engage in conduct which disrupts the orderly conduct of the District meeting.
- (i) The Chair may rule a speaker out of order who is unduly repetitious or extending discussion of irrelevance.

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- (j) Except as provided below, persons who reference or read from documents such as reports, exhibits, or letters (“Documents”) as part of his/her comment to the Board shall lodge the Document (or a copy) with the District Secretary at the end of the comment, to allow the Document to be appropriately referenced in the meeting Minutes and to allow District staff the opportunity to review and respond to the Document. The Chair has the discretion to strike a speaker’s comments from the record for failure to lodge the referenced Documents. Upon request, the lodged Documents shall be returned to the speaker after 1:00 p.m. on the day following the meeting.

**2.6.2** Exceptions:

- (a) Speaker’s presentation outline. However, documents referenced in the outline shall be lodged.
- (b) Documents that are in the Agenda packet.
- (c) Documents that have been previously published by the District, so long as the speaker identifies the Document by date, author and the pages referenced or read from.
- (d) For voluminous Documents the speaker need only lodge the cover sheet that identifies the author and date and the pages read from or referenced.

**2.7** Enforcement of Rules of Decorum. Any person who violates the Rules of Decorum may, at the discretion of the Chair, be removed from the meeting. The Rules of Decorum shall be enforced in the following manner:

- (a) Warning. The Chair shall warn the person who is violating the rules of decorum.
- (b) Expulsion. If after receiving a warning from the Chair, the person persists in violating the rules of decorum the Chair shall order the person to leave the Board meeting room for the remainder of the meeting.
- (c) Assisted Removal. If such person does not voluntarily remove himself/herself, the Chair may order any law enforcement officer who is on duty at the meeting, or who may be summoned to the meeting, to remove the person from the Board room.
- (d) Restoration of Order. If order cannot be restored by the removal of individuals who are disrupting the meeting, the Board meeting will be continued under the provisions of Government Code §54957.9

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- 2.8** Limitations (Government Code §59454.3(c)). The Rules of Decorum shall not be interpreted to prohibit public criticism of the policies, procedures, programs or services of the District.
- 2.9** The Chair, or in his/her absence the Vice Chair, or if both are absent, the Chair's designee as provided by Paragraph 1.3, shall be the presiding officer at District Board meetings. He/she shall conduct all meetings in a manner consistent with the policies of the District. He/she shall determine the order in which agenda items shall be considered for discussion and/or actions taken by the Board. He/she shall announce the Board's decision on all subjects. He/she shall vote on all questions and on roll call votes his/her name shall be called last.
- 2.10** Two (2) Directors of the Board shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. When a quorum is lacking for a regular, adjourned, or special meeting, the Chair, Vice Chair, or any Director shall adjourn such meeting; or, if no Director is present, the District Secretary shall adjourn the meeting.
- 2.11** Except as otherwise specifically provided by law, a majority vote of the total membership of the Board of Directors is required for the Board of Directors to take action.
- 2.12** A roll call vote shall be taken upon the passage of all ordinances and resolutions and shall be entered in the Minutes of the Board, showing those Directors voting aye, those voting no, those not voting because of a conflict of interest, abstention or absence. A roll call vote shall be taken and recorded on any motion not passed unanimously by the Board. Silence shall be recorded as an affirmative vote.
- 2.13** Any person attending a meeting of the Board of Directors may record the proceedings with an audio or video tape recorder or a still or motion picture camera in the absence of a reasonable finding that the recording cannot continue without disruptive noise, illumination, or obstruction of view that constitutes or would constitute a disruption of the proceedings.
- 2.14** All video tape recorders, still and/or motion picture cameras shall remain stationary and shall be located and operated from behind the public speaker's podium once the meeting begins. The Chair retains the discretion to alter these guidelines, including the authority to require that all video tape recorders, still and/or motion picture cameras be located in the back of the room.

**3. ETHICS TRAINING**

- 3.1** Pursuant to sections 53234 et seq. of the Government Code all Directors and designated District personnel shall receive at least two (2) hours of ethics training every two years.

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- 3.2** Each newly appointed Board member will receive such training from their Agency. Each newly designated District personnel shall receive ethics training no later than one year from the first day of service with the District and thereafter shall receive ethics training at least once every two years.

**4. AGENDAS**

- 4.1** The District Administrator, in cooperation with the Board Chair, shall prepare the agenda for each regular and special meeting of the Board of Directors. Any Director may call the District Administrator and request an item to be placed on the regular meeting agenda no later than 5 p.m. eleven (11) calendar days prior to the meeting date. Such a request must also be submitted in writing either at the time of communication with the District Administrator or delivered to the office within the next working day.
- 4.2** A block of thirty (30) minutes time shall be set aside to receive general public comment. Comments on agendized items should be held until the appropriate item is called. Unless otherwise directed by the Chair, public comment shall be presented from the podium. The person giving public comment may choose to state his/her name and whether or not he/she lives within the District boundary prior to giving his/her comment. Public comment shall be directed to the Chair of the Board and limited to three (3) minutes unless extended or shortened by the Chair at his/her discretion.
- 4.3** Those items on the District Agenda which are considered to be of a routine and non-controversial nature are placed on the "Consent Agenda". These items shall be approved, adopted, and accepted by one motion of the Board of Directors; examples of routine items include approval of Minutes, approval of Warrants, various Resolutions accepting developer improvements, minor budgetary items, status reports, and routine District operations.
- (a)** Directors may request that any item listed under "Consent Agenda" be removed from the "Consent Agenda", and the Board will then take action separately on that item. Members of the public will be given an opportunity to comment on the "Consent Agenda"; however, only a member of the Board of Directors can remove an item from the "Consent Agenda". Items which are removed ("pulled") by Directors of the Board for discussion will typically be heard after other "Consent Agenda" items are approved unless a majority of the Board chooses an earlier or later time.
- (b)** A Director may ask questions on any item on the "Consent Agenda." When a Director has a minor question for clarification concerning a consent item which will not involve extended discussion, the item may be discussed for clarification and the questions will be addressed along with the rest of the "Consent Agenda". Directors are encouraged to seek clarifications prior to the meeting if possible.

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- (c) When a Director wishes to consider/"pull" an item simply to register a dissenting vote, or conflict of interest, the Director shall inform the presiding officer that he/she wishes to register a dissenting vote, or conflict of interest, on a particular item without discussion. The item will be handled along with the rest of the Consent Agenda, and the District Secretary shall register a "no" vote, or abstention due to a conflict of interest.

**5. PREPARATION OF MINUTES AND MAINTENANCE OF TAPES**

- 5.1 The minutes of the Board shall be kept by the District Secretary and shall be neatly produced and kept in a file for that purpose, with a record of each particular type of business transacted set off in paragraphs with proper subheads.
- 5.2 The minutes of the Board of Directors shall record the aye and no votes taken by the members of the Board of Directors for the passage or denial of all ordinances, resolutions or motions.
- 5.3 The District Secretary shall be required to make a record only of such business as was actually considered by a vote of the Board and, except as provided in Sections 5.4 and 5.6 below, shall not be required to record any remarks of Directors or any other person.
- 5.4 Any Director may request for inclusion into the Minutes brief comments pertinent to an agenda item, only at the meeting in which the item is discussed. In addition, the minutes shall include brief summaries of public comment, the District Administrator's report, and matters of concern to District legal counsel, District committee reports, and Directors' reports. Materials submitted with such comments shall be appended to the minutes at the request of the District Administrator, District Counsel, the Board Chair, or any Director.
- 5.5 The District Secretary shall attempt to record the names and general place of residence of persons addressing the Board, the title of the subject matter to which their remarks related, and whether they spoke in support or opposition to such matter.
- 5.6 Whenever the Board acts in a quasi-judicial proceeding such as in assessment matters, the District Secretary shall compile a summary of the testimony of the witnesses.

**6. DIRECTORS**

- 6.1 Directors shall prepare themselves to discuss agenda items at meetings of the Board of Directors.
- 6.2 Members of the Board of Directors shall exercise their independent judgment on behalf of the interest of the entire District, including the residents, property owners and the public as a whole.

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- 6.3** Information may be requested from staff before meetings, within such limitations as required by the Brown Act. Information that is requested or exchanged shall be distributed through the District Administrator, and all Directors will receive a copy of all information being distributed.
- 6.4** Directors should at all times conduct themselves with courtesy to each other, to staff and to members of the audience present at Board meetings.
- 6.5** Differing viewpoints are healthy in the decision-making process. Individuals have the right to disagree with ideas and opinions. Civil discourse is encouraged. Once the Board of Directors takes action, dissenting Directors should not create barriers to the implementation of said action.
- 6.6** Except during open and public meetings the use of direct communication, personal intermediaries, or technological devices that is employed by a majority of the Directors to develop a collective concurrence as to action to be taken on an item by the Board of Directors is prohibited.
- 6.7** Directors shall not be prohibited by action of the Board of Directors from citing his or her District affiliation or title in any endorsement or publication, so long as no misrepresentation is made, or implied, about the District's position on the issue.
- 6.8** Directors are cautioned when using e-mail communications. Any communication from the District Administrator, or the District's legal counsel, or from other members of the Board of Directors, in each case the Director in responding to that e-mail shall not respond to "all", as that could constitute a violation of the Brown Act for a serial meeting or other provisions.
- 6.9** Any Director may complain to the District about another Director's conduct.

The complaint shall be made in writing and forwarded to the District Administrator and District Counsel along with supporting information. Within five days, the District will notify the accused Director in writing the substance of the complaint and supporting information. The notice shall also specify that the accused Director has five days to respond with supporting information.

The District Administrator and Counsel shall review the submitted information, investigate further as needed, and forward a preliminary report to the District Board.

The District Board may:

- Do nothing;
- Direct staff to place the matter on a regular meeting agenda;
- Take action in open session at a regular meeting concerning the complaint. Any action taken shall be by resolution and shall be consistent with elected officials' right to free speech.
- Potential actions include, but are not limited to: finding the complaint unfounded, expressing a legislative opinion concerning behavior, and issuing an official reprimand (censure) concerning inappropriate behavior.



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**7. AUTHORITY OF DIRECTORS**

- 7.1 The Board of Directors is the unit of authority within the District. Apart from his/her normal function as a part of this unit, Directors have no individual authority. As individuals, Directors may not commit the District to any policy, act or expenditure.
- 7.2 Directors do not represent any fractional segment of the District but are, rather, a part of the body which represents and acts for the District as a whole.
- 7.3 The primary responsibility of the Board of Directors is the formulation and evaluation of policy. Routine matters concerning the operational aspects of the District are to be delegated to professional staff members of the District.
- 7.4 Directors, when attending other meetings, may refer to their affiliation as a member of the Board of Directors and may make statements on their own behalf or endorsements on their own behalf as long as there is no misrepresentation made or implied about the District's position in regards to the issue presented.

**8. AUTHORITY OF THE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR**

The District Administrator shall be responsible for all of the following:

- 8.1 The implementation of the policies established by the Board of Directors for the operation of the District.
- 8.2 The appointment, supervision, discipline, and dismissal of the District's employees, consistent with the District's Personnel Policies as established by the Board of Directors.
- 8.3 The supervision of the District's facilities and services.
- 8.4 The supervision of the District's finances.

**9. DIRECTOR GUIDELINES**

- 9.1 Directors, by making a request to the District Administrator, shall have access to information relative to the operation of the District, including but not limited to statistical information, information serving as the basis for certain actions of Staff, justification for Staff recommendations, etc. If the District Administrator cannot timely provide the requested information by reason of information deficiency, or major interruption in work schedules, workloads, and priorities, then the District Administrator shall inform the individual Director why the information is not or cannot be made available.
- 9.2 In handling complaints from residents or property owners within the District, or other members of the public, Directors are encouraged to listen carefully to the concerns, but the complaint should be referred to the District Administrator for processing and the District's response, if any.

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- 9.3 Directors, when seeking clarification of policy-related concerns, especially those involving personnel, legal action, land acquisition and development, finances, and programming, should refer said concerns directly to the District Administrator.
- 9.4 When approached by District personnel concerning specific District policy, Directors should direct inquiries to the District Administrator. The chain of command should be followed.
- 9.5 Directors and District Administrator should develop a working relationship so that current issues, concerns and District projects can be discussed comfortably and openly.
- 9.6 When responding to constituent request and concerns, Directors should respond to individuals in a positive manner and route their questions to the District Administrator.
- 9.7 Directors are responsible for monitoring the District's progress in attaining its goals and objectives, while pursuing its mission.
- 9.8 No Board member may participate in a hearing or take action on an item which creates an economic conflict of interest for the member. Where there is an economic conflict of interest, the conflicted member shall announce the nature of the conflict of interest and recuse himself or herself from the hearing or deciding the matter and thereon step down from the dais and leave the room until the matter has been fully considered and voted upon, or otherwise continued.

**10. DIRECTOR COMPENSATION**

- 10.1 Each Director is authorized to receive one hundred dollars (\$100.00) as compensation for each regular, adjourned or special meeting of the Board of Directors attended by him/her.
- 10.2 Each Director is authorized to receive one hundred dollars (\$100) per day as compensation for representation of the District at a public meeting or public hearing conducted by another public agency and/or participation in a training program on a topic that is directly related to the District, provided that the Board of Directors has previously approved the member's participation at a Board of Director's meeting and the member delivers a written report to the Board of Directors at the District's next regular meeting regarding the member's participation.
- 10.3 In no event, shall Director Compensation exceed \$100 per day.
- 10.4 Director compensation shall not exceed six full days in any one calendar month.

**11. DIRECTOR REIMBURSEMENT**

- 11.1 Each Director is entitled to reimbursement for their actual and necessary expenses, including the cost of programs and seminars, incurred in the performance of the duties required or authorized by the Board.

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- (a) It is the policy of the District to exercise prudence with respect to hotel/motel accommodations. It is also the policy of the District for Directors and staff to stay at the main hotel/motel location of a conference, seminar, or class to gain maximum participation and advantage of interaction with others whenever possible.

If lodging is in connection with a conference or organized education activity, lodging costs shall not exceed the maximum group rate published by the conference or activity sponsor, provided that lodging at the group rate is available to the member of the Board of Directors at the time of booking. If the group rate is not available, the Director shall use lodging that is comparable with the group rate. Personal phone calls, room service, and other discretionary expenditures are not reimbursable.

- (b) Members of the Board of Directors shall use government and group rates offered by a provider of transportation for travel when available. Directors using his/her private vehicle on District business, shall be compensated at the prevailing IRS per diem mileage rate.
- (c) Any Director traveling on District business shall receive in addition to transportation and lodging expenses, a per diem allowance to cover ordinary expenses such as meals, refreshments and tips. The amount set for per diem shall be considered fair reimbursement. The per diem shall include breakfast, lunch and dinner. The per diem rate shall be pursuant to current General Services Administration annually published rates for San Luis Obispo County at: [gsa.gov](http://gsa.gov).
- (d) All travel and other expenses for District business, conferences, or seminars outside of the State of California shall require separate Board authorization, with specific accountability as to how the District shall benefit by such expenditure.

**11.2** All expenses that do not fall within the reimbursement policy set forth in 11.1, above, shall be approved by the Board of Directors, at a public meeting, before the expense is incurred.

**11.3** Board members shall submit an expense report on the District form within ten (10) calendar days after incurring the expense. The expense report shall be accompanied by receipts documenting each expense except for per diem allowances.

**11.4** Members of the Board of Directors shall provide brief reports on meetings attended at the expense of the District at the next regular meeting of the Board of Directors and as required by AB 1234.

**12. CORRESPONDENCE DISTRIBUTION POLICY**

Time permitting, the following letters and other documents shall be accumulated and delivered to the Board of Directors on Monday of each week and/or with agenda packet.

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- 12.1** All letters approved by the Board of Directors and/or signed by the Chair on behalf of the District; and
- 12.2** All letters and other documents received by the District that are of District-wide concern, as determined by District staff.

**13. CONFLICTS AND RELATED POLICY**

State laws are in place which attempt to eliminate any action by a Director or the District which may reflect a conflict of interest. The purpose of such laws and regulations is to ensure that all actions are taken in the public interest. Laws which regulate conflicts are very complicated. The following provides a brief policy summary of various conflict related laws. Directors are encouraged to consult with District Legal Counsel and/or the Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) at 1-800-ASK-FPPC (1-800-275-3772), prior to the day of the meeting, if they have questions about a particular agenda item.

**13.1 Conflict of Interest**

Each Director is encouraged to review the District Conflict Code on an annual basis. The general rule is that an official may not participate in the making of a governmental decision if it is: reasonably foreseeable that the decision will have a material financial effect on the official or a member of his or her immediate family or on an economic interest of the official, and the effect is distinguishable from the effect on the public generally. Additionally, the FPPC regulations relating to interests in real property have recently been changed. If the real property in which the Director has an interest is located within 500 feet of the boundaries of the property affected by decision, that interest is now deemed to be directly involved in the decision. The existing Regulation 18702.2 eliminated a prior bright-line 500-foot rule. Determining materiality where a property is more than 500 feet from the property subject to the decision is more complicated and subjective, and requires a comprehensive review of all factors that potentially affect the value of the property.

**13.2 Interest in Contracts, Government Codes Section 1090**

The prohibitions of Government Code Section 1090 provide that the Board of Directors may not contract with any business in which another Director has a financial interest.

**13.3 Incompatible Office**

The basic rule is that public policy requires that when the duties of two offices are inconsistent, repugnant or overlap so that their exercise may require contradictory or inconsistent action, to the detriment to the other public interest, their discharge by one person is incompatible with that interest. When a Director is sworn in for such a second office, he/she is simultaneously terminated from holding the first office.

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**14. EVALUATION OF CONSULTANTS**

The District's legal counsel shall be evaluated by the Board of Directors annually during the months of May or June of each year.

**15. CONTINUING EDUCATION**

Directors are encouraged to attend educational conferences and professional meetings when the purposes of such activities are to improve District operation. Subject to budgetary constraints, there is no limit to the number of Directors attending a particular conference or seminar when it is apparent that their attendance is beneficial to the District.

**16. BOARD BYLAWS REVIEW POLICY**

The Board Bylaws Policy shall be reviewed annually at the first regular meeting in February. The review shall be provided by District Counsel and ratified by Board action.

**17. RESTRICTIONS ON RULES**

The rules contained herein shall govern the Board in all cases to which they are applicable, and in which they are not inconsistent with State or Federal laws.