



Policy 6.04

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ETHICS OF THE EBMUD BOARD OF DIRECTORS

SUPERSEDES 26 SEP 23

IT IS THE POLICY OF THE EAST BAY MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS TO:

Promote ethical behavior in the conduct of District business.

Purpose and Scope	<p>The proper operation of EBMUD requires that Board members remain objective and responsive to the needs of the public, make decisions within the proper channels of governmental structure, and not use public office for personal gain. To further these objectives, certain ethical principles govern the conduct of each member of the EBMUD Board of Directors.</p> <p>This policy promotes awareness of ethics, integrity and fidelity as critical elements in Board members' conduct and in achievement of the EBMUD mission. It references relevant policies, practices, and procedures that provide the legal framework and operational guidelines for addressing ethical issues.</p>
Responsibilities of Public Office	<p>EBMUD Board members are dedicated to the concepts of effective and democratic government by responsible elected officials. Board members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Uphold the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of California, and carry out the laws of the nation, the state and local governmental agencies;• Comply with applicable laws regulating their conduct, including open government, conflict of interest, and financial disclosure laws;• Fulfill all applicable training requirements, including attending two (2) hours of ethics training (AB 1234) and two (2) hours of sexual harassment prevention training and education (AB 1661) every two (2) years; and• Work in full cooperation with other public officials, unless they are legally prohibited from doing so. <p><i>[California Government Code Section 1360; California Government Code 53235; California Government Code Section 87200; California Government Code Section 53237; Article 20, Section 3 of the California Constitution.]</i></p>
Fair and Open Processes Involving the Public	<p>EBMUD Board members promote fair and open public processes. Board members, and persons elected but who have not yet assumed office as members of the Board, must comply with California's open meeting law for public agencies (the Brown Act).</p> <p>Disclosure of Communications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Board members shall publicly disclose any oral or written communications they have had with persons, including, but not limited to, employees, legislators, legislative staff, public officials, developers, contractors, vendors and consultants, that relate to matters at a Board meeting or Committee meeting in which the Board is performing an adjudicatory or quasi-judicial function.

- The disclosure may be made orally or in writing and may be made at the start of the meeting or may be made prior to consideration of the agenda item at the meeting.
- The Board shall make a good faith effort to comply with these Disclosure provisions of this Policy. A good faith failure to comply with these provisions shall not be construed to be a violation of this Policy.

[California Government Code Section 54950 and following; California Government Code Section 54952.1; California Government Code Section 54959.]

Fair and Equal Treatment

EBMUD Board members promote diversity, equity, inclusion, and equality in personnel matters and in contracting, consistent with state and federal laws.

- Board members, in performance of their official duties and responsibilities, will not discriminate against or harass any person on the basis of race, color, religion, creed, sex, gender (including breastfeeding), gender identity (including transgender status), gender expression, marital or registered domestic partnership status, age for individuals forty or older, national origin, ancestry, disability (mental and physical), medical condition (cancer and genetic characteristics), genetic information, sexual orientation, military and veterans status, family or medical leave status, pregnancy (including childbirth or related medical condition), pregnancy disability leave status, or any other status protected by federal, state and/or local laws.
- Board members will immediately report any alleged violation of District Policy 6.06, Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO), to the General Manager. If a complaint is made against the General Manager, the Board member will report the violation to the General Counsel.
- Board members will not grant any special consideration, treatment, or advantage to any person or group beyond that available to every other person or group in similar circumstances.
- Board members will cooperate in achieving the equal opportunity objectives of EBMUD.

[See, e.g., Article 1, Section 31 of the California Constitution; Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967; Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008; Fair Employment and Housing Act; Rehabilitation Act of 1973; Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; California Labor Code Section 1102. See also EBMUD's Policy 6.06, Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO); Policy 6.08, Contract Equity Program; Policy 6.07, Prevention of Workplace Harassment; and Policy 2.02, Accommodation for Individuals with Disabilities in the Workplace.]

Proper Use and Safeguarding of EBMUD Property and Resources

EBMUD Board members exercise responsible management of District property and resources in the conduct of District business.

- Board members will safeguard EBMUD property, equipment, moneys, and assets against unauthorized use or removal, as well as from loss including criminal acts or breach of trust.
- A Board member will not ask or require an EBMUD employee to perform services for the personal benefit or profit of a Board member or employee.

- Each Board member will protect and properly use any EBMUD asset within his or her control, including information recorded on paper or in electronic form.
- Board members will maintain written records, including expense accounts, in sufficient detail to reflect accurately and completely all transactions and expenditures made on EBMUD's behalf.
- Board members will adhere to District policies.

[Article 16, Section 6 of the California Constitution; Penal Code Section 424. See also EBMUD Policy 7.04, Access to District Property for Tours; Policy 7.06, Pardee Conference and Lodging Facility Use; Policy 7.11, Use of District Bay Area Facilities; Policy 4.14, Reimbursement of Director Expenses; Policy 4.20, Use of District Technology Resources]

Use of Confidential Information

Board members will safeguard confidential information.

Board members will not disclose information that legally qualifies as confidential to unauthorized persons without approval of a quorum of the Board. This includes information that:

- (1) has been received for, or during, a closed session Board meeting, either in writing or as part of a discussion,
- (2) is protected from disclosure under the attorney/client or other evidentiary privilege, or
- (3) is not disclosable under the California Public Records Act.

A Board member may make a confidential inquiry or complaint to a district attorney or grand jury concerning a perceived violation of law, including disclosing facts to a district attorney or grand jury necessary to establish the alleged illegality of a District action. Prior to disclosing confidential information, however, a Board member will first bring the matter to the attention of either the President of the Board or the full Board, in a lawful and appropriate manner, to provide an opportunity to cure an alleged violation.

[California Government Code Section 54963; California Government Code Section 1098]

Conflicts of Interest

Board members avoid both actual conflicts of interest and the appearance of conflicts of interest with the District.

- A Board member will not have a financial interest in a contract with the District, or be a purchaser at a sale by the District or a vendor at a purchase made by the District, unless his or her participation is legally authorized.
- A Board member will not participate in the discussion, deliberation or vote on a matter before the Board, or in any way attempt to use his or her official position to influence a decision of the Board, if he or she has a prohibited interest with respect to the matter under California law.
- A Board member will not accept any honoraria.

- A Board member will not accept gifts that exceed the limitations specified in California law. Board members will report all gifts, campaign contributions, income and financial information as required under the District's Conflict of Interest Code and the provisions of the Fair Political Practices Act and Regulations.
- A Board member will not recommend the employment of a relative to the District or to any person known by the Board member to be bidding for or negotiating a contract with the District.

[California Government Code Section 87100 and following; California Government Code Section 1090 and following; California Government Code Section 81000 and following; California Government Code Section 87105; California Government Code Section 89502; Penal Code Sections 68 and 70, and EBMUD Conflict of Interest Code.]

Soliciting Political Contributions

Board members will not solicit political funds or contributions of in-kind services at EBMUD facilities or use EBMUD equipment.

- A Board member will not solicit or direct a political contribution or in-kind services from District officers, employees, consultants or contractors, or from vendors or consultants that have a material financial interest in a contract or other matter while that matter is pending before EBMUD.
- A Board member will not use EBMUD's seal, trademark, stationary, or other indicia of EBMUD's identity or facsimile thereof in any solicitation for political contributions.

[California Government Code Section 3205 and EBMUD Campaign Finance Reform Ordinance.]

Incompatible Offices

Except as expressly permitted by law, Board members appointed or elected to another public office, the duties of which may legally require action contradictory or inconsistent with the interests of the first entity, will resign from the first entity.

(See, generally, California Government Code Section 1099. See also California Government Code Section 53227, under which a special district employee may not be sworn into office as an elected or appointed member of the same special district unless he or she resigns as an employee.)

Exercise Responsible Financial Management

The Board ensures the District exercises responsible financial management.

- The Board ensures that EBMUD maintains a system of auditing and accounting that completely and at all times shows the financial condition of the District in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and legal requirements.
- The Finance/Administration Committee will review the staff recommendation for an independent auditor to conduct an annual audit of the District's books, records, financial affairs, and periodic single audits of federal funds received by the District and forward the recommendation to the full Board for approval.
- The independent auditor will provide reports and present the results of their audits, including recommendations made to the Board's Finance/Administration Committee. Reports from the auditor will be provided to the Board upon completion as part of the next Board mailing.

- Staff will respond to audit recommendations and provide periodic updates to the Board on the status of the responses to the recommendations.

[MUD Act Section 11889.]

Candidate's Statement

A Board member will not include false or misleading information in a candidate's statement for a general District election filed pursuant to Section 13307 of the Elections Code.

[Elections Code Sections 13307 and 13313; EBMUD Campaign Finance Reform Ordinance.]

Violation of Ethics Policy

A perceived violation of EBMUD's ethics policy by a Board member should be referred to the Board President for investigation and consideration of any appropriate action warranted. In the case of a perceived violation by the Board President, the matter should be referred to the Board Vice President. Nothing in this policy shall be construed to limit the right of any Board member to request that the perceived violation be placed on the agenda for determination and discussion. A violation of this policy may be addressed by remedies available by law, including but not limited to:

- Adopting a resolution expressing disapproval of the conduct of the Board member who has violated this policy,
- Injunctive relief, or
- Referral of the violation to the California Fair Political Practices Commission, District Attorney and/or the Grand Jury.

Authority

Resolution No. 33414-04, March 23, 2004.
 As amended by Motion No. 041-05, March 8, 2005
 As amended by Resolution No. 33577-07, January 9, 2007
 As amended by Resolution No. 33883-12, June 26, 2012
 As amended by Resolution No. 35008-16, October 25, 2016
 As amended by Resolution No. 35132-19, February 26, 2019
 As amended by Resolution No. 35221-21, April 27, 2021
 As amended by Resolution No. 35302-22, July 12, 2022
 As amended by Resolution No. 35364-23, September 26, 2023
 As amended by Resolution No. 35461-25, August 26, 2025

References

References are stated in each section above.