

Sacramento Suburban Water District

Reserve Policy

Adopted: August 18, 2003

Approved with Changes: June 17, 2019

100.00 Purpose of the Policy

The District will maintain reserve funds where required by law, ordinance or bond covenant, and revenue stability, so as to provide the necessary cash flow for normal and ordinary operations, while also providing the ability to address economic downturns and limited system emergencies.

The primary purposes of this policy are: to establish a reserve fund level that is specific to the needs and risks of the District; to identify when and how reserve funds are utilized and replenished; and to recognize the long-term nature of such funds and their relationship to current and projected customer rates. The District's financial reserve fund comprises various funds established for specific purposes and to reduce certain risks. Collectively, these funds enable the District to operate in a prudent manner, while allowing for transparency of reserve fund balances.

200.00 Policy**200.10 Fund Classification Types**

The District shall maintain three fund classifications that collectively comprise the District's reserve fund balance. Fund classifications are a hierarchy based primarily on the extent to which the District is bound to observe constraints imposed upon it. The fund classifications are - Restricted funds, Committed funds and Assigned funds, with distinction among the funds based on the relative strength of the constraints that control how amounts can be spent.

Restricted funds include amounts that can be spent only for specific purposes stipulated by law or third parties, such as grantors or creditors. Committed funds include amounts that can be used only for specific purposes as determined by Board action. Amounts in the assigned fund balance classification are intended to be used by the District for specific purposes but do not meet the criteria to be classified as restricted or committed.

200.20 Restricted Funds Classification

Restricted funds are those financial assets subject to enforceable third party constraints, such as those imposed by creditors, grantors, laws or regulation.

There are no designated restricted funds at this time.

200.30 Committed Funds Classification

Committed funds are those financial assets identified by the Board for specific purposes as determined by Board resolution or ordinance. Such financial assets are to be utilized only as directed by the Board.

Facilities Reimbursement Fund

As established by the Board in the District's Regulations Governing Water Service (Regulations), the District will retain a percentage of Facility Development Charges (FDC) collected each fiscal year for the purpose of repaying individuals or businesses who were required to install up-sized lines or extension facilities at the request of the District. Disbursements will be made in accordance with the Regulations, including the release of unexpended funds into the District's unrestricted net position.

200.40 Assigned Funds Classification

Assigned funds are those financial assets determined necessary to be retained for specific risk-mitigation purposes as determined by the Board as needs arise.

Emergency/Contingency Fund

Financial assets held for purposes of continued operations during times of severe economic distress due to events that require an immediate and/or significant use of cash. Such severe economic situations may include otherwise insurable events for which the timely receipt of cash may be delayed. The District shall target a balance of three percent (3%) of its prior year-end total assets in this fund. Conditions for utilization of such reserves and a plan for fund replenishment will be approved by the Board.

Prior to amounts being expended from this fund, the District shall establish a contingency plan that addresses, at a minimum:

1. The reason(s) for expenditures from this fund.
2. Amounts expected to be expended.
3. The funds replenishment timeline and funding source.

Operating Fund

Financial assets held primarily in the form of cash and cash-equivalents for the purpose of debt avoidance due to unexpected expenditures of a non-recurring nature or to meet unexpected increases in operating costs. The District shall target a balance in short-term investments and/or cash of 180 days (50%) of its current year's budgeted annual expenditures for operating costs and debt service in this fund. The minimum balance in short-term investments and/or cash shall be 90 days (25%) of its current year's budgeted annual expenditures for operating costs and debt service in this fund. Conditions for utilization of these reserves and a plan for fund replenishment will be determined by the Board at annual budget time.

The operating fund reflects the timing difference between billing for revenues and payment of expenses. The target level is a financial measure or guideline. If the fund level drops below the twenty-five percent target balance, that is a sign for staff to review the fund and, if necessary, bring recommendations to the Board to assure the fund will not continue to decline.

Rate Stabilization Fund

Financial assets held for purposes of managing cost variability in obtaining, treating and delivering potable surface water and groundwater. This Fund is focused on consumption fluctuations related to customer demand and purchasing of surface water as part of the District's conjunctive use efforts. Consumption charges established in the rate setting process forecast customer demand based on a repeat of average, recent climactic conditions. Financial fluctuations occur when situations vary from the assumption. The District shall target a balance of thirty-five percent (35%) of its expected upcoming year consumption revenues in this fund. Conditions for utilization of such reserves and a plan for fund replenishment will be directed by the Board at annual budget time.

Interest Rate Risk Management Fund

This fund is derived from earnings based on financial assets held as short-term investments pursuant to interest rate risk exposure assumed by the District upon the issuance of floating-rate debt. The amount of investments from which earnings are derived and accumulated will be determined at the time of debt issuance. Earnings on such investments will be used to repay a portion of the interest expense on the outstanding floating-rate bond or COP as long as the bond or COP is subject to interest rate risk exposure. This fund will be reduced in line with the amortized balance of the interest-rate swap(s).

Grant Fund

Financial assets held for purposes of funding the "local cost share" and advance payment of eligible reimbursable costs on capital projects funded partially from grant awards. As eligibility for potential grant awards requires the District to demonstrate financial viability to fund anticipated project costs, the District shall maintain a minimum balance equal to the combined sum of anticipated costs for those projects considered grant eligible in the upcoming biennial period. Conditions for utilization of such reserves and a plan for fund replenishment will be determined at the time of grant award.

Capital Asset Fund

Financial assets held for purposes of funding District capital asset replacements and capital projects necessary to meet regulatory requirements and/or system reliability needs. The District shall target a fund balance based on the annualized average of the future five years of CIP expenditures. The minimum balance in this fund shall be equivalent to the prior year's annual depreciation expense. Well property acquisition amounts will be funded as defined in the section "Well Property Acquisition Fund." The District shall target a balance to sufficiently fund anticipated capital improvement

project replacement cost deviations above the CIP funding level. Fund replenishment will be determined by the Board periodically through the rate setting process and annually through the budget process.

Well Property Acquisition Fund

This Fund is a component of the Capital Asset Fund. Amounts established for this Fund shall be established through the annual budget process. The District shall target a balance to sufficiently fund anticipated property acquisitions. Fund replenishment will be determined by the Board periodically through the rate setting process and annually through the budget process.

Facilities Development Charge Fund

Financial assets held for expenditure on growth/capacity-related capital asset projects only. Amounts deposited into this fund come from unexpended facility development charges collected from developers (see related Facilities Reimbursement Fund in section 200.30 above.) These growth/capacity-related capital asset projects form the cost-basis and legal nexus for the establishment and collection of the Facility Development Charges. This fund is dependent upon customer growth. Therefore, there is no prescribed target or minimum balance.

300.00 Disposition of “One-Time” Revenues

“One-time” revenues are revenues of an unusual or infrequent nature which are likely not the result of the District providing services and producing and delivering goods in connection with the District’s principal ongoing operations (e.g. legal settlement). Unless specifically earmarked by Board action otherwise, “one-time” revenues should be transferred to the appropriate reserve fund which best represents the reason for the “one-time” revenue.

400.00 Target Funding Level

A summary of reserve fund classifications and funding levels is shown below:

Fund Classification	Funding Level
Facilities Reimbursement Fund	20% of FDC charges collected annually less developer payouts.
Emergency/Contingency Fund	3% of prior-year end total assets.
Operating Fund	50% of annual operating and debt service expenditures.
Rate Stabilization Fund	35% of water consumption revenues.
Interest Rate Risk Management Fund	Accumulated earnings on short-term investments above 3.283% on the unhedged portion of variable-rate debt.

Grant Fund	Sufficient to pay for “local cost share” on all outstanding and applied-for grants.
Capital Asset Fund	Based on the annualized average of the future five years of CIP expenditures.
Facilities Development Charge Fund	Remaining amounts of FDC Charges after amounts used by Facilities Reimbursement Fund expended. For new infrastructure.

500.00 Authority

The General Manager is responsible for the appropriate accounting and regular reporting of the District’s reserve fund balance. Board oversight will be accomplished through regular reporting and review of this Policy.

600.00 Procedure

District staff will maintain procedures for each fund classification, to be approved by the General Manager, and in conformance with this Policy.

In any case where the reserves are drawn below target minimums, a report shall be developed containing the reasons for withdrawals and any impacts to programs or rates due to such withdrawals. If reserves are depleted, the reserves shall be replenished over a maximum five (5) year period to the established or re-established target as directed by the Board.

Maintenance of minimum reserves should not, on its own, trigger the need for a rate adjustment. Rates will be reviewed after two consecutive years of revenue dropping below established minimums balances, or diminishing reserves as a result of covering unanticipated costs.

700.00 Policy Review

This Policy will be reviewed annually as part of the budget adoption process.