

Number: **BP 038**

Authority: Board of Directors

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Initiating Dept./Div.: Engineering & Technical Services  
Department/Planning Development



## **BOARD POLICY**

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### **CLIMATE CHANGE**

#### PURPOSE

Scientific organizations and leading scientists believe that the Earth's climate has been evolving and is changing, as evidenced by increasing concentrations of greenhouse gases, increased air and ocean temperatures, ocean acidification, changing precipitation patterns, sea level rise, and increasing frequency and intensity of extreme droughts, wildfires and storm events. These climate change indicators not only contribute to adverse health, society, and ecosystem impacts, they also pose the following risks:

- Increasing wet weather flows
- Increased flood risk
- Reduced water supply reliability
- Reduced dry weather flows and changing wastewater composition due to additional water conservation

Central San's infrastructure and operational resiliency to these climate change risks is critical towards achieving the District's Mission – to Protect Public Health and the Environment.

#### POLICY

It is the policy of the District to consider climate change impacts in its policies, programs and projects, where applicable, and reduce the District's contribution and vulnerability to climate change.

In considering this policy, the District will exercise leadership in the following climate adaptation strategies while furthering the District's Mission:

1. Continue the District's commitment to implement the goals of the Global Warming Solutions Act (Assembly Bill 32) and other applicable climate change legislation. Continue to report and verify greenhouse gas emissions and strive to

manage anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions to stay below the California Air Resource Board Cap and Trade inclusion threshold of 25,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalents per year, with due consideration for cost and operational reliability.

2. Implement projects that protect and improve the resiliency of the District's facilities from flooding and sea level rise.
3. Reduce workplace emissions by encouraging and supporting environmentally friendly workplace practices and commuting habits.
4. Work with local, regional, and state agencies and groups to understand how climate change will affect our communities' critical assets and participate in collaborative efforts to develop robust adaptation strategies.
5. Support sustainable use of water resources and plan for water conservation impacts.
6. Consider climate change in addition to other environmental impacts when completing California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) assessments and environmental impact reports for the District's projects.
7. Monitor the state of climate change science and evolving regulations and legislation through industry associations and assign resources as appropriate to comply with future climate change adaptation requirements.
8. Enhance the community's understanding of climate change and how it challenges the District's Mission.
9. Participate in integrated regional water reliability planning and explore recycled water opportunities consistent with Board Policy No. BP 019 – *Recycled Water*.
10. Support energy efficiency improvements, renewable energy generation projects, and other strategies to strive towards Net Zero Energy as described in Board Policy No. BP 027 – *Energy*.

*[Original Retained by the Secretary of the District]*