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SITES PROJECT AUTHORITY ACCOUNTING POLICY

1. Purpose:

This Accounting Policy describes the principles, practices, and conventions used by the Sites Project Authority (Authority) in preparing and presenting financial statements. ~~The Authority is a sole purpose entity responsible for the planning, design, and construction of the Sites Reservoir Project. As the project progresses, these accounting policies will be amended.~~

2. Definitions:

Fiscal Year: The Authority's Fiscal Year aligns with the calendar year, beginning on January 1 and ending on December 31 each year.

Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP): The set of accounting standards and guidelines used in the United States to ensure consistency, transparency, and accuracy in financial reporting.

Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB): The GASB establishes accounting and financial reporting standards for U.S. state and local governments that follow generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP).

3. Policy:

Accounting: The Authority reports its operations using the accrual method of accounting. All accounting is performed in alignment with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles as promulgated by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB), Financial Accounting Standards Board and the Securities and Exchange Commission.

The Authority allocates costs to programs using cost accounting efforts customary for a California public water agency, including reviews of cost acceptability and accuracy.

Revenues: The Authority receives revenues via payments and reimbursements under agreements with local, state, and federal agencies. The Authority also receives revenue from interest and grants. The Authority's revenues are categorized as Authority Revenue and Reservoir Revenue. Revenues are collected as checks, automatic payments through an automated clearing house, and incoming wire transfers.

Invoicing and Accounts Receivable: The Authority provides invoices for payment and reimbursement.

- a. The Authority Board approves the release of invoices associated with Authority Board Dues.
- b. The Authority Board Treasurer Finance Manager and or Executive Director, if Finance Manager is unavailable, approves all invoices prior to issuance.
- c. An accounts receivable aging summary is generated and is reported to the Authority Board monthly.
- d. ~~Unbilled receivables will be accrued on an annual basis~~

Cash: The Authority operates on a non-cash basis. Cash in the form of hard currency is neither received nor expended by the Authority.

Bank Accounts: The Authority maintains the following bank accounts. In all cases the authorized signatory on the bank accounts includes the Authority Board Treasurer and an additional designated Authority Board member or alternate as approved by the Treasurer.

- a. **Checking Accounts:** Three separate checking accounts are maintained and designated as General, State Funds and Federal Funds.
- b. **Savings Accounts:** The Authority has one insured interest-bearing savings account. All interest earned is deposited into this account. The Authority has adopted an Investment Policy to address custodial risk associated with this account.
- c. **Reconciliation:** All bank accounts are reconciled at the conclusion of each month by the Authority authorized accountant.

Credit Cards: Credit cards may be used for purchases under \$2,000 per month for office supplies and office operating expenses. The Executive Director has the authority to authorize issuance of credit cards. Use and review of credit card purchases shall conform to the requirements of the Credit Card Use Procedure approved by the Authority Board Treasurer.

Assets and Asset Valuation:

- a. **Prepaid Expenses:** Prepaid expenses are amounts paid by the Authority that provide benefit in future periods. ~~The Authority threshold for prepaid expenses is \$1,000.~~
- b. **Capitalization:** The Authority defines capital assets as additions or betterments such as property, plant, equipment, and infrastructure assets with an initial individual cost of ~~\$5~~~~10,000~~ or more and a useful life of three years or more. ~~Groups of assets with an aggregate value of \$25,000 or more and a useful life of three years or more will also be capitalized.~~
- c. **Cash and Investments:** The Authority may invest its funds in cash and cash equivalents, treasuries, and federal agency securities. Such investments will be recorded at ~~market~~ fair value at the end of the accounting period, consistent with GAAP.

Liabilities: The Authority's liabilities ~~generally may~~ consist of ~~outstanding accounts payable and accrued liabilities, payments for goods and services and liabilities associated with agreement terms~~ agreements related to reimbursements for past project costs, ~~and liabilities required to be recorded by the GASB.~~

- a. **Accounts Payable:** All invoices for goods and services are received and processed consistently with the Accounts Payable **Approval Policy** and **related** procedures. An accounts payable summary and accounts payable aging summary is provided in monthly reports.
- b. **Leases:** Lease agreements are identified and recorded in accordance with the requirements of GASB Statement No. 87.
- c. **Subscription Based IT Arrangements (SBITAs):** Subscription-based information technology arrangements are identified and recorded in accordance with the requirements of GASB Statement No. 96. ~~All leases will be recorded and reported consistently with the guidance in the general governing regulations of GASB.~~
- d. **Long-Term Liabilities:** Will be **identified and recorded** consistently with the Authority's adopted Debt Management Policy.
- e. **Accrued Liabilities:** ~~A summary of accrued liabilities will be prepared on a monthly basis.~~

General Ledger: The General Ledger shall be developed and maintained by the Authority authorized accountant.

Audit Practices: An external audit shall be conducted after the conclusion of each fiscal year. The external audit process fulfills all audit requirements, including those specified in funding agreements.

4. Process:

All accounting is performed by ~~independent~~ consultants under contract with the Authority and under the oversight of the Authority's Finance Manager. The accounting performed by the consultants is in alignment with ~~the respective consultants' accounting procedures and~~ the Authority adopted policies and procedures stipulated in Authority's contract with the consultants.

5. Policy Term:

This Policy will be reviewed as needed and any changes shall occur by way of a resolution adopted by the Authority Board.

6. Reporting:

All audited annual financial reports are provided to the Authority Board for approval.

All annual financial reports are prepared under the direction of the Executive Director and shall be made publicly available on the Authority's website at www.sitesproject.org.

The Sites Project Authority is a non-profit Joint Powers Authority following Internal Revenue Code subsection 501(c). The Authority's ~~Treasurer~~ **auditor or contract accountant** will file the Special Districts Annual Report and other necessary materials to the California State Controller's Office after Authority approval of the annual financial report.