

**MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT OF ORANGE COUNTY
(MWDOC)**



**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)
TO PROVIDE
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ADVOCACY SERVICES**

RFP No. GA2025-001

**Proposals Due: 5:00 pm PDT, October 15, 2025
(via email to acrespi@mwdoc.com)
Electronic submittals only**

**Questions for clarification by email only
are due by: October 1, 2025**

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SECTION 1 – NOTICE TO PROPOSERS

Proposals for RFP No. GA2025-001 Federal Government Advocacy Services, as described herein, will be accepted until **Wednesday, October 15 at 5:00 p.m.** Proposals must be submitted by email only to acrespi@mwdoc.com.

Please note – keep the size of the electronic copy to less than 15 megabytes to allow emailing. Failure to meet this requirement will be grounds for rejecting your proposal.

SECTION 2 – INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

I. PURPOSE OF THE REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC or District) is seeking proposals from qualified firms or individuals (referred to herein as Proposers, Contractors, or Consultants) for services to consult, monitor, and lobby to engage MWDOC in developing a strong legislative presence in Washington, D.C., to assist on regulatory issues, and to represent MWDOC as its liaison with regulatory agencies.

The purpose of this Request for Proposals (RFP) is to solicit proposals from the current contractor as well as other qualified firms/Consultants with a proven track record in advocacy/lobbying at the federal level to assist MWDOC in developing and successfully pursuing its legislative and regulatory priorities.

The successful firm will be awarded a three-year contract with an option for two single-year renewals.

This RFP describes the District, the required scope of services, the contractor selection process, and the minimum information that must be included in the proposal. Failure to submit information in accordance with the RFP requirements and procedures may be cause for disqualification.

II. DISTRICT OVERVIEW

MWDOC is a wholesale water supplier serving nearly 3.2 million Orange County residents through 27 retail water agencies. MWDOC's service area covers all of Orange County except for the cities of Anaheim, Fullerton, and Santa Ana. As a wholesale water supplier and resource planning agency, MWDOC's efforts focus on sound planning and appropriate investments in water supply development, water use efficiency, public information, legislative advocacy, water education, and emergency preparedness.

Orange County water supply and system reliability varies from one location in the county to another. Some areas have abundant local supplies, whereas others rely almost entirely on imported water supplies. This requires strategic and collaborative regional coordination to ensure supply and system reliability for the county. Overall, local water supplies meet nearly half of Orange County's total water demand. To meet the remaining demand, MWDOC purchases imported water – from Northern California and the Colorado River – through the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. MWDOC delivers this water to its 27 member agencies (local water agencies and city water departments), which provide retail water services to the public. MWDOC is governed by an elected, seven-member Board of Directors. Additional information about MWDOC is available at www.mwdoc.com.

III. **PROJECT TIMELINE**

The following table identifies and estimates the dates/timeframe for receipt, evaluation, award, and implementation of this work. Please note these key dates when preparing your response to this RFP.

| <u>Description</u> | <u>Date</u> |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| Release of RFP to Consultants | September 18, 2025 |
| Deadline for Written Questions Regarding RFP | October 1, 2025 |
| Responses to Written Questions Posted on Website | No later than October 8, 2025 |
| Proposal Due Date | October 15, 2025 |
| Proposal Review/Shortlist Consultants | October 16-22, 2025 |
| Consultant Interviews (Tentative, if needed) | October 29, 2025 |
| Final Consultant Selection (Board approval) | November 19, 2025 |
| Contract Execution | December 2025 |
| Contract Duration (Initial term shown, with option for two single-year renewals thereafter) | January 1, 2026 – December 31, 2028 |

SECTION 3 – SCOPE OF WORK

I. **FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ADVOCACY SERVICES**

MWDOC seeks a federal advocate/lobbying firm to develop and execute an effective federal advocacy strategy plan. The scope of work for such support services includes the following:

1. Represent MWDOC’s interests with congressional offices, the executive branch, and agencies such as (but not limited to): Department of Interior, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Environmental Protection Agency, and the Department of Energy.
2. Establish an active presence and day-to-day involvement in the political, regulatory, and legislative arenas on behalf of MWDOC.
3. Actively support MWDOC’s efforts to strengthen relationships with the congressional delegation representing the region and the legislative staff in both Orange County and Washington, D.C. offices.
4. Help MWDOC create common ground and strategic alliances with other key, influential members of Congress representing areas outside Orange County.
5. Provide legislative tracking, analysis, and advocacy, including but not limited to:

- a) Monitor and report on legislative initiatives of interest that may promote or hinder MWDCOC's goals or interests
 - b) Provide strategic guidance and recommendations to assist MWDOC in maximizing its policy influence and achieving its legislative and regulatory goals/objectives
 - c) Advocate on legislation, proposed rulemaking and regulations, and other federal issues in response to formal positions taken by MWDOC
 - d) Attend congressional and/or other public hearings and provide information regarding those hearings as they may affect MWDOC
 - e) Seek opportunities for MWDOC Board or staff to testify at congressional hearings on water matters, regulatory items, emergency response and water security, water use efficiency, and other items related to MWDOC's expertise and interests
 - f) Assist with the preparation of legislative and regulatory correspondence, written testimony and/or talking points for congressional hearings, and other legislative or regulatory activities
 - g) Work with advocates representing MWDOC's member agencies (including Orange County Water District) and the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) and assist MWDOC with coordination and collaboration on legislative, regulatory, and federal funding matters among these agencies.
6. Interact with and represent MWDOC in front of regulatory agencies, monitor important regulatory issues, and collaborate with other water advocacy associations and agencies to develop new federal funding opportunities and secure federal funding for MWDOC and its member agencies via lobbying efforts.
 7. Prepare a monthly written federal legislative report and additional written bill or regulatory analyses (as requested) for MWDOC's Joint Workshop (JWS) Board Meeting (typically scheduled for the first Wednesday of each month) and assist staff in securing topical guest speakers for the JWS Board meeting (as requested).
 8. Attend and be prepared to actively participate, including providing a brief oral report and answering questions, during MWDOC's monthly JWS Board meetings.
 9. Attend and actively participate (as requested) in water advocacy association meetings/events, legislative working groups, and other groups related to

MWDOC's interests. Brief written reports/meeting summaries shall be prepared and emailed in a timely manner to MWDOC.

10. Assist in developing legislative and regulatory strategies and policy principles for the MWDOC Board's consideration that provide the basis for MWDOC's legislative and regulatory positions. Policy positions and strategies will be proactively prepared to represent the interests of MWDOC and its member agencies, as well as reactively prepared, as needed, to respond to legislation introduced, considered, or amended when Congress is in session.
11. Assist in developing strategies to successfully implement MWDOC's legislative program and to acquire federal funding for MWDOC and member agency projects.
12. Assist with coordination and interface with House and Senate offices and regulatory agencies. Participate in crafting itineraries, reviewing and editing MWDOC-prepared collateral briefing materials, and facilitating meetings between MWDOC Board members and staff and the Orange County congressional delegation, their key committee staff, representatives of the executive branch, and federal agencies.
13. Comply with all applicable legal registering and reporting requirements.

SECTION 4 – PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS

I. PROPOSAL ELEMENTS

The proposal's emphasis should be on responding to the requirements set forth herein. Proposers must demonstrate their capabilities, background, expertise, and experience for the District to evaluate the proposals effectively. The proposal should be concise, well-organized, and demonstrate the Consultant's understanding of the District's advocacy needs.

The Proposal should be organized as follows. Please use the section headings and sub-headings listed in bold below.

1. **Proposal Contents** – Proposals shall contain the following specific information and be no longer than ten pages (excluding a cover letter and resumes):
 - a. **Cover Letter** - The cover letter shall provide a summary of the services to be provided. The cover letter must be signed by an authorized officer or employee of the firm who has the authority to negotiate and contractually bind the organization.

The title of the authorized officer or employee, their name, address, e-mail, and phone and fax numbers must be included. The District intends to correspond only with the respondent's authorized officer or employee for all correspondence regarding this RFP. Submitting accurate and updated contact information is the responsibility of the respondent. Obligations committed by such signatures shall be binding.

b. Background Information

- i. Legal name, address, and telephone and fax numbers of the principal office (national headquarters) and local office. If services are provided from additional locations, provide this information for these sites also.
- ii. Year established.
- iii. Type of organization (partnership, corporation, etc.).
- iv. Name, title, address, e-mail, and telephone and fax numbers of the person to whom correspondence shall be directed.
- v. Description of the scope of services provided by the firm.
- vi. Description of any relevant pending litigation or litigation against the firm, or any of its proposed sub-consultants, that was settled in the past three years.

c. Organization

- i. Provide an organizational chart indicating names, job titles, functional roles, and responsibilities of proposed staff involved with the contract, including the project manager in charge of the engagement and the firm principal overseeing the engagement (if different than the project manager).
- ii. Describe how the responding firm is organized to provide the required services.

d. Work Plan/Technical Approach/Project Management – Submit a work plan for each task for carrying out the scope of services described in this RFP, including strategy, tools, techniques, critical path items, and decision points, that reflects an understanding of the District's requirements. Assumptions, desired outcomes, and deliverables must be included as part of your firm's approach to each major task area.

e. Project Team and Resumes - Indicate the Project Team by name and title, i.e., the individual(s) who would be assigned overall responsibility for performing the services and identify the project manager. The project manager will serve as the principal lobbyist/point of contact and should guarantee his/her availability. Provide a project team organizational chart indicating the primary role and responsibility of each team member. The proposal should clearly associate specific staff with work

tasks, estimate the percentage of time they will be available to the project, and provide their qualifications. Submit resumes for each identified individual, including prime personnel, and their key qualifications and experience that make them suited for their proposed assignment on the project. Every effort should be made to ensure that staff resources identified in the proposal will be available for the project in the event that an agreement is awarded to your firm.

- f. **Qualifications and Experience** – Describe the firm's qualifications for performing similar, relevant, or related services. Identify the team's experience in working with elected officials, committees, and various regulatory agencies.
- g. **Client References** - A list of three to five former clients and representative services undertaken in the last two years, demonstrating experience relevant to this RFP. Include with each reference the contact person's name, title, address, phone number, and email address. In addition, provide information on the cost of the services provided, dates of engagement, description of services, and the member(s) of the proposed team providing the services.

Additionally, please provide a list of all the services your firm has performed for the District in the past three (3) years, if applicable.

- h. **Cost/Pricing Information** - One of the areas on which your firm will be evaluated is your cost for performing the scope of services, including, without limitation, the cost for consulting services plus an estimated annual lump sum budget for travel and other direct expenses. The proposed price and cost basis for the price shall be stated as a monthly fixed fee, plus an estimated yearly lump sum for travel and other direct costs. The fixed monthly fee and estimated yearly lump sum travel and expense budget shall remain constant for the three-year initial term of the contract and for the two optional one-year extensions.
 - i. **Current Clients** – Please provide a complete list of current clients. This will be evaluated to determine potential conflicts of interest.
2. **Acceptance of District Standard Consultant Agreement and Insurance Requirements** - Please note that the successful firm will be expected to execute the District's Standard Consultant Agreement and to provide evidence of the required insurance, as well as demonstrate that it has no Conflicts of Interest. A completed W9 form may also be required. These do not need to be attached to your firm's proposal at this time. However, the proposal shall include a statement that you have reviewed the District's Standard Consultant Agreement and the General Insurance Requirements, and, if selected, your firm will execute said Agreement; your firm and any sub-consultants will fulfill the insurance requirements; and your firm will provide the required insurance documents as well as the additional insured endorsements as specified.

If you require any changes to the District's Standard Consultant Agreement, please

include in your proposal any proposed modifications to the standard terms and conditions. While MWDOC negotiates such changes with Consultants, MWDOC will consider your proposed modifications during Consultant selection and retains the right to reject any portion of your proposed modifications.

Any questions related to the scope of work, proposal requirements, or selection process must be submitted, in writing, and shall be directed to Angela Crespi, District Secretary at acrespi@mwdoc.com. To be given consideration, questions must be received by 5:00 p.m. on October 1, 2025. All questions asked by Proposers and answers provided in response will be posted no later than October 8, 2025 to MWDOC's website at <https://www.mwdoc.com/rfps-rfq/>

Under no circumstances may the Proposer contact any other staff member or Board Member of MWDOC or its member agencies (or the cities of Santa Ana, Fullerton, or Anaheim) to discuss this RFP or clarify any requirements herein. Failure to comply with this requirement may be grounds for immediate disqualification.

II. **SUBMITTAL REQUIREMENTS**

1. To facilitate the evaluation process, **an electronic file of the proposal shall be provided** using PDF format with search capability.
2. The proposal shall be signed by an individual authorized to execute legal documents on behalf of the Consultant.
3. Any changes or addenda to a submitted proposal must be received by the submittal deadline.

III. **TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

1. MWDOC and local water agencies may make such investigations as are deemed necessary to determine the ability of the Proposer to provide the goods and/or service as specified. The Proposer shall furnish to MWDOC, upon request, all such information and data for this purpose. MWDOC may discuss or negotiate with one or more firms prior to award.
1. MWDOC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, either separately or as a whole, and accept any proposal presented that it deems best suited to the interest of MWDOC and its member agencies and is not bound to accept the lowest price.
2. The cost for developing the proposal is the sole responsibility of the Proposer. All proposals submitted become the property of MWDOC.

3. MWDOC reserves the right to request additional information from prospective Consultants prior to final selection and to consider information about a firm other than that submitted in the proposal.
5. Be advised that all information contained in proposals submitted in response to this solicitation may be subject to the California Public Records Act (Government Code Section 6250 et seq.).

SECTION 5 – SELECTION PROCESS

I. PROPOSAL REVIEW PROCESS

1. An evaluation committee, consisting of MWDOC and neighboring industry representatives, will review and score the proposals received in response to this RFP.
2. If deemed necessary by the evaluation committee, interviews with short-listed Consultants will be conducted on October 29, 2025, via Zoom. (It is highly recommended that all applicants reserve this date in advance.)
3. The evaluation committee will recommend a firm to fulfill the requirements of this RFP. The recommendation will be made to the General Manager and Board of Directors. MWDOC may, in its sole discretion, choose to reject some or all of the Consultants at any point during the selection process.
4. This Request for Proposals does not commit MWDOC to retain any Consultants, to pay costs incurred in the preparation of Proposals, or to proceed with the project. MWDOC reserves the right to reject any or all Proposals, either separately or as a whole, and to negotiate with any qualified applicant. Further, MWDOC reserves the right to accept any Proposal or portion of any Proposal presented which it deems best suited to the interest of MWDOC and its member agencies and is not bound to accept the lowest price.
5. Upon approval by the Board of Directors, MWDOC will enter into negotiations with the selected Consultant(s) and execute an agreement.

II. SELECTION CRITERIA

The criteria for vendor selection shall be based on, but not limited to, the following:

1. Qualifications and experience of the firm and project manager (lobbyist/point of contact).
2. Demonstration of bi-partisan relationships with Members of Congress, staff, Committee staff, and key federal agency personnel (Department of Interior, EPA, etc.).
3. Understanding of the District, its functions, and mission. Experience representing municipal clients in California and/or the Southern California water sector is highly desirable.
4. Management Plan and approach to Scope of Work.

5. Prior history of successes for similar clients and projects (i.e., appropriations process, workarounds for the earmark moratorium, etc.).
6. Compliance with standard District terms and conditions and insurance requirements.
7. Cost of services.

EXHIBIT A – MWDOC SERVICE AREA MAP

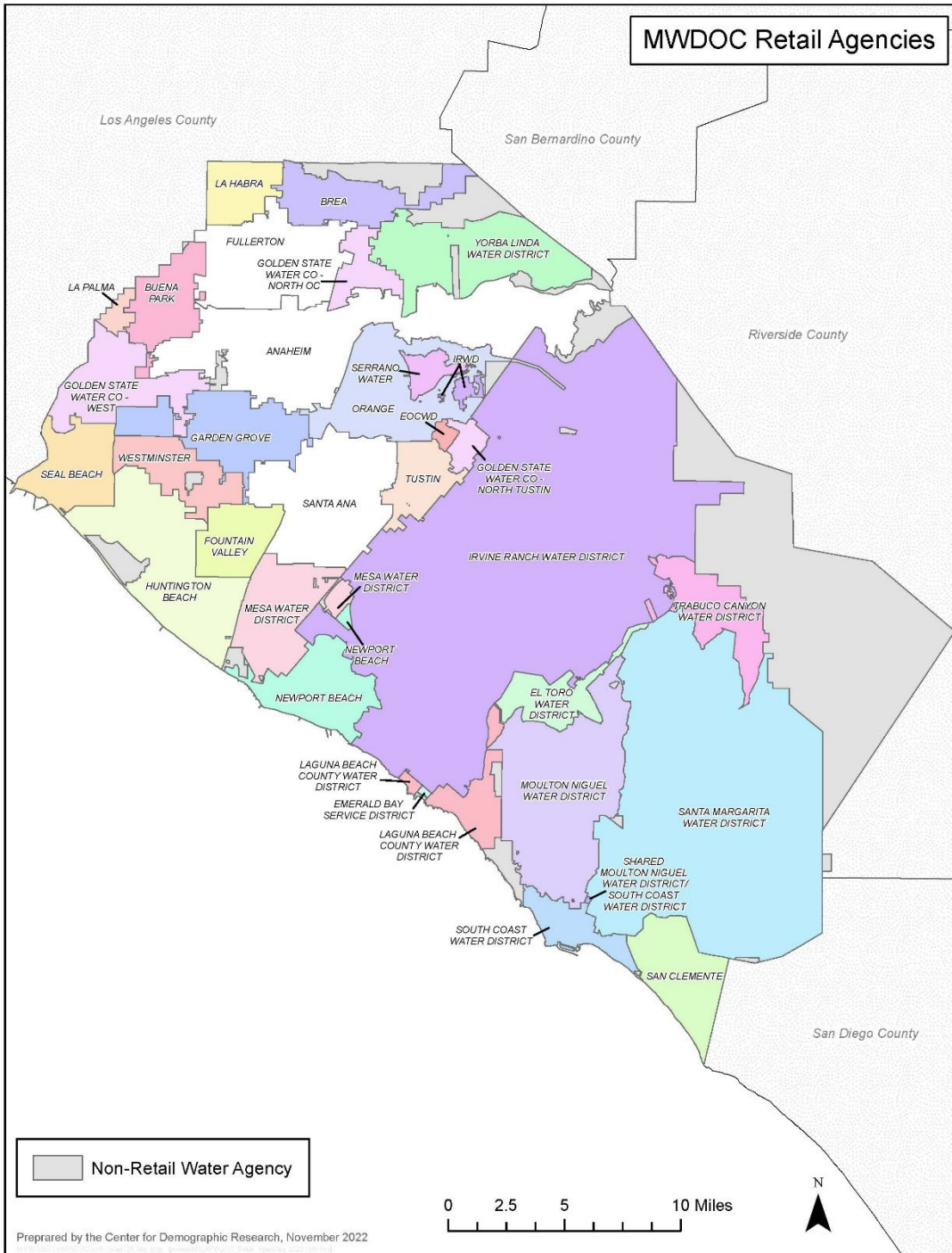


EXHIBIT B - STANDARD AGREEMENT FOR CONSULTANT SERVICES

This **AGREEMENT** for consulting services dated _____ which includes all exhibits and attachments hereto, "**AGREEMENT**" is made on the last day executed below by and between **MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT OF ORANGE COUNTY**, hereinafter referred to as "**DISTRICT**," and, _____ hereinafter referred to as "**CONSULTANT**" for _____ hereinafter referred to as "**SERVICES.**"¹¹ **DISTRICT** and **CONSULTANT** are also referred to collectively herein as the "**PARTIES**" and individually as "**PARTY**". The **PARTIES** agree as follows:

VI PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF WORK

A. Consulting Work

DISTRICT hereby contracts with **CONSULTANT** to provide general or special **SERVICES** as more specifically set forth in **Exhibit "B"** attached hereto and incorporated herein. Tasks other than those specifically described therein shall not be performed without prior written approval of **DISTRICT's** General Manager.

B. Independent Contractor

CONSULTANT is retained as an independent contractor for the sole purpose of rendering professional and/or special **SERVICES** described herein and is not an agent or employee of **DISTRICT**. **CONSULTANT** shall be solely responsible for the payment of all federal, state and local income tax, social security tax, Workers' Compensation insurance, state disability insurance, and any other taxes or insurance **CONSULTANT**, as an independent contractor, is responsible for paying under federal, state or local law. **CONSULTANT** is thus not eligible to receive workers' compensation, medical, indemnity or retirement benefits, including but not limited to enrollment in CalPERS. Unless, expressly provided herein, **CONSULTANT** is not eligible to receive overtime, vacation or sick pay. **CONSULTANT** shall not represent or otherwise hold out itself or any of its directors, officers, partners, employees, or agents to be an agent or employee of **DISTRICT**. **CONSULTANT** shall have the sole and absolute discretion in determining the methods, details and means of performing the **SERVICES** required by **DISTRICT**. **CONSULTANT** shall furnish, at his/her own expense, all labor, materials, equipment and transportation necessary for the successful completion of the **SERVICES** to be performed under this **AGREEMENT**. **DISTRICT** shall not have any right to direct the methods, details and means of the **SERVICES**; however, **CONSULTANT** must receive prior written approval from **DISTRICT** before using any sub-consultants for **SERVICES** under this **AGREEMENT**.

CONSULTANT represents and warrants that in the process of hiring **CONSULTANT's** employees who participate in the performance of **SERVICES**, **CONSULTANT** conducts such lawful screening of those employees (including, but not limited to, background checks and Megan's Law reviews) as are appropriate and standard for employees who provide **SERVICES** of the type contemplated by this Agreement.

C. Changes in Scope of Work

If **DISTRICT** requires changes in the tasks or scope of work shown in **Exhibit "B"** or additional work not specified therein, **DISTRICT** shall prepare a written change order. If **CONSULTANT** believes work or materials are required outside the tasks or scope of work described in **Exhibit**

“B,” it shall submit a written request for a change order to the **DISTRICT**. A change order must be approved and signed by the **PARTIES** before **CONSULTANT** performs any work outside the scope of work shown in **Exhibit “B.”** **DISTRICT** shall have no responsibility to compensate **CONSULTANT** for such work without an approved and signed change order. Change orders shall specify the change in the budgeted amount for **SERVICES**.

VI **TERM**

This **AGREEMENT** shall commence upon the date of its execution and shall extend thereafter for the period specified in **Exhibit “B”** or, if no time is specified, until terminated on thirty (30) days notice as provided herein.

VI **BUDGET, FEES, COSTS, BILLING, PAYMENT AND RECORDS**

A. Budgeted Amount for Services

CONSULTANT is expected to complete all **SERVICES** within the Budgeted Amount set forth on **Exhibit “B.”** The total compensation for the **SERVICES** to be performed under this **AGREEMENT** shall not exceed the Budgeted Amount unless modified as provided herein. Upon expending and invoicing the **DISTRICT 80%** of the Budgeted Amount, **CONSULTANT** shall prepare and provide to **DISTRICT** a “cost to complete” estimate for the remaining **SERVICES**. The **PARTIES** shall work together to complete the project within the agreed-upon Budgeted Amount, but the obligation to complete the **SERVICES** within the Budgeted Amount lies with the **CONSULTANT**.

B. Fees

Fees shall be billed per the terms and conditions and at the rates set forth on **Exhibit “B”** for the term of the **AGREEMENT**. Should the term of the **AGREEMENT** extend beyond the period for which the rates are effective, the rates specified in **Exhibit “B”** shall continue to apply unless and until modified by consent of the **PARTIES**.

C. Notification Clause

Formal notices, demands and communications to be given hereunder by either **PARTY** shall be made in writing and may be effected by personal delivery or by registered or certified mail, postage prepaid, return receipt requested and shall be deemed communicated as of the date of mailing. If the name or address of the person to whom notices, demands or communication shall be given changes, written notice of such change shall be given, in accordance with this section, within five(5) working days.

Notices shall be made as follows:

Municipal Water District of Orange County
Harvey De La Torre
General Manager
18700 Ward Street, P.O. Box 20895
Fountain Valley, CA 92708

Company Name
Contact Name
Title
Address
City, State Zip
Phone Number

D. Billing and Payment

CONSULTANT's fees shall be billed by the 10th day of the month for the previous month's activities. Invoices received by the 10th day of the month will be paid by **DISTRICT** by the end of the following month. Invoices shall reference the Purchase Order number from **DISTRICT**.

DISTRICT shall review and approve all invoices prior to payment. **CONSULTANT** agrees to submit additional supporting documentation to support the invoice if requested by **DISTRICT**. If **DISTRICT** does not approve an invoice, **DISTRICT** shall send a notice to **CONSULTANT** setting forth the reason(s) the invoice was not approved. **CONSULTANT** may re-invoice **DISTRICT** to cure the defects identified in the **DISTRICT** notice. The revised invoice will be treated as a new submittal. If **DISTRICT** contests all or any portion of an invoice, **DISTRICT** and **CONSULTANT** shall use their best efforts to resolve the contested portion of the invoice.

E. Billing Records

CONSULTANT shall keep records of all **SERVICES** and costs billed pursuant to this **AGREEMENT** for at least a period of seven (7) years and shall make them available for review and audit if requested by **DISTRICT**.

VI DOCUMENTS

All **MATERIALS** as defined in Paragraph XI below, related to **SERVICES** performed under this **AGREEMENT** shall be furnished to **DISTRICT** upon completion or termination of this **AGREEMENT**, or upon request by **DISTRICT**, and are the property of **DISTRICT**.

VI TERMINATION

Each **PARTY** may terminate this **AGREEMENT** at any time upon thirty (30) days written notice to the other **PARTY**, except as provided otherwise in **Exhibit "B."** In the event of termination: (1) all work product prepared by or in custody of **CONSULTANT** shall be promptly delivered to **DISTRICT**; (2) **DISTRICT** shall pay **CONSULTANT** all payments due under this **AGREEMENT** at the effective date of termination; (3) **CONSULTANT** shall promptly submit a final invoice to the **DISTRICT**, which shall include any and all non-cancelable obligations owed by **CONSULTANT** at the time of termination, (4) neither **PARTY** waives any claim of any nature whatsoever against the other for any breach of this **AGREEMENT**; (5) **DISTRICT** may withhold 125 percent of the estimated value of any disputed amount pending resolution of the dispute, consistent with the provisions of section III D above, and; (6) **DISTRICT** and **CONSULTANT** agree to exert their best efforts to expeditiously resolve any dispute between the **PARTIES**.

VI

INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS

CONSULTANT shall obtain prior to commencing work and maintain in force and effect throughout the term of this **AGREEMENT**, all insurance set forth below.

A. Workers' Compensation Insurance

By his/her signature hereunder, **CONSULTANT** certifies that he/she is aware of the provisions of Section 3700 of the California Labor Code, which requires every employer to be insured against liability for workers' compensation or to undertake self-insurance in accordance with the provisions of that code, and that **CONSULTANT** will comply with such provisions before commencing the performance of the **SERVICES** under this **AGREEMENT**.

CONSULTANT and sub-consultant will keep workers' compensation insurance for their employees in effect during all work covered by this **AGREEMENT** in accordance with applicable law. An ACORD certificate of insurance or other certificate of insurance satisfactory to **DISTRICT**, evidencing such coverage must be provided (1) by **CONSULTANT** and (2) by sub-consultant's upon request by **DISTRICT**.

B. Professional Liability Insurance

CONSULTANT shall file with **DISTRICT**, before beginning professional **SERVICES**, an ACORD certificate of insurance, or any other certificate of insurance satisfactory to **DISTRICT**, evidencing professional liability coverage of not less than \$1,000,000 per claim and \$1,000,000 aggregate, requiring 30 days notice of cancellation (10 days for non-payment of premium) to **DISTRICT**.

Such coverage shall be placed with a carrier with an A.M. Best rating of no less than A: VII, or equivalent. The retroactive date (if any) of such insurance coverage shall be no later than the effective date of this **AGREEMENT**. In the event that the **CONSULTANT** employs sub-consultants as part of the **SERVICES** covered by this **AGREEMENT**, **CONSULTANT** shall be responsible for requiring and confirming that each sub-consultant meets the minimum insurance requirements specified herein.

C. Other Insurance

CONSULTANT will file with **DISTRICT**, before beginning professional **SERVICES**, ACORD certificates of insurance, or other certificates of insurance satisfactory to **DISTRICT**, evidencing general liability coverage of not less than \$1,000,000 per occurrence for bodily injury, personal injury and property damage; automobile liability (owned, scheduled, non-owned or hired) of at least \$1,000,000 for bodily injury and property damage each accident limit; workers' compensation (statutory limits) and employer's liability (\$1,000,000) (if applicable); requiring 30 days (10 days for non payment of premium) notice of cancellation to **DISTRICT**. Copies of policies shall be delivered to MWDOC on demand. For the coverage required under this paragraph, the insurer(s) shall waive all rights of subrogation against **DISTRICT**, and its directors, officers, agents, employees, attorneys, consultants or volunteers. **CONSULTANT's** insurance coverage shall be primary insurance as respects **DISTRICT**, its directors, officers, agents, employees, attorneys, consultants and volunteers for all liability arising out of the activities performed by or on behalf of the **CONSULTANT**. Any insurance pool coverage, or self-insurance maintained by

DISTRICT, and its directors, officers, agents, employees, attorneys, consultants or volunteers shall be excess of the **CONSULTANT's** insurance and shall not contribute to it.

The general liability coverage shall give **DISTRICT**, its directors, officers, agents, employees, attorneys, consultants and authorized volunteers additional insured status using ISO endorsement CG2010, CG2033, or equivalent. Coverage shall be placed with a carrier with an A.M. Best rating of no less than A: VII, or equivalents. In the event that the **CONSULTANT** employs sub-consultant as part of the work covered by the **AGREEMENT**, it shall be the **CONSULTANT's** responsibility to require and confirm that each sub-consultant meets the minimum insurance requirements specified herein. **CONSULTANT** must furnish MWDOC with endorsements evidencing MWDOC's status as additional insured.

D. Expiration of Coverage

If any of the required coverages expire during the term of the **AGREEMENT**, **CONSULTANT** shall deliver the renewal certificate(s) including the general liability additional insured endorsement to **DISTRICT** at least ten (10) days prior to the expiration date.

VII INDEMNIFICATION

To the fullest extent permitted by applicable law, **CONSULTANT** shall indemnify, defend and hold harmless **DISTRICT**, its officers, Directors and employees and authorized volunteers, and each of them from and against:

- a. When the law establishes a professional standard of care for the **CONSULTANT's** services, all claims and demands of all persons that arise out of, pertain to, or relate to the **CONSULTANT's** negligence, recklessness, or willful misconduct in the performance (or actual or alleged non-performance) of the work under this agreement. **CONSULTANT** shall defend itself against any and all liabilities, claims, losses, damages, and costs arising out of or alleged to arise out of **CONSULTANT's** performance or non-performance of the **SERVICES** hereunder and shall not tender such claims to **DISTRICT** nor its directors, officers, employees, or authorized volunteers, for defense or indemnity.
- b. Any and all actions, proceedings, damages, costs, expenses, penalties or liabilities, in law or equity, of every kind or nature whatsoever, arising out of, resulting from, or on account of the violation of any governmental law or regulation, compliance with which is the responsibility of **CONSULTANT**.
- c. Any and all losses, expenses, damages (including damages to the work itself), attorney's fees incurred by counsel of the **DISTRICT's** choice and other costs, including all costs of defense, which any of them may incur with respect to the failure, neglect, or refusal of **CONSULTANT** to faithfully perform the work and all of the **CONSULTANT's** obligations under the agreement. Such costs, expenses, and damages shall include all costs, including attorneys' fees, incurred by counsel of the **DISTRICT's** choice, incurred by the indemnified parties in any lawsuit to which they are a party.

CONSULTANT shall immediately defend, at **CONSULTANT's** own cost, expense and risk, any and all such aforesaid suits, actions, or other legal proceedings of every kind that may be brought or instituted against **DISTRICT** or its directors, officers, employees, or authorized volunteers with

legal counsel reasonably acceptable to **DISTRICT** and shall not tender such claims to **DISTRICT** nor its directors, officers, employees, or authorized volunteers.

CONSULTANT shall immediately pay and satisfy any judgment, award or decree that may be rendered against **DISTRICT** or its directors, officers, employees, or authorized volunteers, in any and all such suits, actions, or other legal proceedings.

CONSULTANT shall immediately reimburse **DISTRICT** or its directors, officers, employees, or authorized volunteers, for any and all legal expenses and costs incurred by each of them in connection therewith or in enforcing indemnity herein provided.

CONSULTANT's obligation to indemnify shall survive the termination or completion of this agreement for the full period of time allowed by law and shall not be restricted to insurance proceeds, if any, received by **DISTRICT**, or its directors, officers, employees, or authorized volunteers.

VIII FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Although **CONSULTANT** is retained as an independent contractor, **CONSULTANT** may still be required, under the California Political Reform Act and **DISTRICT's** Administrative Code, to file annual disclosure reports. **CONSULTANT** agrees to file such financial disclosure reports upon request by **DISTRICT**. Further, **CONSULTANT** shall file the annual summary of gifts required by Section 7105 of the **DISTRICT's** Ethics Policy, attached hereto as **Exhibit "A."**

Failure to file financial disclosure reports upon request and failure to file the required gift summary are grounds for termination of this **AGREEMENT**. Any action by **CONSULTANT** that is inconsistent with **DISTRICT's** Ethic's Policy current at the time of the action is grounds for termination of this **AGREEMENT**. The Ethics Policy as of the date of this **AGREEMENT** is attached hereto as **Exhibit "A."**

IX PERMITS AND LICENSES

CONSULTANT shall procure and maintain all permits, licenses and other government-required certification necessary for the performance of its **SERVICES**, all at the sole cost of **CONSULTANT**. None of the items referenced in this section shall be reimbursable to **CONSULTANT** under the **AGREEMENT**. **CONSULTANT** shall comply with any and all applicable local, state, and federal regulations and statutes including Cal/OSHA requirements.

X LABOR AND MATERIALS

CONSULTANT shall furnish, at its own expense, all labor, materials, equipment, tools, transportation and other items or services necessary for the successful completion of the **SERVICES** to be performed under this **AGREEMENT**. **CONSULTANT** shall give its full attention and supervision to the fulfillment of the provisions of this **AGREEMENT** by its employees and sub-consultant and shall be responsible for the timely performance of the **SERVICES** required by this **AGREEMENT**. All compensation for **CONSULTANT's SERVICES** under this **AGREEMENT** shall be pursuant to **Exhibit "B"** to the **AGREEMENT**.

Only those **SERVICES**, materials, administrative, overhead and travel expenses specifically listed in **Exhibit "B"** will be charged and paid. No other costs will be paid.

CONSULTANT agrees not to invoice **DISTRICT** for any administrative expenses, overhead or travel time in connection with the **SERVICES**, unless agreed upon and listed in Exhibit “B”.

XI CONFIDENTIALITY AND RESTRICTIONS ON DISCLOSURE

A. Confidential Nature of Materials

CONSULTANT understands that all documents, records, reports, data, or other materials (collectively “**MATERIALS**”) provided by **DISTRICT** to **CONSULTANT** pursuant to the **AGREEMENT**, including but not limited to draft reports, final report(s) and all data, information, documents, graphic displays and other items that are not proprietary to **CONSULTANT** and that are utilized or produced by **CONSULTANT** pursuant to the **AGREEMENT** are to be considered confidential for all purposes.

B. No Disclosure of Confidential Materials

CONSULTANT shall be responsible for protecting the confidentiality and maintaining the security of **DISTRICT MATERIALS** and records in its possession. All **MATERIALS** shall be deemed confidential and shall remain the property of **DISTRICT**. **CONSULTANT** understands the sensitive nature of the above and agrees that neither its officers, partners, employees, agents or sub-consultants will release, disseminate, or otherwise publish said reports or other such data, information, documents, graphic displays, or other materials except as provided herein or as authorized, in writing, by **DISTRICT’s** representative. **CONSULTANT** agrees not to make use of such **MATERIALS** for any purpose not related to the performance of the **SERVICES** under the **AGREEMENT**. **CONSULTANT** shall not make written or oral disclosures thereof, other than as necessary for its performance of the **SERVICES** hereunder, without the prior written approval of **DISTRICT**. Disclosure of confidential **MATERIALS** shall not be made to any individual, agency, or organization except as provided for in the **AGREEMENT** or as provided for by law.

C. Protections to Ensure Control Over Materials

All confidential **MATERIALS** saved or stored by **CONSULTANT** in an electronic form shall be protected by adequate security measures to ensure that such confidential **MATERIALS** are safe from theft, loss, destruction, erasure, alteration, and any unauthorized viewing, duplication, or use. Such security measures shall include, but not be limited to, the use of current virus protection software, firewalls, data backup, passwords, and internet controls.

The provisions of this section survive the termination or completion of the **AGREEMENT**.

XII OWNERSHIP OF DOCUMENTS AND DISPLAYS

All original written or recorded data, documents, graphic displays, reports or other **MATERIALS** which contain information relating to **CONSULTANT’s** performance hereunder and which are originated and prepared for **DISTRICT** pursuant to the **AGREEMENT** are instruments of service and shall become the property of **DISTRICT** upon completion or termination of the Project. **CONSULTANT** hereby assigns all of its right, title and interest therein to **DISTRICT**, including but not limited to any copyright interest. In addition, **DISTRICT** reserves the right to use, duplicate and disclose in whole, or in part, in any manner and for any purpose whatsoever all

such data, documents, graphic displays, reports or other **MATERIALS** delivered to **DISTRICT** pursuant to this **AGREEMENT** and to authorize others to do so.

To the extent that **CONSULTANT** utilizes any of its property (including, without limitation, any hardware or software of **CONSULTANT** or any proprietary or confidential information of **CONSULTANT** or any trade secrets of **CONSULTANT**) in performing **SERVICES** hereunder, such property shall remain the property of **CONSULTANT**, and **DISTRICT** shall acquire no right or interest in such property.

CONSULTANT hereby assigns to **DISTRICT** or **DISTRICT's** designee, for no additional consideration, all **CONSULTANT's** intellectual property rights, including, but not limited to, copyrights, in all deliverables and other works prepared by the **CONSULTANT** under this agreement. **CONSULTANT** shall, and shall cause its employees and agents to, promptly sign and deliver any documents and take any actions that **DISTRICT** or **DISTRICT's** designee reasonably requests to establish and perfect the rights assigned to **DISTRICT** or its designee under this provision.

XIII EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

DISTRICT is committed to a policy of equal opportunity for all and to providing a work environment that is free of unlawful discrimination and harassment. In keeping with this commitment, **DISTRICT** maintains a policy prohibiting unlawful discrimination and harassment in any form based on race, religious creed, color, national origin, ancestry, physical or mental disability, medical condition, pregnancy or childbirth, marital status, gender, sex, sexual orientation, veteran status or age by officials, employees and non-employees (vendors, contractors, etc.).

This policy applies to all employees, consultants and contractors of the **DISTRICT**. Appropriate corrective action will be taken against all offenders, up to and including immediate discharge or termination of this **AGREEMENT**. During, and in conjunction with, the performance of this **AGREEMENT**, **CONSULTANT** shall not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, color, religion, sex, age, marital status or national origin.

XIV INTEGRATION OF ALL OTHER AGREEMENTS

This **AGREEMENT**, including any Exhibits and Addenda, contains the entire understanding of the **PARTIES**, and there are no further or other agreements or understandings, written or oral, in effect between the **PARTIES** hereto relating to the subject matter hereof. Any prior understanding or agreement of the **PARTIES** shall not be binding unless expressly set forth herein and, except to the extent expressly provided for herein, no changes of this **AGREEMENT** may be made without the written consent of both **PARTIES**.

XV ELECTRONIC SIGNATURES

The Uniform Electronic Transactions Act, California Civil Code section 1633.1 et seq., authorizes **PARTIES** to conduct business electronically. In accordance with California Civil Code section 1633.5, **PARTIES** acknowledge, consent and agree that transactions subject to this **AGREEMENT** may be effectuated by electronic means through the use of electronic and/or digital signatures. For purposes of this section, an electronic signature means an electronic symbol or

process logically associated with the intent to sign an electronic record pursuant to Civil Code section 1633(h). A digital signature, which is a type of electronic signature, means an electronic identifier, created by a computer, that is intended to have the same force and effect as the use of a manual signature under Government Code 16.5(d). An example of an electronic signature would be a JPG of a manual signature imposed onto this **AGREEMENT**, an example of a digital signature would be the use of DocuSign or similar provider that requires an encrypted key that certifies the authenticity of the signature.

This consent to conduct transactions by electronic means through the use of electronic and/or digital signatures extends to the execution of this **AGREEMENT** or any related contract or other document necessary for the performance of this **AGREEMENT** including, without limitation, any related offers, proposals, bids, amendments, change orders, task orders and notices.

XVI ATTORNEYS' FEES

In any action at law or in equity to enforce any of the provisions or rights under this **AGREEMENT**, the prevailing **PARTY** shall be entitled to recover from the unsuccessful **PARTY** all costs, expenses and reasonable attorney's fees incurred therein by the prevailing **PARTY** (including, without limitations, such costs, expense and fees on any appeals), and if such prevailing **PARTY** shall recover judgment in any such action or proceeding, such costs, expenses, including those of expert witnesses and attorneys' fees, shall be included as part of this judgment.

XVII JURISDICTION AND VENUE SELECTION

In all matters concerning the validity, interpretation, performance, or effect of this **AGREEMENT**, the laws of the State of California shall govern and be applicable. The **PARTIES** hereby agree and consent to the exclusive jurisdiction of the courts of the State of California and that venue of any action brought hereunder shall be in Orange County, California.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the **PARTIES** have hereunto affixed their names as of the day and year thereafter, which shall be and is the effective date of this **AGREEMENT**.

APPROVED BY:

CONSULTANT ACCEPTANCE:

Date

Date

Harvey De La Torre
General Manager
Municipal Water District of Orange County
18700 Ward Street,
P.O. Box 20895
Fountain Valley, CA 92708
(714) 963-3058

Contact Name
Title
Company Name
Address
City, State Zip
Phone Number
Tax I.D. #

EXHIBIT "A"

| | |
|---------------|-------------|
| ETHICS POLICY | §7100-§7110 |
|---------------|-------------|

§7100 PURPOSE

The policy of MWDOC is to maintain the highest standards of ethics from its Board members, officers and employees (all shall be referred to as employees for the purposes of this section). The proper operation of MWDOC requires decisions and policy to be made in the proper manner, that public office not be used for personal gain, and that all individuals associated with MWDOC remain impartial and responsible toward the public. Accordingly, all employees are expected to abide by the highest ethical standards and integrity when dealing on behalf of MWDOC with fellow Board members or employees, vendors, contractors, customers, and other members of the public.

§7101 RESPONSIBILITIES OF BOARD MEMBERS

Board members are obliged to uphold the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of California and shall comply with all applicable laws regulating Board member conduct, including conflicts of interest and financial disclosure laws. No Board member or officer shall grant any special consideration, treatment, or advantage to any person or group beyond that which is available to every other person or group in the same circumstances.

§7102 PROPER USE OF MWDOC PROPERTY AND RESOURCES

Except as specifically authorized, no employee shall use or remove or permit the use or removal of MWDOC property, including MWDOC vehicles, equipment, telephones, office supplies, and materials for personal convenience or profit. No employee shall require another MWDOC employee to perform services for the personal convenience or profit of another employee. Each employee must protect and properly use any MWDOC asset within his/her control, including information recorded on paper or in electronic form. Employees shall safeguard MWDOC property, equipment, monies, and assets against unauthorized use or removal, as well as from loss due to criminal act or breach of trust.

Employees are responsible for maintaining written records, including expense reports, in sufficient detail to reflect accurately and completely all transactions and expenditures made on MWDOC's behalf. Creating a document with misleading or false information is prohibited.

Motion - 1/17/96;

§7103 CONFLICT OF INTEREST

All MWDOC Directors, officers, and employees at every level shall comply with the requirements of Section 1090 of the California Government Code which prohibits such persons from being financially interested in any contract made by them in their official capacity, or by any body or board of which they are members, or from being a purchaser at any sale or a vendor at any purchase made by them in their official capacity.

All Directors and employees designated under MWDOC's Conflict of Interest Code ("designated employees") and employees required to report under Chapter 7, Article 2 of the Political Reform Act (Government Code Section 7300 et seq.) shall promptly and fully comply with all requirements thereof.

MWDOC employees who are not designated employees under MWDOC's Conflict of Interest Code shall refrain from participating in, making a recommendation, or otherwise attempting to influence MWDOC's selection of a contractor, consultant, product, or source of supply if the non-designated employee, or an immediate family member, has a direct or indirect financial interest in the outcome of the selection process. No employee shall use his/her position with MWDOC in any manner for the purpose of obtaining personal favors, advantages or benefits for him/herself or an immediate family member from a person or entity doing business or seeking to do business with MWDOC. Such favors, advantages, or benefits would include, but are not limited to: 1) offers of employment; 2) free or discounted goods or services; or 3) gifts.

§7104 GIFTS

No employee shall accept, directly or indirectly, any compensation, reward or gift from any source except from MWDOC, for any action related to the conduct of MWDOC business, except as set forth below:

1. Acceptance of food and refreshments of nominal value on infrequent occasions in the ordinary course of a breakfast, luncheon or dinner meeting or other meeting or on an inspection tour where the arrangements are consistent with the transaction of official business.*
2. Acceptance of transportation, lodging, meals or refreshments, in connection with attendance at widely attended gatherings sponsored by industrial, technical or professional organizations; or in connection with attendance at public ceremonies or similar activities financed by nongovernmental sources where the employee's participation on behalf of MWDOC is the result of an invitation addressed to him or her in his/her official capacity, and the transportation, lodging, meals or refreshment accepted is related to, and is in keeping with, his/her official participation.*
3. Acceptance of unsolicited advertising or promotional materials such as pens, pencils, note pads, calendars, or other items of nominal value.*

4. Acceptance of plaques and commemorative mementoes, of nominal value, or of value only to the recipient, such as service pins, recognition awards, retirement mementoes.

5. Acceptance of incidental transportation from a private organization, provided it is furnished in connection with an employee's official duties and is of the type customarily provided by the private organization.

* Nothing herein shall be deemed to relieve any Director or designated employee from reporting the value of such meals, transportation, lodging or gifts and abstaining from participation in any decision of MWDOC which could foreseeably have a material financial effect on the donor when the value of such gifts reaches the limits set forth in MWDOC's Conflict of Interest Code and the Political Reform Act.

In no event shall any employee accept gifts from any single source, the cumulative value of which exceeds the applicable gift limit under California law.

A gift or gratuity, the receipt of which is prohibited under this section, shall be returned to the donor. If return is not possible, the gift or gratuity shall be turned over to a public or charitable institution without being claimed as a charitable deduction and a report of such action, and the reasons why return was not feasible shall be made on MWDOC records. When possible, the donor also shall be informed of this action.

Motion - 1/17/96;

§7105 PERSONS OR COMPANIES REPORTING GIFTS

All persons and companies doing business with MWDOC, with the exception of public agencies, shall submit a summary, by January 31 of each calendar year, of all gifts claimed for internal vendor audits (including meals) made to, or on behalf of, employees or Directors of MWDOC, or their immediate family members, that have occurred in the normal course of business during the previous calendar year. Failure to provide this information to MWDOC may result in the termination of MWDOC business with that person or company.

Motion - 7/21/93; Motion - 8/18/93;

§7106 USE OF CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

Confidential information (i.e., information which is exempt from disclosure under the California Public Records Act) shall not be released to unauthorized persons unless the disclosure is approved by the Board, President of the Board, or General Manager. Employees are prohibited from using any confidential information for personal advantage or profit.

§7107 POLITICAL ACTIVITIES

During the course and scope of their employment employees are prohibited from engaging in campaign activities associated with MWDOC Director elections, MWDOC Director appointments, the appointment of MET Directors, or from attempting to influence changes to MWDOC Division boundaries, except where such activities are expressly required in the course of official duties. Employees are otherwise free to personally, endorse, advocate, contribute to, or otherwise support any political party, candidate, or cause they may choose; however, employees are prohibited from soliciting political funds or contributions at MWDOC facilities or during the course and scope of their duties for MWDOC. In any personal political activity an employee may be involved in, it shall be made clear that the employee is acting personally and not for MWDOC. These provisions are intended to protect employees against political assessments, coerced political activities, and to prevent political activities on the part of employees from interfering with MWDOC operations. Nothing in this section shall be interpreted or applied in a manner to unlawfully curtail the constitutional right to political activity of MWDOC employees.

Motion – 6/17/15

§7108 IMPROPER ACTIVITIES

Employees shall not interfere with the proper performance of the official duties of others, but are strongly encouraged to fulfill their own moral obligations to the public, MWDOC, and its member agencies by disclosing, to the extent not expressly prohibited by law, improper activities within their knowledge. No employee shall directly or indirectly use or attempt to use the authority or influence of his/her position for the purpose of intimidating, threatening, coercing, commanding, or influencing any person with the intent of interfering with that person's duty to disclose improper activity.

§7109 VIOLATION OF POLICY – STAFF AND STAFF OFFICERS

If an employee is reported to have violated MWDOC's Ethics Policy, the matter shall be referred to any of the following: (1) the General Manager; (2) Human Resources; (3) the Board of Directors; or (4) any member of the management staff, for investigation and consideration of any appropriate action warranted which may include employment action such as demotion, reduction in salary, or termination.

If a Board appointed officer (Secretary, Treasurer or General Manager) is reported to have violated MWDOC's Ethics Policy, the matter shall be referred to the Executive Committee for investigation and consideration of any appropriate action. The Executive Committee may make a determination and present the issue to the full Board.

Motion - 1/17/96; 6/17/15

§7110 VIOLATION OF POLICY -- DIRECTORS

A perceived violation of this policy by a Director should be referred to the President of the Board or the full Board of Directors for investigation, and consideration of any appropriate action warranted. A violation of this policy may be addressed by the use of such remedies as are available by law to MWDOC, including, but not limited to: (a) adoption of a resolution expressing disapproval of the conduct of the Director who has violated this policy, (b) injunctive relief, or (c) referral of the violation to MWDOC Legal Counsel and/or the Grand Jury.

§7111 PERIODIC REVIEW OF ETHICS, CONFLICT OF INTEREST AND ADMINISTRATIVE GUIDELINES

Pursuant to the terms of Government Code Sections 53234 through 53235.2, each Director shall receive at least two hours of training in general ethics principles every two years. Pursuant to Government Code Section 53235(c), the curricula for ethics training must be approved by the Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) and the Attorney General. It is the general desire of the MWDOC Board to meet and review and/or receive a presentation that addresses principles relating to reporting guidelines on compensation, conflict of interest issues, and standards for rules of conduct during the first quarter of the year immediately following an election (every two years).

Each Director shall retain the certificate of completion from any ethics course in which he/she participates and shall provide a copy of such report to MWDOC. Such records shall be retained for five years from the date they are received.

M-12/21/05

EXHIBIT "B"

**SCOPE OF WORK, TERMS AND AGREEMENT
AND TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR BILLING**

| |
|--|
| Company: Name: Address: Phone: Tax I.D. # |
|--|

1. Term – Commencement (Insert Date) ___Termination (Insert Date)
2. Fees/Rates to be billed - \$
3. Budgeted Amount – Compensation is to be on a “time and material” basis, not to exceed \$___. **CONSULTANT's** fees shall be billed by the 10th day of the month for the previous month’s activities. Invoices received by the 10th day of the month will be paid by **DISTRICT** by the end of the following month. Invoices shall reference the Purchase Order number from **DISTRICT**.

Upon invoicing **DISTRICT** 80% of the contract amount, **CONSULTANT** shall prepare and provide to **DISTRICT** a “cost to complete” estimate for the remaining work.
4. Scope of Work/Services – (Insert **SPECIFIC** description – do not list “refer to Exhibit “)
5. Consultant Representative:

[¹] Pursuant to Section 8002 of the District’s Administrative Code, the District’s “Ethics Policy” set forth at sections 7100-7111 of the Administrative Code is attached hereto as Exhibit “A” and incorporated herein by this reference.