



Marin Local Agency Formation Commission

Regional Service Planning | Subdivision of the State of California

NOTICE OF POLICY AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE MEETING AND AGENDA Marin Local Agency Formation Commission

August 26th, 2024, ▪ 1:30 PM

Marin County Civic Center | Suite 324A | 3501 Civic Center Drive, San Rafael, CA
(PLEASE NOTE THIS IS A SPECIAL LOCATION FOR THIS MEETING)

Appointed Members

Larry Chu | Barbara Coler | Eric Lucan

PUBLIC ACCESS AND PUBLIC COMMENT INSTRUCTIONS FOR HYBRID ATTENDEES

In addition to in-person attendance, as a courtesy, and technology permitting, members of the public may also attend by virtual teleconference. However, LAFCo cannot guarantee that the public's access to teleconferencing technology will be uninterrupted, and technical difficulties may occur from time to time. Unless required by the Brown Act, the meeting will continue despite technical difficulties for participants using the teleconferencing option. Members of the public may access and watch a live stream of the meeting on Zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4350473750?omn=82810386529>. Alternatively, the public may listen in to the meeting by dialing +1 669 444 9171 and entering **Meeting ID 435 047 3750#** when prompted.

SPOKEN PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR HYBRID ATTENDEES:

Spoken comments will be accepted through the teleconference meeting. To address the Commission, click on the link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4350473750?omn=82810386529> to access the Zoom-based meeting.

1. You will be asked to enter an email address and name. We request that you identify yourself by name, as this will be visible online and will be used to notify you that it is your turn to speak.
2. When the Commission calls for the item on which you wish to speak, click on the "raise hand" icon. Speakers will be notified shortly before they are called to speak.
3. When called, please limit your remarks to the time limit allotted (3 minutes).

CALL TO ORDER BY CHAIR

ROLL CALL BY CLERK

AGENDA REVIEW

The Chair or designee will consider any requests to remove or rearrange items by members.

PUBLIC OPEN TIME

This portion of the meeting is reserved for persons desiring to address the Commission on any matter not on the current agenda. All statements that require a response will be referred to staff for reply in writing or will be placed on the Commission's agenda for consideration at a later meeting. Speakers are limited to three minutes.

BUSINESS ITEMS (discussion and possible action)

Business Items involve administrative, budgetary, legislative or personnel matters and may or may not be subject to public hearings.

1. Approval of July 2024 Meeting Minutes
2. Discussion of Possible Amendments to the Personnel Handbook

COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REQUESTS

ADJOURNMENT TO NEXT MEETING

TBD

Attest: Claire Devereux
 Clerk/Jr. Policy Analyst

Any writings or documents pertaining to an open session item provided to a majority of the Commission less than 72 hours prior to a regular meeting shall be made available for public inspection at Marin LAFCo Administrative Office, 1401 Los Gamos Drive, Suite 220, San Rafael, CA 94903, during normal business hours.

Pursuant to GC Section 84308, if you wish to participate in the above proceedings, you or your agent are prohibited from making a campaign contribution of \$250 or more to any Commissioner. This prohibition begins on the date you begin to actively support or oppose an application before LAFCo and continues until 3 months after a final decision is rendered by LAFCo. If you or your agent have made a contribution of \$250 or more to any Commissioner during the 12 months preceding the decision, in the proceeding that Commissioner must disqualify himself or herself from the decision. However, disqualification is not required if the Commissioner returns that campaign contribution within 30 days of learning both about the contribution and the fact that you are a participant in the proceedings. Separately, any person with a disability under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) may receive a copy of the agenda or a copy of all the documents constituting the agenda packet for a meeting upon request. Any person with a disability covered under the ADA may also request a disability-related modification or accommodation, including auxiliary aids or services, in order to participate in a public meeting. Please contact the LAFCo office at least three (3) working days prior to the meeting for any requested arraignments or accommodations.

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Marin Local Agency Formation Commission

Regional Service Planning | Subdivision of the State of California

AGENDA REPORT
August 26th, 2024
Item No. 1 (Business Item)

TO: Local Agency Formation Commission

FROM: Claire Dever Clerk/Junior Analyst

SUBJECT: **Approval of Minutes for July 25th, Policy and Personnell Committee Meeting**

Background

The Ralph M. Brown Act was enacted by the State Legislature in 1953 and establishes standards and processes therein for the public to attend and participate in meetings of local government bodies as well as those local legislative bodies created by State law; the latter category applying to LAFCos.

Discussion

The action minutes for the July 25th, 2024 Policy and Personnel Committee meeting accurately reflect the Commission's actions as recorded by staff.

Staff Recommendation for Action

1. Staff recommendation – Approve the draft minutes prepared for the January 6th meeting with any desired corrections or clarifications.
2. Alternative option – Continue consideration of the item to the next regular meeting and provide direction to staff, as needed.

Procedures for Consideration

This item has been placed on the agenda as part of the consent calendar. Accordingly, a successful motion to approve the consent calendar will include taking affirmative action on the staff recommendation as provided unless otherwise specified by the Commission.

Attachment:

- 1) Draft Minutes for July 25th

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County of Marin

Eric Lucan, Regular
County of Marin

Stephanie Moulton-Peters, Alternate
County of Marin

Barbara Coler, Chair
Town of Fairfax

Steve Burdo, Regular
Town of San Anselmo

Stephen Burke, Alternate
City of Mill Valley

Lew Kiou, Regular
Almonte Sanitary District

Craig Murray, Regular
Las Gallinas Valley Sanitary District

Cathryn Hilliard, Alternate
Southern Marin Fire Protection District

Larry Chu, Regular
Public Member

Roger Smith, Alternate
Public Member



Marin Local Agency Formation Commission

Regional Service Planning | Subdivision of the State of California

DRAFT

NOTICE OF POLICY AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES Marin Local Agency Formation Commission

Thursday, July 25th, 2022

CALL TO ORDER

Executive Officer Jason Fried called the meeting to order.

SELECTION OF CHAIR

Chair Coler nominated Commissioner Chu. Commissioner Chu accepted.

ROLL CALL BY COMMISSION CLERK

Roll was taken and quorum was met. The following were in attendance:

Commissioners Present: Larry Chu
 Barbara Coler
 Eric Lucan (arrived at 3:10 and left at 3:57)

Marin LAFCo Staff Present: Jason Fried, Executive Officer
 Claire Devereux Clerk/Jr. Policy Analyst

Marin LAFCo Counsel Present: N/A

Commissioners Absent: N/A

Alternate Members Absent: N/A

PUBLIC OPEN TIME

Chair Chu opened the public open time. Hearing no request to speak, the Chair closed the public open time, seeing no one wishing to speak.

BUSINESS ITEMS

1. Approval of January 2022 Meeting Minutes

No Comments made regarding the meeting minutes.

Approved: M/S by Commissioners Coler and Chu to approve the 2023 P&P Minutes

Ayes: Commissioners

Nays:

Abstain:

Absent: Lucan

Motion approved unanimously.

2. Discussion of Possible Amendments to the Policy Handbook

- a. Review Section 1.2: Current Office Hour System

All members expressed that they were ok with the office hour changes/system currently in place.

Commissioner Coler commented that the organization chart for policy 1.4 needs to be updated to reflect the positions of “Clerk/Jr. Analyst” and “Deputy Executive Officer” additionally policy 2.3 needs to have the number of local government agencies updated to reflect the three that were resolved from 65 to 62.

b. Review Section 3.1: Selection of Commissioners

i. (A)(iv) – Discussion on Attendance of Public Seat Applicants During the Interview Process

Commissioner Coler suggested the policy state “Members of the public wishing to be appointed shall attend the April meeting in person for the interviews. (If a member of the public cannot attend in person due to illness that would qualify them to attend remotely in accordance with state law -they must make a request of the EO and/or Commission staff to do so)” to reflect changes in grammar.

All members expressed they were okay with the policy changes.

ii. (A)(vii)- Discussion on changing the policy to reflect that two members are appointed at the same time.

All members expressed they were okay with the removal of the policy.

c. Review Section 3.4

i. 3.4 (A) and 3.4 (B)

Commissioner Coler stipends should pay people for attending LAFCo Conference and delete “other similar items.”

Commissioner Coler stated stipends should not be in lieu of expenses transportation can be expensive as is lodging. Wording should be added that if a meal is provided one cannot seek reimbursement. Additionally suggested alignment with federal policy.

Chair Chu agreed with aligning with federal policy on this topic.

Commissioner Coler suggested consistent with federal with exception of where CALAFCO has a hotel rate that exceeds the high-cost area.

Commissioner Chu consistent with federal per diem limits.

Commissioner Lucan asked why Marin LAFCo would cover expenses and stipends to attend?

Commissioner Coler stated that commissioners get paid to sit at meetings and if we go to CALAFCo representing Marin LAFCo stipends should also be received.

Commissioner Lucan stated that a conference with people electing to go versus a mandatory meeting that needs to meet quorum.

A consensus was reached that no stipends will be received for the meeting. However, all expenses will be covered/reimbursed, and the reimbursement forms should be submitted in 60-days. In addition, follow federal regulations for reimbursement.

d. Review Section 3.5

i. (A) and (B) – Discussion of the Selection of Chair and Vice-Chair

Commissioner Coler stated that she is okay with the current process in place but is open to rotation. Additionally, a rotation may put someone who is not ready yet into the position of chair.

Chair Chu stated that he is okay with the current system.

Commissioner Lucan stated he is ok with the current system. However, having term limits will prevent someone from staying as chair for too long.

Commissioner Coler stated that at the three years mark a transition will occur.

Chair Chu stated verbiage to state “annually elected not to exceed three consecutive terms.”

The Commission reached a consensus and agreed with Chair Chu’s wording.

e. (A)(v) – Discussion on Approval Authority of Out of Service Agreements.

Commissioner Coler could state that the EO should consult the chair and make sure all necessary documents are provided.

EO Fried Stated that it is unknown as to what critical items are for different emergency OSA. EO Fried also expressed that in an emergency the chair might not be available leaving the EO without the ability to act.

Commissioner Coler suggested adding the Vice-Chair in addition to the Chair for consultation.

Commissioner Lucan stated sharing the information on emergency OSA is a good idea, but providing the EO with autonomy to grant an OSA is important.

Commissioner Coler stated adding wording saying that the EO should consult the Chair and if the chair is not available the Vice-Chair

Commissioner Lucan inquired if the chair would have the ability to prevent a connection in an emergency and if so, conceding that power to one person on may not be for the best.

A consensus was reached to have the policy state that the EO should inform the Chair or if not available the Vice-Chair of the emergency OSA prior to approval.

f. Review Section 3.9 – Discussion on Providing other Staff with the Ability to Schedule and Staff a Committee.

i. 3.9 (A)(i) – Addition of Wording to Include that the Committee Manages Updates to the Fee Schedule.

All Commissioners were okay with the change.

ii. 3.9 (A)(ii) – Discussion of Who Can Serve on the Committee

All Commissioners were okay with striking the need for chair or vice chair to be on the committee.

g. Review Section 3.12 – Review of Procurement Policy and More Specifically Signature Requirements

Chair Chu stated he is ok with the amounts. Chu expressed concern over spending and not allowing the amount to be too high.

EO Fried stated that we do not have a lot of bills and all the bills we do have are presented at every meeting.

Commissioner Coler said she was ok with the current wording.

The Commission all agreed to the change from \$3,000 to \$3,500.

h. Review Section 3.13 (B)(iii) – Review and Discuss the Secondary Operating Account

All commissioners are ok with changes.

- i. Review Section 3.13 (G) – Review Changes to wording regarding the payroll process.

All commissioners are ok with changes.

- j. Review Section 4.15 – Discussion and update to protest hearings.

All commissioners are ok with changes.

EO Fried gave a summary of a new legal reserve policy.

Commissioner Coler stated that \$50,000 was a good amount to have in the legal reserve for any smaller legal costs.

Chair Chu opened the public comment. Seeing no closed public comment.

Approved: M/S by Commissioners Coler and Chu to approve changes with revisions as discussed.

Ayes: Commissioners Chu and Coler

Nays:

Abstain:

Absent: Lucan

Motion approved unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT TO NEXT MEETING

TBD



Attest: Claire Devereux
Clerk/Junior Analyst

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AGENDA REPORT

August 26, 2024

Item No.2 (Business/Consent Item)

TO: Policy and Personnel Committee

FROM: Jason Fried, Executive Officer

SUBJECT: Review and Approval Of Updates To the Personnel Handbook

Background

On December 10, 2020, the Commission approved our first independent Personnel Handbook. This will be the first review of the Personnel Handbook since it was approved almost 4 years ago. This handbook was created by using a template handbook created by Leibert Cassidy Whitmore (LCW) who had been doing HR-related legal work for us at the time. Due to staff changes at LCW, we are not currently using them and instead using BBK to handle our HR legal questions. Staff had BBK review the handbook in order to update it to cover changes that have occurred in Federal and State laws and make any other suggested edits. The vast majority of the changes in the attached handbook come from BBK and can be broken down into two main groups. One group is simply updates to cover changes in the laws. The second group are places where we can shorten the handbook up to make it easier to follow which should lead to less time needed to update in the future.

Staff would recommend to the Committee that we simply accept all the changes that are due to updates to Federal and State law. Staff did leave them in all comment boxes in the document, but some are more just an explanation as to why our legal counsel made the change. There are, however, sections that BBK is recommending we shorten or the Committee review to decide if it wants to make a change. These sections are 2.4-2.5 (combine and shorten); 2.6-2.7 (combine and shorten); 4.1f.1(b) (review); 6.1c (review); 7.1b (review); 8.3 (review); 8.5d (review); 9.1g (shorten); 10.1b(e) (review); 10.1d(a) (review); 10.1d(k) (review); 11.1 (b) and (c) (review); 12.2 (shorten); and 12.4d (review). Staff do want to point out that legal counsel and staff have a slight disagreement on section 7.1b and both staff and legal counsel's opinions are included as comments in the document.

In addition, if any of the Commissioners would like to discuss an item in the Personnel Handbook or a new policy not in the handbook during the meeting, if you can give staff and legal counsel a heads up so we can be sure to include it on my list of things to discuss during our meeting.

The following are the reasons for suggested changes to specific sections of the Policy Handbook being presented by staff for changes with the note that at least one Commissioner has brought section 8.1f to staff's attention and recommended it be reviewed for change.

Section 8.1f pertains to what Holidays the Commission recognizes, which means the office is closed. The County last year updated its holiday schedule by adding in both Ceaser Chavez Day (March 31) and Juneteenth (June 19) as holidays. In addition, Marin County stopped giving a half day off prior to the end of the year's holidays. The proposed changes to this section are similar to what the County has done.

The new Section is to create a remote work policy. While the Commission has authorized a hybrid work schedule for employees, we have never had a formal policy. It is recommended that we have a formal policy so there is no confusion on the matter. Attached are samples of other remote work policies used by other LAFCo or provided by BBK. Staff has provided a draft that starts with the El Dorado LAFCo policy and adds some elements of the Santa Barbara LAFCo policy put into a format that fits how our personnel handbook is formatted. In addition, changes to the El Dorado and Santa Barbara policies were made to better show how we have been operating our hybrid schedule. The Committee can either use the version staff put together or create a new policy.

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Southern Marin Fire Protection District

Larry Chu, Regular
Public Member

Roger Smith, Alternate
Public Member

MARIN LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION



PERSONNEL HANDBOOK

ADOPTED
DECEMBER 2020

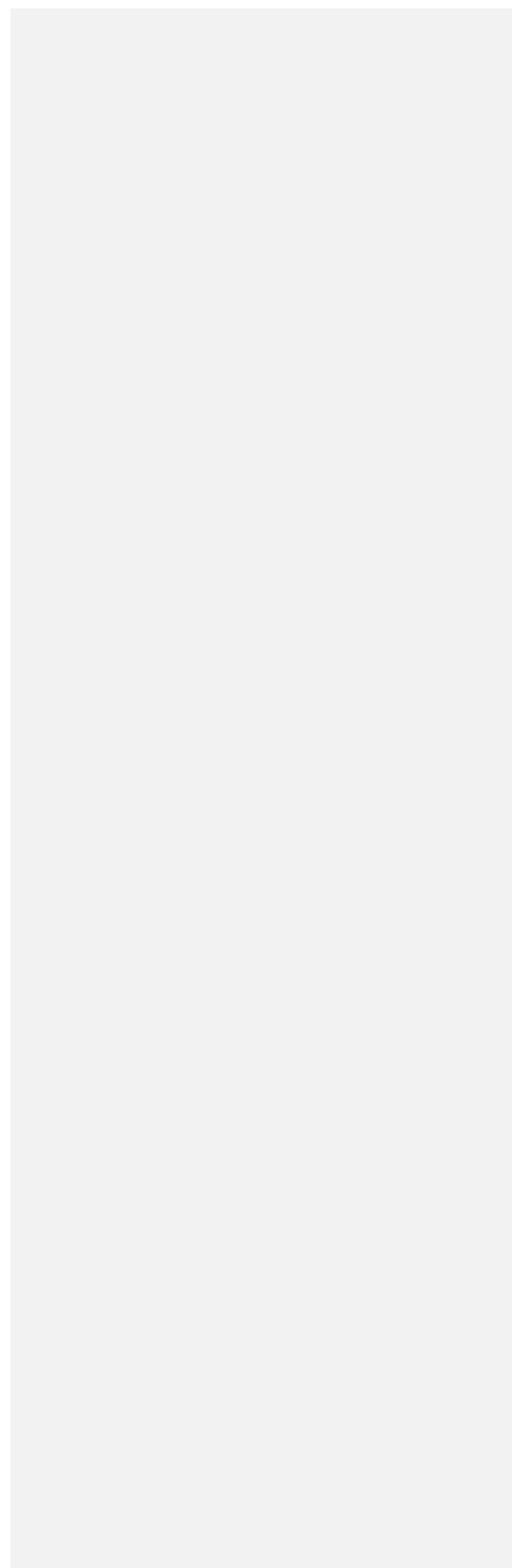


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Chapter 1 - Introduction and General Information Policies

1.1 Effect and Applicability of Personnel Policies

1.1a No Contract Right; LAFCo Discretion to Modify These Policies

These Personnel Policies (“Policies”) do not create any contract right, or any express or implied contract of employment. The Marin Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo) retains the full discretion to modify these Policies at any time in accordance with law.

1.1b Applicability of Policies

These Policies apply to all categories of employees of the LAFCo unless a specific section or provision excludes them. Independent contractors, volunteers, and Commissioners are not employees.

1.1c Conflict Between These Policies and Contracts for Employment

The LAFCo may, from time to time, enter into contracts with employees or contractors for specified services, such as the services of an Executive Officer. If a provision of these Policies conflicts with any provision of a valid employment agreement between the LAFCo and an employee or other contract worker, the provision of the agreement that is in conflict with these rules shall apply. The LAFCo is not otherwise bound by employment agreements, collective bargaining agreements, or other personnel rules applicable to agencies within its jurisdiction.

1.1d Employee Acceptance of Policies and Revisions to Policies

As a condition of employment, all employees are required to read and request necessary clarification of these Policies. Each employee is required to sign a statement of receipt acknowledging that: a) he or she has received a copy or has been provided access to the Policies; and b) understands that he or she is responsible to read and become familiar with the contents and any revisions to the Policies.

1.2 Delegation of Authority

1.2a Delegation of Appointing and Personnel Authority to Executive Officer

The LAFCo Board delegates to the Executive Officer, the authority to authorize employment, establish job responsibilities, and perform other personnel actions as to all subordinate employees in accordance with all federal and state laws and regulations and these Policies.

1.2b Retention of Personnel Authority as to Certain Personnel

As to those elected officials, or employees who directly report to the Commission Board, if any, the Commission Board retains all authority over all personnel actions as authorized by law and these Policies.

1.3 Categories of Employees and Non-Employees

1.3a At-Will Employee

An at-will employee is one who serves at the pleasure of the appointing authority, has no property right in continued employment, and has no right to any pre- or post-disciplinary procedural due process or evidentiary appeal. At-will employees include any of the following:

- (a) Executive Officer
- (b) General Counsel
- (c) Special Legal Counsels
- (d) Employees whose positions are funded under a state or federal employment program
- (e) Employees designated as temporary/ seasonal or extra-help, limited-term, etc.
- (f) Probationary employees

1.3b Probationary Employee

A probationary employee is one who is serving a probationary period at either: the outset of initial employment with LAFCo; or at the outset of a promotion to a higher classification. During the initial probationary period ([whether upon initial hire or promotion](#)), a probationary employee serves at the pleasure of the appointing authority, has no property right in continued employment, and has no right to any pre- or post-disciplinary procedural due process or evidentiary appeal. A probationary employee serving in the initial probationary period is an at-will employee.

1.3c For-Cause Employee

A for-cause employee is one who has satisfactorily completed the initial probationary period and cannot be disciplined except when LAFCo has cause to do so. A for-cause employee has a property right in continued employment, and has the right to pre- and post-disciplinary procedural due process and an evidentiary appeal for certain types of disciplinary actions that result in a significant deprivation of property.

1.3d Full or Part-Time Employee

A full-time employee is one whose position is budgeted to work at least 40 hours per week. Full-time employees receive all benefits provided in these Policies, unless otherwise provided in an MOU, or an employment agreement approved by LAFCo. A part-time employee is one whose position is budgeted to work less than 40 hours per week. Part-time employees may

have different rights to leave and other benefits under the law or these Policies, depending on the number of hours they work.

1.3e Temporary / Seasonal /Extra-Help Employee

A temporary/ seasonal or extra-help employee is an at-will employee who is appointed other than from an eligible list for a short term or seasonal basis, not to exceed six months. A temporary/ seasonal or extra-help employee serves at-will and at the pleasure of the appointing authority, has no property right in continued employment, and has no right to any pre- or post-disciplinary procedural due process or evidentiary appeal.

1.3f Volunteer

A volunteer is not an employee, but instead is an individual who provides services to the Agency for civic or philanthropic reasons and receives no compensation or benefits other than nominal fees and reimbursement of expenses. A volunteer serves at-will and at the pleasure of the appointing authority, has no property right in continued employment, and has no right to any pre- or post-disciplinary procedural due process or evidentiary appeal.

1.3g Independent Contractor

An independent contractor is not an employee and serves solely pursuant to a contract that has been formed and approved as required by LAFCo purchasing policies and procedures. An independent contractor cannot be used to perform any part of the LAFCo regular and customary work.

1.3h Regular Employee Status

As used in these policies, “regular employee” means a non-elected individual who has been appointed to a regularly allocated position. Regular employees may be full or part-time employees, but do not include probationary or temporary/seasonal/extra-help employees, volunteers, or independent contractors.

Chapter 2 Equal Employment Opportunity

2.1 Equal Employment Opportunity Policy

LAFCo affords equal employment opportunity for all qualified employees and applicants as to all terms of employment, including compensation, hiring, training, promotion, transfer, discipline and termination. LAFCo prohibits discrimination against employees or applicants for employment on the basis of race ([including protective hairstyles traditionally associated with race, such as locks, braids and twists](#)), religious creed, color, national origin, ancestry, physical disability, mental disability, medical condition, genetic information, marital status, sex, gender, gender identity, gender expression, age (40 and over), sexual orientation, or military and veteran status or any other basis protected by law. (Gov. Code § 12940(a).) Employees, volunteers, or applicants who believe they have experienced any form of employment discrimination ~~or abusive conduct~~ are encouraged to report the conduct immediately by using the complaint procedures provided in these Policies, or by contacting the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, or the [California Civil Rights Department of Fair Employment and Housing](#).

Commented [1]: I added a protected characteristic (hairstyles) to the list of protected characteristics.

Commented [2]: DFEH's name has now changed to "Civil Rights Department."

2.2 Policy Against Discrimination, Harassment and Retaliation; Complaint Procedure

2.2a Purpose

LAFCo has a strong commitment to prohibiting and preventing discrimination, harassment and retaliation in the workplace. LAFCo has zero tolerance for any conduct that violates this Policy. Conduct need not arise to the level of a violation of state or federal law to violate this Policy. Instead, a single act can violate this Policy and provide grounds for discipline or other appropriate sanctions. This Policy establishes a complaint procedure for investigating and resolving internal complaints of discrimination, harassment and retaliation. LAFCo encourages all covered individuals to report any conduct they believe violates this Policy as soon as possible. Any retaliation against an employee because they filed or supported a complaint or because they participated in the complaint resolution process is prohibited. Individuals found to have retaliated in violation of this Policy will be subject to appropriate sanction or disciplinary action, up to and including termination.

2.2a.1 Covered Individuals and Scope of Policy

The individuals covered by this Policy are: applicants, employees regardless of rank or title, ~~elected or appointed officials~~, interns, volunteers, and contractors. This Policy applies to all terms and conditions of employment, internships, and volunteer opportunities, including, but not limited to, selection, hiring, placement, promotion, disciplinary action, layoff, recall, transfer, leave of absence, compensation, and training.

2.3 Definitions

2.3a Protected Classification

This Policy prohibits harassment, discrimination or retaliation because of an individual's protected classification. "Protected Classification" includes race ([including protective hairstyles traditionally associated with race, such as locks, braids and twists](#)), religious creed, color, national origin, ancestry, physical disability, mental disability, medical condition, genetic information, marital status, sex, gender, gender identity, gender expression, age (40 and over), sexual orientation, or military and veteran status, or any other basis protected by law. (Gov. Code § 12940(a).) This Policy prohibits discrimination, harassment or retaliation because: 1) of an individual's protected classification; 2) the perception that an individual has a protected classification; or 3) the individual associates with a person who has or is perceived to have a protected classification.

2.3b Protected Activity

This Policy prohibits discrimination, harassment, or retaliation because of an individual's protected activity. Protected activity includes: making a request for an accommodation for a disability; making a request for accommodation for religious beliefs; making a complaint under this Policy; opposing violations of this Policy; or participating in an investigation under this Policy.

2.3c Discrimination

This Policy prohibits treating covered individuals differently and adversely because of the individual's protected classification, actual or perceived; because the individual associates with a person who is member of a protected classification, actual or perceived; or because the individual participates in a protected activity as defined in this Policy. (Gov. Code § 12926(o).)

2.3d Harassment

Harassment includes, but is not limited to, the following types of behavior that are taken because of a person's actual or perceived protected classification:

- (a) Speech, such as epithets, derogatory comments or slurs, and propositioning on the basis of a protected classification. This includes inappropriate comments about appearance, dress, physical features, gender identification, or race-oriented stories and jokes.
- (b) Physical acts, such as assault, impeding or blocking movement, offensive touching, or physical interference with normal work or movement. This includes pinching, grabbing, patting, or making explicit or implied job threats or promises in return for submission to physical acts.
- (c) Visual acts, such as derogatory posters, cartoons, emails, pictures or drawings related to a protected classification.

- (d) Unwanted sexual advances, requests for sexual favors and other acts of a sexual nature, where submission is made a term or condition of employment, where submission to or rejection of the conduct is used as the basis for employment decisions, or where the conduct is intended to or actually does unreasonably interfere with an individual's work performance or create an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working environment. (Gov. Code §12940(j); 2 Cal.Code Regs § 11091(b)(1).)

2.3d.1 Guidelines for Identifying Harassment

Harassment includes any conduct which would be unwelcome or unwanted to an individual of the recipient's same protected classification. The following guidelines to determine if conduct is unwelcomed or unwanted should be followed:

- (a) It is no defense that the recipient "appears" to have consented to the conduct at issue by failing to protest about the conduct. A recipient may not protest for many legitimate reasons, including the need to avoid being insubordinate or to avoid being ostracized or subjected to retaliation.
- (b) Simply because no one has complained about a joke, gesture, picture, physical contact, or comment does not mean that the conduct is welcome. Harassment can evolve over time. Small, isolated incidents might be tolerated up to a point. The fact that no one has yet complained does not preclude someone from complaining if the conduct is repeated in the future.
- (c) Even visual, verbal, or physical conduct between two people who appear to welcome the conduct can constitute harassment of a third person who witnesses the conduct or learns about the conduct later. Conduct can constitute harassment even if it is not explicitly or specifically directed at a particular individual.
- (d) Conduct can constitute harassment even if the individual has no intention to harass. Even well-intentioned conduct can violate this Policy if the conduct is directed at, or implicates a protected classification, and if an individual would find it offensive (e.g., gifts, over-attention, endearing nicknames, hugs).

2.3e Retaliation

Retaliation occurs when adverse conduct is taken against a covered individual because of the individual's protected activity as defined in this Policy. "Adverse conduct" may include but is not limited to: disciplinary action, counseling, taking sides because an individual has reported harassment or discrimination; spreading rumors about a complainant or about someone who supports or assists the complainant; shunning or avoiding an individual who reports harassment or discrimination; or making real or implied threats of intimidation to prevent or deter an individual from reporting harassment or discrimination.

2.3f Complaint Procedure

A covered individual who believes he or she has been subjected to discrimination, harassment or retaliation may make a complaint -- orally or in writing -- to any supervisor, manager, or department head, without regard to any chain of command. Any supervisory or management employee who receives a harassment complaint should immediately notify the Executive Officer. Upon receiving notification of a harassment complaint, the Executive Officer will complete and/or delegate the following steps. If the Executive Officer is accused, or a witness to the events at issue, an individual with higher authority will complete and/or delegate the following steps.

- (a) Authorize and supervise the investigation of the complaint and/or investigate the complaint. The investigation will usually include interviews with: 1) the complainant; 2) the accused; and 3) other persons who have relevant knowledge concerning the allegations in the complaint.
- (b) Review the factual information gathered through the investigation to determine whether the alleged conduct violates the Policy giving consideration to all factual information, the totality of the circumstances, including the nature of the conduct, and the context in which the alleged incidents occurred.
- (c) Report a summary of the determination as to whether this Policy has been violated to appropriate persons. If discipline or sanctions are imposed, the level of discipline or sanctions will not be communicated to the complainant.

(d) After completion of the investigation, LAFCo will communicate in writing the confidential findings only (i.e., "sustained" or "not sustained") to the complainant, the alleged harasser, and members of management with a legitimate need to know.

Commented [3]: I added this provision regarding what information participants should be provided regarding the outcome of the investigation.

~~(e)~~(e) If conduct in violation of this Policy occurred, take or recommend to the appointing authority prompt and effective remedial action. The remedial action will be commensurate with the severity of the offense.

~~(e)~~(f) Take reasonable steps to protect the complainant from further harassment, discrimination or retaliation.

2.3f.1 Proactive Approach

LAFCo takes a proactive approach to potential Policy violations and will conduct an investigation if its supervisory or management employees become aware that harassment, discrimination or retaliation may be occurring, regardless of whether the recipient or third party reports a potential violation.

2.3g Option to Report to Outside Administrative Agencies

An individual has the option to report harassment, discrimination or retaliation to the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) or the California [Civil Rights Department of Fair Employment and Housing \(DFEH\)](#). These administrative agencies offer legal remedies and a complaint process. The nearest offices are listed on the Internet, in the government section of the telephone book or employees can check the posters that are located and hanging in the copy room for office locations and telephone numbers.

2.3h Confidentiality

Every effort will be made to assure the confidentiality of complaints made under this Policy to the greatest extent allowed by law. Complete confidentiality cannot occur, however, due to the need to fully investigate and the duty to take effective remedial action. An employee who is interviewed during the course of an investigation is prohibited from attempting to influence any potential witness while the investigation is ongoing. An employee may discuss his or her interview with a designated representative. LAFCo will not disclose a completed investigation report except as it deems necessary to support a disciplinary action, ~~to take remedial action,~~ to defend itself in adversarial proceedings, or to comply with the law or court order.

2.3i Responsibilities

(a) Each non-manager or non-supervisor is responsible for:

- 1) Treating all individuals in the workplace or on worksites with respect and consideration.
- 2) Modeling behavior that conforms to this Policy.
- 3) **Participating in periodic training.** [All employees are required to periodically complete training on preventing sexual harassment in the workplace. While LAFCo will provide employees with the training module to complete, employees can also access training and materials through the Civil Rights Department's website at: <https://www.crd.ca.gov/shpt/>.](#)
- 4) Cooperating with LAFCo investigations pursuant to this Policy by responding fully and truthfully to all questions posed during the investigation.
- 5) Taking no actions to influence any potential witness while the investigation is ongoing.
- 6) Reporting any act he or she believes in good faith constitutes harassment, discrimination or retaliation as defined in this Policy, to his or her immediate supervisor.

Commented [4]: Regulations updated since the last legal review now require harassment policies to reference and provide a link to CRD's training materials.

- (b) In addition to the responsibilities listed above, each manager and supervisor is responsible for:
- 1) Informing employees of this Policy.
 - 2) Taking all steps necessary to prevent harassment, discrimination and, retaliation from occurring, including monitoring the work environment and taking immediate appropriate action to stop potential violations, such as removing inappropriate pictures or correcting inappropriate language.
 - 3) Receiving complaints in a fair and serious manner, and documenting steps taken to resolve complaints.
 - 4) Following up with those who have complained to ensure that the behavior has stopped and that there are no reprisals.
 - 5) Informing those who complain of harassment or discrimination of his or her option to contact the EEOC or [DFEH-CRD](#) regarding alleged Policy violations.
 - 6) Assisting, advising, or consulting with employees and the Executive Officer regarding this Policy.
 - 7) Assisting in the investigation of complaints involving employee(s) in their departments and, when appropriate, if the complaint is substantiated, recommending appropriate corrective or disciplinary action in accordance with these Policies, up to and including termination.
 - 8) Implementing appropriate disciplinary and remedial actions.
 - 9) Reporting potential violations of this Policy of which he or she becomes aware to the Executive Officer, regardless of whether a complaint has been submitted.
 - 10) Participating in periodic training and scheduling employees for training.

2.4 Reasonable Accommodation and Interactive Process

~~2.4a Reasonable Accommodation~~

Absent undue hardship or direct threats to the health and safety of employee(s), LAFCo provides employment-related reasonable accommodations to:

- (a) qualified individuals with disabilities, both applicants and employees, to enable them to perform essential job functions (Gov. Code § 12940(m)); and

Commented [5]: I recommend shortening this section. The updated language tracks your legal obligation, and the remaining pieces will apply as a legal matter to the process should an employee request an accommodation.

- (b) employees with conditions related to pregnancy, childbirth, or a related medical condition, if she so requests, and with the advice of her health care provider (Gov. Code § 12945(3)(A)); and
- (c) employee victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking to promote the safety of the employee victim while at work (Labor Code § 230(f)(4)); and
- (d) employees who request reasonable accommodation to address a conflict between religious belief or observance and any employment requirement (Gov. Code § 12940(l)).

LAFCo is committed to complying with all laws protecting qualified individuals with disabilities, as well as employees' religious beliefs and observances. This policy extends to all aspects of LAFCo's employment practices, including but not limited to, recruiting, hiring, discipline, termination, promotions, transfers, compensation, benefits, training, leaves of absence, and other terms and conditions of employment. LAFCo will provide a reasonable accommodation for any known physical or mental disability of a qualified individual and/or employees' religious beliefs and observances, provided the requested accommodation does not create an undue hardship for LAFCo and/or does not pose a direct threat to the health or safety of others in the workplace and/or to the individual.

If you require an accommodation to perform the essential functions of your job and/or for your religious beliefs or observances, you must notify the Executive Officer. Once LAFCo is aware of the need for an accommodation, LAFCo will engage in an interactive process to identify possible accommodations. You may be asked to provide medical documentation. While LAFCo will consider any and all requests you may make, LAFCo retains the discretion as to what, if any, accommodation to provide.

2.5 — Supporting Documentation or Certification

2.5a — Reasonable Medical Documentation of Disability

~~If the disability or the need for reasonable accommodation is not obvious, LAFCo may require the individual to provide reasonable medical documentation confirming the existence of the disability and the need for reasonable accommodation, along with the name and credentials of the individual's health care provider. If the individual provides insufficient documentation, the agency will: 1) explain the insufficiency; 2) allow the employee or applicant to supplement the documentation; and 3) pursue the interactive process only to the extent that the request for reasonable accommodation is supported by the medical documentation provided. (2 Cal.Code Regs § 11069(c)(2) & (d).)~~

2.5b — Medical Certification Indicating the Need for a Reasonable Accommodation or Transfer Due to Pregnancy or Related Conditions

~~If a pregnant employee, or an employee with a pregnancy-related condition, requests a reasonable accommodation or transfer due to pregnancy, LAFCo will provide the employee with notice of the need for a medical certification within two business days after the employee's request for accommodation. A medical certification confirming the need for a reasonable accommodation, including transfer, is sufficient if it contains: a description of the requested accommodation or transfer; a statement describing the medical advisability of the accommodation or transfer due to pregnancy; and the date that the need for the accommodation or transfer will become necessary and the estimated duration of the accommodation or transfer. (2 Cal.Code Regs § 11050(b)(3).)~~

~~2.5c~~ **Certification of Victim Status**

~~An employee who is a victim of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking and who requests an accommodation to provide for his or her safety while at work must provide both of the following:~~

- ~~(a) a written statement signed by the employee or an individual acting on the employee's behalf, to certify that the accommodation is to address victim safety concerns while at work; and~~
- ~~(b) a certification demonstrating the employee's status as a victim of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking, which can be in the form of: a police report indicating the employee's victim status; a court order separating the perpetrator from the employee or that the employee has appeared in court for that purpose; or documentation from a medical professional or counselor that the employee is undergoing treatment for physical or mental injuries or abuse resulting from an act of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking. (Labor Code § 230(f)(7).)~~

2.6 Fitness for Duty Examinations

Fitness for duty examinations may be conducted of applicants and employees where warranted under applicable law and supported by LAFCo's legitimate business needs.

2.6a Applicants

After a conditional offer of employment has been extended to an applicant, LAFCo may require the applicant to submit to a fitness for duty examination that is job-related; necessary for efficient operations of the agency; and required of all applicants for the job classification. (Gov. Code § 12940(e) &(f).) An applicant or employee who is required to pass a medical and/or psychological examination will be notified of his/her right to obtain a second opinion at his/her expense and that he/she may submit such second opinions for consideration. (2 Cal.Code Regs § 11071(b)(2).)

2.6b Current Employee

Commented [6]: I recommend also shortening this section and omitting the sections highlighted in blue. With this short language, you retain the ability to conduct fitness for duty examinations where appropriate. If done, the remaining obligations will apply as a matter of law (whether or not they're affirmatively stated in the handbook). If you agree with this change, the language in blue would be omitted.

The Executive Officer may require an employee to submit to a fitness for duty examination to determine if the employee has a disability and is able to perform the essential functions of his or her job when there is significant evidence that:

- (a) the employee's ability to perform one or more essential functions of his or her job has declined; or
- (b) could cause a reasonable person to question whether an employee is still capable of performing one or more of his or her essential job duties or is still capable of performing those duties in a manner that does not harm him or herself or others. (Gov. Code § 12940(e) &(f).)

2.6c Role of Health Care Provider

LAFCo may request the applicant's or employee's health care provider to conduct a fitness for duty exam on the applicant or employee or may request a LAFCo selected health care provider to do so at the LAFCo's expense. LAFCo will allow an employee paid time off to attend the exam. LAFCo will provide the health care provider with a letter requesting a fitness for duty examination and a written description of the essential functions of the job. The examination will be limited to determining whether the applicant or employee can perform the essential functions of his/her position and any work restrictions and/or functional limitations that apply to the applicant or employee. The health care provider will examine the employee and provide LAFCo with non-confidential information regarding whether:

- (a) the applicant or employee has a disability within the meaning of the California Fair Employment and Housing Act;
- (b) the applicant or employee is fit to perform essential job functions;
- (c) workplace restrictions or functional limitations apply to the applicant or employee, and the duration of the work restrictions or functional limitations;
- (d) there are any reasonable accommodations that would enable the employee to perform essential job functions; and
- (e) the employee's continued employment poses a threat to the health and safety of him or herself or others.

Should the health care provider exceed the scope of LAFCo's request and provide confidential health information, without valid consent of the applicant or employee, LAFCo will return the report to the health care provider and request another report that includes only the non-confidential fitness for duty information that LAFCo has requested. (2 Cal.Code Regs § 11069(c) & (d).)

2.6d Authorization for Use of Medical Information

During the course of a fitness for duty examination, LAFCo will not seek or use information regarding an employee's medical history, diagnoses, or course of treatment without an employee's written authorization.

2.6e Medical Information from the Employee or Applicant

If an employee or applicant submits medical information to LAFCo from his or her own health care provider, the Executive Officer will not forward that information on to the health care provider who conducted the examination for LAFCo, without the employee or applicant's written authorization. Upon receipt of the written authorization, the Executive Officer will request LAFCo-paid health care provider to determine whether the information alters the original fitness for duty assessment.

2.7 Interactive Process

2.7a When to Initiate the Interactive Process

The Executive Officer will initiate the interactive process when:

- (a) an applicant or employee with a known physical or mental disability or medical condition requests reasonable accommodation(s) (2 Cal.Code Regs § 11069(b)(1)); or
- (b) LAFCo otherwise becomes aware of the need for an accommodation through a third party (e.g., a doctor's note requesting an accommodation), or by observation of the employee's work (2 Cal.Code Regs. § 11069(b)(2)); or
- (c) LAFCo becomes aware of the possible need for an accommodation because the employee with a disability has exhausted workers' compensation leave, Family and Medical Act leave, or other leave rights, but the employee and/or the employee's health care provider indicate that further accommodation is still necessary for recuperative leave or other accommodation (2 Cal.Code Regs. § 11069(b)(3)); or
- (d) an employee disabled by pregnancy, childbirth or related medical conditions requests a reasonable accommodation or transfer based on the advice of her health care provider (2 Cal.Code Regs § 11040(a)(1)); or
- (e) an employee with a physical or mental disability, regardless of cause, fails to return to work following pregnancy disability leave (2 Cal.Code Regs § 11047); or
- (f) an employee-victim of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking requests a reasonable accommodation(s) for his or her safety at work (Labor Code § 230(f)(1)); or

(g) an employee requests an accommodation to address a conflict between religious belief, observance, or practice and any employment requirement (Gov. Code § 12940(l)); or

(h) an employer is aware of the need for a reasonable accommodation for an employee's or applicant's religious beliefs, observance or practices. (2 Cal.Code Regs § 11060(b).)

2.7b Interactive Communication

After the occurrence of any of the above-stated circumstances that trigger the need to conduct an interactive process meeting, the Executive Officer will promptly arrange for a discussion or discussions, in person or via conference telephone call, with the applicant or employee and his or her designated representative, (if any). The purpose of the interactive communications will be to discuss in good faith all feasible potential reasonable accommodations. The Executive Officer will document these communications in writing. (Gov. Code 12940(n); 2 Cal.Code Regs § 11069(a).)

2.7c Potential Accommodations for Applicants or Employees with Disabilities

Depending on the facts of each case, the interactive process analysis will generally begin with a review of possible reasonable accommodations that would enable the individual to retain his or her current job. The process will generally then move on to possible reasonable accommodations in other vacant jobs, for which the individual is qualified, if there is no reasonable accommodation in the current job that does not cause undue hardship, or that does not present a risk of harm to the individual or others. LAFCo will consider accommodations that the applicant or employee suggests but has the right to select and implement any reasonable accommodation that it deems effective. The range of potential reasonable accommodations includes, but is not limited to:

- making existing facilities used by employees readily accessible to, and usable by, individuals with disabilities, including: acquisition or modification of equipment or devices, adjustment or modifications of examinations, training materials or policies, and/or the provision of qualified readers or interpreters;
- job restructuring;
- part-time or modified work schedules (Gov. Code § 12926(p));
- paid or unpaid leave of absence of a finite duration that is likely to enable the employee to return to work at the end of the leave (2 Cal.Code Regs § 11068(c));
- preferential consideration to reassignment to a vacant, comparable position, except when such preference would violate a bona fide seniority system (2 Cal.Code Regs § 11068(d)(5));
- reassignment to a vacant lower-paid position if there is no funded, vacant comparable position for which the individual is qualified for (2 Cal.Code § 11068(d)(2)); or
- reassignment to a temporary position, if the individual agrees. (2 Cal.Code Regs § 11068(d)(3).)

2.7d Potential Accommodations for Employees Affected by Pregnancy and Related Medical Conditions

Depending on the facts of each case, the interactive process will attempt to identify and implement a reasonable accommodation that is consistent with the medical certification applicable to the applicant or employee. Whether an accommodation is reasonable is a case-by-case analysis that takes into account several factors, including, but not limited to: the employee's medical needs; the duration of the needed accommodation; and the employer's legally permissible past and current practices. (2 Cal.Code Regs. § 11040(a)(2)(A).) The range of potential accommodations includes, but is not limited to:

- transfer to a less strenuous or hazardous position for the duration of the pregnancy (Gov. Code § 12945(a)(3)(C));
- change in or restructuring of work duties, such as modifying lifting requirements (2 Cal.Code Regs § 11040(b));
- providing more frequent breaks;
- providing seating;
- time off for medical appointments;
- transfer temporarily to a job with equivalent pay and benefits that the employee is qualified to perform in order to accommodate reduced work schedule or intermittent leave. (2 Cal.Code Regs. § 11041(c).) (However, a reduction in work hours may be considered a form of pregnancy disability leave and deducted from the employee's four-month pregnancy disability leave entitlement.) (2 Cal.Code Regs § 11040(b).)

2.7e Potential Accommodations for Employee-Victims of Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, or Stalking

Depending on the facts of each individual case, the interactive process analysis will review all possible accommodations that would enhance the safety of the employee victim at work. In determining what accommodation is reasonable, LAFCo will consider the exigent circumstance or danger facing the employee. LAFCo will consider the preferences of the employee to be accommodated but has the right to select and implement any accommodation that it deems effective. The range of potential safety measure accommodations includes, but is not limited to:

- transfer, reassignment, modified schedule;
- change in work telephone number;
- change in location of work station;
- installation of locks;
- assistance in documenting domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking that occurs in the workplace;
- the implementation of a safety procedure(s);
- adjustment to job structure, workplace facility, or work requirement; and
- referral to a victim assistance organization. (Labor Code § 230(f)(2).)

2.7f Potential Accommodations for Religious Creed, Religious Dress Practice, or Religious Grooming Practice

Depending on the facts of each case, the interactive process analysis will review all possible accommodations that would resolve the conflict between the religious belief or observance and any employment requirement. LAFCo will consider the preference of the employee or applicant but has the right to select and implement any accommodation that it deems effective. The range of potential accommodations includes, but is not limited to:

- (a) job restructuring or job reassignment (but not segregation from other employees or the public) (Gov. Code § 12940(l)(2));
- (b) modification of work practices, including dress or grooming standards (2 Cal.Code Regs § 11062(c)(2));
- (c) allowing time off in an amount equal to the amount of non-regularly scheduled time the employee has worked in order to avoid a conflict with his or her religious observances (2 Cal.Code Regs § 11062(a));
- (d) allowing alternatives to union membership or payment of union dues (2 Cal.Code Regs § 11062(c)(3)).

2.7g Determination

After the interactive process communications, the Executive Officer will review the information received and determine: whether all available information has been reviewed; whether all potential accommodations that the applicant or employee has suggested have been considered; whether additional discussions with the applicant or employee would be helpful; whether the applicant's or employee's preferences have been taken into account; if there is a reasonable accommodation that would enable the applicant or employee to perform essential job functions without harming him or herself or others; and if the accommodations would pose an undue hardship on LAFCo finances or operations. The Executive Officer will inform the applicant or employee of his or her determination in writing. The Executive Officer will use his or her discretion based upon the particular facts of each case.

2.7h Access to Medical Information Regarding Fitness for Duty

Medical records and information regarding fitness for duty, or the need for an accommodation, will be maintained separately from non-medical records and information. Medical records and information regarding fitness for duty and the need for accommodation will be accessible only by the Executive Officer, LAFCo's legal counsel, first aid and safety personnel in case of emergency, and supervisors who are responsible for identifying reasonable accommodations. Medical records and information contained therein may be released pursuant to state and federal law. (2 Cal.Code Regs § 11069(g).)

2.8 Whistleblower Protection

2.8a Policy

LAFCo prohibits all of the following:

- (a) taking any retaliatory adverse employment action against an employee because the employee has or is believed to have disclosed information to any government or law enforcement agency, including to LAFCo, if the employee has reasonable cause to believe that the information discloses a violation of state or federal law, or a violation or noncompliance with a local, state, or federal rule or regulation (Labor Code § 1102.5(b));
- (b) preventing an employee from disclosing information to a government agency, including to LAFCo, if the employee has reasonable cause to believe that the information discloses a violation of state or federal law, or a violation or noncompliance with a local, state, or federal rule or regulation (Labor Code § 1102.5(a));
- (c) retaliating against an employee for refusing to participate in any activity that would result in a violation of state or federal law, or a violation or noncompliance with a local, state, or federal rule or regulation (Labor Code § 1102.5(c)); and
- (d) retaliating against an employee because the employee's family member has or is perceived to have engaged in any of the protected activities listed in (a)-(c) above.

2.8b Policy Coverage

This Policy governs and protects LAFCo officials, officers, employees, seasonal/ temporary/ extra help employees, or applicants for employment.

2.8c Definitions

- (a) "Protected activity" includes any of the following:
- Filing a complaint with a federal or state enforcement or administrative agency that discloses any information that the employee has reasonable cause to believe violates state or federal law or a violation or noncompliance with a local, state, or federal rule or regulation.
 - Participating in or cooperating in good faith with a local, federal or state enforcement agency that is conducting an investigation in to alleged unlawful activity.
 - Testifying in good faith and with reasonable cause as a party, witness, or accused regarding alleged unlawful activity.
 - Associating with another covered individual who is engaged in any of the protected activities enumerated here.
 - Making or filing in good faith and with reasonable cause an internal complaint with the LAFCo regarding alleged unlawful activity.

- Providing informal notice to the LAFCo regarding alleged unlawful activity.
- Calling a governmental agency's "Whistleblower hotline" in good faith.
- Filing a written complaint under penalty of perjury that LAFCo has engaged in gross mismanagement, a significant waste of public funds, or a substantial and specific danger to public health or safety. (Labor Code §§ 53296(c) & 53297(d).)
- Refusing to participate in any activity that the employee reasonably believes would result in a violation of state or federal law, or a violation or noncompliance with a local, state, or federal rule or regulation. (Labor Code § 1102.5(c).)

(b) "Adverse action" may include, but is not limited to, any of the following:

- Real or implied threats of intimidation to attempt or prevent an individual from reporting alleged wrongdoing or because of actual or potential protected activity.
- Refusing to hire an individual because of actual or potential protected activity.
- Denying promotion to an individual because of actual or potential protected activity.
- Taking any form of disciplinary action because of actual or potential protected activity.
- Extending a probationary period because of actual or potential protected activity.
- Altering work schedules or work assignments because of actual or potential protected activity.
- Condoning hostility and criticism of co-workers and third parties because of actual or protected activity.
- Spreading rumors about a person because of that person's actual or perceived protected activity.
- Shunning or unreasonably avoiding a person because of that person's actual or perceived protected activity.

2.8d Complaint Procedure

An applicant, employee, or seasonal/ temporary/ extra help employee who feels he or she has been retaliated against in violation of this Policy should immediately report the conduct according to the complaint procedure in LAFCo's Policy Against Discrimination, Harassment or Retaliation (Section 2.2) so that the complaint can be resolved fairly and quickly. Supervisors and Managers have the same responsibilities as defined in the Policy Against Discrimination, Harassment or Retaliation.

Chapter 3 Classification Policies

3.1 Classification Plan

3.1a Classification Plan

The Executive Officer shall ascertain and record the duties and responsibilities of all positions and, after consulting with affected department heads, shall recommend a classification plan, including job descriptions, for such positions.

3.2 Reclassification

The Executive Officer may initiate a job audit to determine whether the duties of a position have changed to such an extent that they necessitate reclassification of the position from the existing classification to a more appropriate classification. Upon completion of the job audit, the Executive Officer shall report to the Commission regarding reclassification changes.

Chapter 4 Recruitment, Selection, and Appointment

4.1 Recruitment, Selection and Appointment Policy

4.1a Job Announcement

The Executive Officer will prepare a job announcement to announce a proposed recruitment. The announcement may be posted on the LAFCo's website and other locations the Executive Officer deems appropriate, depending upon whether the [Executive Officer has determined that the recruitment will be](#) open to the public or current employees only. The announcement will include:

- The title and pay for the position;
- The nature of the work to be performed and essential job duties of the position;
- The minimum qualifications, including whether the job is a promotional position;
- The last date that the Executive Officer will accept applications, if any;
- [The time, place, and type of the examination, if known, and if](#) a medical examination, and/or a drug screen will be required following a conditional offer of employment; and
- Such other information as determined in the discretion of the Executive Officer.

4.1b Application Process

Job applications shall require information describing an individual's training, experience, and other pertinent information as deemed necessary to assess qualifications for the job. Applicants may be required to provide supplementary information, including but not limited to: answers to job-related questions; resume; licenses; certifications; diplomas; letters of recommendation; and references. All applications must be completed in full, physically or electronically, by the person applying. The Executive Officer will not process any application which is not fully completed. Should an applicant be appointed to a position, the supplemental information shall become a part of the individual's permanent employment records.

4.1c Disqualification of Applications

The Executive Officer may reject any application which: is not properly completed or incomplete; received after the application deadline; or indicates that the applicant does not meet the minimum qualifications for the position.

4.1d Criminal Conviction Check

After LAFCo makes a conditional offer of employment, the Executive Officer may then request information about criminal convictions, except for misdemeanor marijuana-related convictions that are over two years old, or convictions that have been judicially sealed, eradicated, or expunged. (Labor Code §§ 432.7-432.8.) Unless required by law, LAFCo will not deny employment to any applicant solely because he or she has been convicted of a crime. LAFCo

Commented [7]: Since the handbook was last reviewed, there have been some updates to the regulations governing consideration of criminal conviction history. I added language here from those updated regulations.

may, however, consider the nature and gravity of the offense or conduct, the date and circumstances of the offense and the conviction, evidence of rehabilitation and any mitigating circumstances, as well as the nature of the job sought and whether the offense is relevant to the duties of the position. ~~This Policy does not apply to applicants for public safety jobs.~~

4.1e Employment Examinations

- (a) The Executive Officer will determine whether and how to ~~the manner and methods of~~ administering employment examinations. Examinations may consist of: written tests; oral tests; performance tests; evaluations of prior training and performance, experience and/or education; interviews; working style assessments; practical exercises; file review; or any combination thereof. The content of all examinations will be job-related and designed to test knowledge, skills or abilities that help predict successful completion of job duties.
- (b) The content of all examinations will be kept confidential prior to the administration of the examination. All applicants who are invited to the examination will be notified of the nature of the examination.
- (c) An applicant with a disability may request accommodation in an examination process. Following receipt of a request for accommodation, the Executive Officer may require additional information, such as reasonable documentation of the existence of a disability. (2 Cal.Code Regs § 11069(c)(2).)
- (d) Failure in one part of the examination, or the failure to meet established standards described in the job announcement, may be grounds for declaring such applicant as failing in the entire examination or as disqualified for subsequent parts of an examination. Each applicant will be notified by mail or email whether he or she will continue in the examination process.
- (e) Applicants who meet the minimum qualifications and pass all examinations may be subject to a background and/or reference check.

4.1f Appointments

- (a) The Executive Officer will make all appointments except for those classifications that report to the governing body. The Executive Officer has discretion to decide in what manner a vacancy shall be filled. Vacancies may be filled by reinstatement, promotion, transfer, demotion, appointment of temporary / seasonal employees, or from an appropriate eligibility list if available. The LAFCo Commission will make appointments for those classifications that report to it.
- (b) Appointment to certain positions may be made contingent upon the applicant/employee passing a drug / alcohol test, and/or a job-related medical and/or psychological examination. Such examination shall only be required after a conditional

offer of employment has been made. (See Policy 2.4, Reasonable Accommodation and Interactive Process; and Policy 12.4, Prohibitions on Drugs and Alcohol in the Workplace.)

- (c) The person accepting appointment shall report to the Executive Officer or designee on the date designated by the Executive Officer. Otherwise, the applicant shall be deemed to have declined the appointment.

4.1f.1 Probationary Appointment

- (a) At-Will Status: The probationary period is part of the examination/[evaluation](#) process and is used to determine whether work performance or work-related behavior meets the required standards of the position. A probationary employee may be rejected at any time during the probationary period with or without cause or reason, without notice or appeal or grievance, and without any rights set forth under Policy 10.1, Causes for Discipline and Procedures. The probationary employee will be notified prior to the expiration of the probationary period that he or she has been rejected from probation.
- (b) [Length of Probation:](#) Unless otherwise specified by memorandum of understanding or these Policies, the probationary period is 6 months of actual and continuous service. The probationary period is automatically extended by the length of any absence of one work week or more. [Holidays are excluded, but other absences \(which need not be consecutive\) are considered and accumulated.](#) The probationary period can also be extended by the Agency at the discretion of the Executive Officer or his/her designee.

Commented [8]: Make sure how you'd like this to work. Do you want to count together all days missed (excluding holidays) and extend probation if collective days missed amount to five or more (one workweek)? Or do you want to extend probation only for continuous absences? Either way, I think the language should be clarified to make sure. With the additions here, I've assumed you want to count all absences (excluding recognized holidays) together and extend probation for any amount exceeding one workweek in duration. You have flexibility here, so just make sure it reads how you'd like it to work in practice.

4.1g Probationary Period for Promotional Appointments

- (a) At-Will Status: A promotional probationary employee may be rejected at any time during the promotional probationary period with or without cause or reason, without notice or appeal or grievance, and without any rights described in Policy 10.1, Causes for Discipline and Procedures. If the employee fails to satisfactorily complete the probationary period in the promotional position, the employee may return to the position held prior to promotion at the range and step held prior to promotion, if there is a vacancy in the prior position, unless he or she is terminated for cause.
- (b) Length of Probation: On accepting a promotion, an employee serves a new probationary period of six months of actual and continuous service. The probationary period is automatically extended by the length of any absence of a week or more.

Chapter 5 Employment of Relatives or Spouses/ Domestic Partners

5.1 Employment of Relatives, Spouses, Domestic Partners

5.1a Policy

LAFCo regulates the employment and placement of relatives, spouses, and domestic partners so as to avoid conflicts of interest and to promote safety, security, supervision, and morale.

5.1b Definitions

- (a) "Relative" means child, stepchild, parent, grandparent, grandchild, brother, sister, half-brother, half-sister, aunt, uncle, niece, nephew, or in-laws of those enumerated by marriage or domestic partnership.
- (b) "Spouse" means one of two persons to a marriage, or two people who are registered domestic partners, as those terms are defined by California law. (Fam. Code § 297 & 300.)
- (c) "Supervisory relationship" means one in which one employee exercises the right or responsibility to control, direct, reward, or discipline another by virtue of the duties and responsibilities assigned to his or her LAFCo appointment.

5.1c Employment of Relatives

LAFCo will not appoint, promote or transfer a person to a position within the same department, division, or facility in which the person's relative already holds a position, if any of the following would result:

- A direct or indirect supervisory relationship between the relatives;
- The two employees having job duties which require performance of shared duties on the same or related work assignment;
- Both employees having the same supervisor; or
- A potential for creating an adverse impact on supervision, safety, security, morale or efficiency.

5.1d Spouses or Domestic Partners

LAFCo will not appoint, promote, or transfer a person, to the same department, division, or facility in which the person's spouse or registered domestic partner already holds a position, if such employment would result in any of the following:

- One spouse or domestic partner being under the direct supervision of the other spouse or domestic partner; or
- Potential conflicts of interest or hazards for married persons or those in domestic partnership which are greater than for those who are not married or in domestic partnerships.

5.1e Marriage or Domestic Partnership After Employment

- Transfer:** If two LAFCo employees who ~~work in the same department later~~ become spouses or domestic partners, the Executive Officer has discretion to transfer one of the employees to ~~a similar position in another department~~ an alternate position that better addresses potential issues. Although the wishes of the two employees will be considered, the Executive Officer retains sole discretion to determine which employee will be transferred based upon LAFCo needs for supervision, safety, security or morale. Any such transfer that results in a salary reduction is not disciplinary and is not subject to any grievance or appeal, or pre- or post-disciplinary appeal due process.
- Separation:** If continuing employment of both employees, ~~who work in the same department and~~ who ~~later~~ become spouses or domestic partners, cannot be accommodated in a manner the Executive Officer finds to be consistent with the LAFCo's interest in the promotion of supervision, safety, security, or morale, then the Executive Officer retains sole discretion to separate one employee from LAFCo employment. Absent the resignation of one employee, the less senior employee will be separated. Any such separation is not considered to be disciplinary and is not subject to any grievance or appeal, or pre- or post-disciplinary appeal due process.

Chapter 6 Compensation and Payroll Practices

6.1 Work Schedules and Attendance

6.1a Work Schedules

Work schedules are determined at the discretion of the department head and are subject to change with or without notice, according to the needs of the department or LAFCo. An overtime-eligible employee shall be in attendance and at work during the hours specified by the supervisor.

6.1b Meal Period

A one-hour non-compensated meal period will be provided to all full-time overtime-eligible employees who work at least an eight-hour workday. A 30-minute non-compensated meal period will be provided to all overtime-eligible full-time employees who work more than five hours, but less than eight hours during the workday. Overtime-eligible employees are responsible for taking their meal period at a time designated by the supervisor.

6.1c Rest Period

A 15-minute compensated rest period will be provided to all overtime-eligible employees for each four-hour period of service. The rest period shall be taken at a time designated by the employee's supervisor. Rest periods may not be combined to shorten the workday ~~unless approved by the Executive Officer.~~

Commented [9]: I don't recommend approving an employee to leave early or come in late based on missed rest breaks. This is paid time, so you'd be compensating an employee for time not worked.

6.1d Lactation Break Time & Private Location

LAFCo will provide a reasonable amount of break time to accommodate any employee desiring to express breast milk for the employee's infant child each time the employee has a need to express milk. The break time shall, if possible, run concurrently with any break time already provided to the employee. If the employee takes lactation breaks at times other than their provided break times, then the lactation break shall be unpaid, or the employee may choose to use accrued leave.

Those desiring to take a lactation break at times other than their provided break times must notify a supervisor prior to taking such a break. Breaks may be reasonably delayed if they would seriously disrupt operations. Once a lactation break has been approved, the break should not be interrupted except for emergency or exigent circumstances.

LAFCo will provide a room or other appropriate location in close proximity to the employee's worksite that is not in a bathroom to express milk in private. The room or location will meet the following requirements:

- Be shielded from view and free from intrusion while being used to express milk;
- Be safe, clean, and free of hazardous materials;
- Contain a surface on which to place a breast pump and personal items;
- Contain a place to sit; and
- Have access to electricity needed to operate an electric battery-powered breast pump.
- An employee occupying such private area shall either secure the door or otherwise make it clear to others through signage that the area is occupied and should not be disturbed. All other employees should avoid interrupting an employee during an authorized break under this section, except to announce an emergency or other urgent circumstance.

LAFCo will provide access to a sink with running water, and a refrigerator or other cooling device suitable for storing milk in close proximity to the employee's work area.

6.1d.1 Lactation Accommodation

An employee may make a request for lactation accommodation, either orally or in writing, with the Executive Officer.

Following receipt of a request for lactation accommodation, LAFCo will provide a timely written response to the employee in which LAFCo will indicate if it is unable to provide the requested break time or a requested location for the purposes of expressing breast milk.

An employee who does not believe that LAFCo is providing an appropriate lactation accommodation should immediately inform the Executive Officer.

An employee who does not believe that the LAFCo is providing an appropriate lactation accommodation as required by state law has the right to file a complaint with the California Division of Labor Standards Enforcement/Labor Commissioner.

6.1d.2 Storage of Expressed Milk

Any employee storing expressed milk in any authorized refrigerated area within LAFCo shall clearly label it as such. No expressed milk shall be stored at LAFCo beyond the employee's workday/ shift.

6.1e Advance Request for Permission to Deviate from Regular Work Hours

An overtime-eligible employee is required to seek advance permission from his or her supervisor for any foreseeable absence or deviation from regular working, break, and mealtimes.

6.1f Notification of Unforeseen Late Arrival or Absence

An overtime-eligible employee who is unexpectedly unable to report for work as scheduled must notify his or her immediate supervisor no later than the beginning of the employee's scheduled work time and report the expected time of arrival or absence. If the immediate supervisor is not available, the employee must notify the department head.

6.1g Unauthorized Absence is Prohibited

Arriving late to work or leaving early in connection with scheduled work times, breaks, or meal periods is prohibited, absent authorization. An overtime-eligible employee who fails to notify the supervisor of any absences as required by this Policy in a timely manner, or who is not present and ready to work during all scheduled work times will be deemed to have an unauthorized tardy or absence and will not receive compensation for the period of absence.

6.1h Excessive Tardiness/Absenteeism and Abuse of Leave

Excessive tardiness occurs when an overtime-eligible employee who, without authorization, is late to work or late to return from breaks more than three times during any 30-day period. Excessive absenteeism occurs when the number of unapproved absences for reasons that are not permitted by state or federal law, exceeds three days in any three-month period. Excessive tardiness or absenteeism may be grounds for discipline, up to and including termination. [Tardies or absences caused by protected leave are not considered when determining excessiveness.](#)

Abuse of leave is a claim of entitlement to leave when the employee does not meet the requirements for taking the leave, and may be grounds for discipline, up to and including termination. Should the LAFCo suspect that there is an abuse of leave by an employee, the LAFCo may require that the employee submit a physician's certificate to support the absence.

6.2 Work Week, Overtime and Compensatory Time Off

6.2a Work Week

The work week begins at 12:00 a.m. on Sunday and ends at 11:59 p.m. on Saturday ~~or as otherwise designated in an applicable MOU.~~

6.2a.1 Work Week for 9/80 Work Schedule

Employees working a 9/80 work schedule will have a regular day off every other week as determined by LAFCo. For employees working a 9/80 work schedule, each employee's designated work week shall begin exactly four hours after the start of his/her eight-hour shift on the day of the week that corresponds to the employee's alternating regular day off.

6.3a Overtime

Overtime is all hours an overtime-eligible employee actually works over 40 hours in his or her designated work week. Only actual hours worked will be counted toward the 40-hour threshold for purposes of calculating Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) overtime pay; paid leave will not be counted. Overtime-eligible employees who are directed to work overtime must do so.

6.3a.1 No Remote Access for Overtime-Eligible Employees

Unless the Executive Officer specifies otherwise in writing, overtime-eligible employees may not have remote access to LAFCo equipment, resources, or email unless the access is during normal work hours where the employee is working remotely and has received authorization to do so by the Executive Officer.

6.3a.2 Prior Approval Required for Overtime

Overtime-eligible employees are not permitted to work overtime except as directed and authorized by their supervisor, or in case of emergency, as determined by the agency. Working overtime without prior authorization or approval is grounds for discipline. In emergency situations that necessitate working overtime, the employee must notify a supervisor as soon as possible, and in no event later than the end of that day upon which the emergency occurred. If the supervisor denies the request to work overtime, the employee must obey the supervisor's directive and cease working. Failure to follow these overtime approval procedures may subject the employee to disciplinary action, up to and including termination, for violating the overtime approval procedures.

6.3b Accurate Time Reporting

All employees must accurately report all work time to the nearest five minutes.

6.3c No Volunteering of Work Time

All time spent for the benefit of the LAFCo must be reported as hours worked on time records so that the employee is paid for all work. Overtime-eligible employees may not "volunteer" work time to perform duties that are the same or similar as their stated or regular job duties. Employees have no authorization to work without compensation. No supervisor has authority to request overtime-eligible employees to volunteer work time.

6.3d Compensatory Time Off

An overtime-eligible employee may opt to accrue compensatory time-off (CTO) in lieu of cash payment for overtime worked if his or her supervisor agrees prior to overtime work being performed.

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- (a) **Accrual Rate:** CTO accrues at the rate of 1.5 hours for each hour, or fraction thereof, worked after 40 hours of actual work within the employee's designated work week. Time in paid leave status does not count toward CTO. CTO cannot be accumulated in excess of 80 hours at any given time.
 - (b) **Employee Request to Use CTO:** LAFCo will grant an employee's request to use accumulated CTO provided that: 1) the department can accommodate the use of CTO on the day requested without undue disruption to department operations; and 2) the employee makes the request in writing to the supervisor no later than five days prior to the date requested. If the employee does not provide five days' notice, or if the department cannot accommodate the time off without undue disruption, LAFCo will provide the employee the opportunity to cash out the amount of CTO requested at the end of the current pay period.
 - (c) **LAFCo Cash Out:** LAFCo reserves the right to cash out accumulated CTO at any time.
 - (d) **Value of CTO Cash Out:** During employment, CTO is cashed out at the employee's current FLSA regular rate of pay (including all FLSA-applicable salary differentials and special pays). Employees separating from LAFCo service shall be compensated for all accrued, unused compensatory hours at their current FLSA regular rate of pay, or their average FLSA regular rate for the prior three years, whichever is higher. (29 USC § 207(o)(3)(B) & (4); 29 CFR § 553.27.)

Chapter 7 Performance Evaluation Policies

7.1 Performance Evaluations

7.1a Performance Evaluations

A non-probationary employee's supervisor will prepare and sign a performance evaluation on a LAFCo form for each performance evaluation period. The Executive Officer will review and approve all performance evaluations of employees under his or her supervision. Additional performance evaluations may be prepared at any time the Executive Officer deems necessary. Outside of the six-month probationary review mentioned in section 7.1b all evaluations performed by the Executive Officer will occur between the LAFCo Commission meeting where the proposed budget is approved and the meeting where the final budget is to be approved. The Executive Officer and other at-will employees appointed by the Commission will be evaluated on a date and time determined by the Commission.

7.1b Probationary Employee Performance Evaluations

On or about the completion of ~~six~~ three months of a probationary period, and again at any point prior to separation or the successful completion of the probationary period, the Executive Officer will prepare and sign a performance evaluation. The purpose of the probationary performance evaluation is to chart the probationer's progress toward meeting the standards of his or her position.

Commented [10]: This language appears to contemplate two separate reviews during the probationary period, with the first happening early enough in the probationary period to give the employee an opportunity to remedy any shortcomings. Since the probationary period is 6 months in duration, I changed the first review date to 3 months. If this doesn't match with how and when you would like to conduct performance reviews for probationary employees, let's discuss.

7.1c Performance Evaluation Meeting

The supervisor will meet with the employee to discuss the evaluation. The employee shall sign the evaluation to acknowledge its contents and that he or she has met with his or her supervisor to discuss the evaluation. The employee's signature shall not mean that he or she endorses the contents of the evaluation.

Commented [JF11R10]: Staff does not think this section should be changed. As it is currently written it allows EO to do as many reviews as needed anytime during the first six months. Three months into a new staff person may not be the best for a formal review to be done as they are still learning the position. Leaving this open as it is currently written gives the EO the most flexibility to deal with any needed formal reviews during the probationary period.

7.1d No Appeal Right

An employee does not have the right to appeal or submit a grievance regarding any matter relating to the content of a performance evaluation. Instead, the employee may comment on the evaluation in a written statement which will then be placed with the evaluation in the employee's personnel file. The written statement must be submitted within 10 days after the employee receives the evaluation.

Chapter 8 Leaves of Absences

8.1 Vacation Leave and Holidays

8.1a Vacation Leave

Eligible full-time and part-time employees, with the exception of temporary/ seasonal and extra help employees, earn vacation leave while in paid status until they reach the applicable vacation accrual cap. Employees accrue vacation time according to their full or part-time status and the number of consecutive years the employee has worked for LAFCo as follows:

- (a) **Full-Time Employee Accrual Rate:** Each full-time employee shall be entitled to accrue vacation credits for each hour on paid status in continuous service in accordance with the following schedule:

Months of Service	Hourly Standard Accrual	Maximum Accrued Workdays Per Year
Start through 24 months	.0385	10
Greater than 24 months through 108 Months	.0577	15
Greater than 108 months through 228 Months	.0770	20
Greater than 228 months through 348 Months	.0962	25
Greater than 348 months	.1154	30

- (b) **Part-Time Employee Accrue Pro-Rated Vacation:**

Part-time employees who are budgeted to work at least 20 hours per week earn vacation leave while in paid status in a pro-rated amount based upon the accrual applicable to full-time employees. Once a part-time employee reaches the pro-rated annual accrual cap, they stop earning vacation.

8.1b Limitations on Vacation Leave Accrual

Accumulated, unused vacation time shall not exceed three hundred (300) standard duty hours for any full- or part-time employee entitled to accrue vacation leave. Thereafter, additional accumulation shall be suspended unless otherwise approved in advance by the Executive Officer, in the Executive Officer sole discretion, in cases where such is beneficial to LAFCo.

8.1c Scheduling of Vacation Leave

Vacation leave may not be used until it is earned. The employee and the Executive Officer will schedule the times when an employee may take vacation leave. The scheduling will be based on the employee's preference and LAFCo operational needs. An employee shall provide a minimum of one week's written advance notice, unless waived by the department head, when requesting vacation time off. LAFCo may, at its discretion, require an employee to use accrued vacation.

8.1d Unpaid Leave of Absence

No vacation leave will accrue during any unpaid leave of absence.

8.1e Unused Vacation Leave Upon Separation

Any employee separating from the LAFCo who has accrued vacation leave shall be paid for all accrued vacation at his or her rate of pay at the time of separation.

8.1f Holidays

Full-time employees, except temporary, seasonal, and extra help employees receive the holidays listed below with pay. If New Year's Day, Independence Day, Veterans Day or December 25 falls on a Sunday, the Monday following shall be treated as the holiday. If any of those holidays falls on a Saturday, the preceding workday shall be treated as the holiday. Part-time employees whose scheduled work time falls on a holiday will receive that holiday off with pay for the hours they were scheduled to work.

- New Year's Day (January 1)
- Martin Luther King's Birthday (Third Monday in January)
- ~~President's Day (Third Monday in February)~~
- Ceaser Chavez Day (March 31)
- ~~Memorial Day (Last Monday in May)~~
- Juneteenth (June 19)
- Independence Day (July 4)
- Labor Day (First Monday in September)
- Veteran's Day (November 11)
- Thanksgiving Day (Fourth Thursday in November)
- Day After Thanksgiving Day (Fourth Friday in November)
- ~~December 24 shall be observed as half (1/2) day holidays if that date falls on a Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday.~~
- Christmas Day (December 25)
- December 26 through December 31 shall be deemed Holidays, any day that falls on the weekend shall not be moved as described above.

8.1g Effect of Holiday on Vacation Leave

If one or more holidays falls within a vacation leave that an eligible full-time employee is taking, such holiday shall not be charged as vacation leave

8.1h Floating Holidays

1. Each full-time employee on the payroll as of July shall be credited with two (2) floating holidays for that fiscal year (July 1 - June 30). Employees newly appointed between July 1 and December 31 shall be credited with two (2) standard workdays as floating holidays for that fiscal year. Employees newly appointed between January 1 and May 31 shall be credited with one (1) standard workday as floating holiday for that fiscal year. Employees newly appointed between June 1 and June 30 shall not be credited with any floating holidays for that fiscal year. This pro-ration shall also apply to employees who have returned from an approved leave of absence where they were in leave without pay status.
2. With the approval of the department head, floating holidays may be taken at any time or times during the year.
3. Floating holidays shall not accrue from one fiscal year to the next.
4. Upon termination, unused floating holidays shall be paid at the straight-time rate so that the total of unused floating holidays to be paid off and floating holidays used by the employee shall not exceed one (1) workday if the termination occurs between July 1 and December 31 or two (2) workdays if the termination occurs between January 1 and June 30 or per the prorated schedule for new employees.

8.1i Pay for Holidays

Employees entitled to paid holidays or floating holidays shall be paid for the number of hours the employee was scheduled to work had it not been a holiday or floating holiday. An overtime-eligible employee who is required to work on a holiday will receive holiday pay and pay for the actual time worked on the holiday.

8.1j Personal Leave

- A. Each regular (non-seasonal, non-temporary, non-extra help) employee who has passed probation and who is on the payroll as of July 1 shall be credited immediately with forty (40) personal leave hours for that fiscal year.
- B. Newly appointed employees who pass probation after July 1 and on or before October 31 shall be credited with forty (40) hours of personal leave for that fiscal year. Any such employee passing probation between November 1 and February 28 (29) shall be credited with twenty (20) hours of personal leave for the balance of that fiscal year. Any such employee passing probation between March 1 and May 31 shall be credited with eight (8) hours of personal leave for the balance of that fiscal year. Any such employee passing probation between June 1 and June 30 shall receive no personal leave for that

fiscal year. This pro-ration shall also apply to employees who have returned from an approved leave of absence where they were in leave without pay status.

- C. Accrued personal leave may be taken at any time or times during the year with the approval of the Executive Officer.
- D. Personal leave shall not accrue in excess of forty (40) hours. However, on July 1 each year, employees (other than new and probationary employees described in section B above [or employees on leave and in unpaid status](#)) will have their personal leave balance restored to forty (40) hours.
- E. Upon termination of employees who have completed their initial probationary period, the employee's unused accrued personal leave shall be paid at a straight-time rate. Personal leave upon termination will not be paid to employees who have not completed their initial probationary period and thus have not accrued such leave.

8.2 Sick Leave

(a) Purpose

For the purposes of these Personnel Policies, sick leave is paid leave from work that can be used for the following purposes:

1. The diagnosis, care, or treatment of an existing health condition of, or preventative care for, an employee or any of the following:
 - a. The employee's family members: child of any age or dependency status; parent; parent-in-law; spouse; registered domestic partner; grandparent; grandchildren; or sibling;
 - b. [A "designated person," which, for purposes of this policy, means a person identified by the employee at the time the employee requests paid sick leave. An employee can designate one person per 12 month period, measured from the time the employee first designates a person. ~~The employee's pre-designated and substitute family members: a person who the employee pre-designates as substituting for a "family member" in the above list \(e.g. substitute a significant other for a spouse or registered domestic partner\). The intent of this provision is not to expand the number of persons included in the definition of family members or to increase paid leave opportunities, but, rather to recognize variations in family structure.~~](#)
2. For an employee who is a victim of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking to: i) obtain or attempt to obtain a temporary restraining order or other court assistance to help ensure the health safety or welfare of the employee or his or her child; or ii) obtain medical attention or psychological counseling; services from a shelter; program or crisis center; or participate in safety planning or other actions to increase safety.

~~The uses permitted by this sick leave policy do not apply to any statutory leave entitlements.~~

Commented [12]: This language has been updated to reflect the statutory definition of "designated person" where sick leave is concerned.

(b) Accrual & Carryover for Different Categories of Employees:

- 1) **Regular Employees:** Regular, full-time employees shall accrue one working day of sick leave with pay for each month or fraction thereof served. Sick leave accruals shall be pro-rated for regular employees who work less than full time (provided the employee earns at least one hour of sick leave for every 30 hours worked). Accrued and unused sick leave carries over from year to year with no upper limit.
- 2) **Seasonal and Temporary Employees:** A seasonal/ temporary or extra help employee who works 30 or more days within a year from the commencement of employment with LAFCo accrues one hour of paid sick leave for every 30 hours worked. (Labor Code § 246(a).) Accrued and unused sick leave carries over to the following year of employment but a seasonal/ temporary or extra help employee stops earning sick leave once he or she has accrued 8048 hours or 106-workdays/ shifts, whichever is greater. (Labor Code § 246(i).)

Commented [13]: Your seasonal and temporary employees earn the statutory minimum required by California's paid sick leave law. This year, the maximum accrual/carry-over amounts were increased from 48 hours/6 days each year to 80 hours/10 days each year.

(c) Sick Leave Use

- 1) An employee may use accrued sick leave, in a minimum increment of two hours, subject to the limits and request provisions in this Policy. (Labor Code § 246(c) & (j).)
- 2) During the first six (6) months of employment, a full- or part-time employee who is not seasonal/ temporary or extra help, may borrow sick leave in excess of the number of hours accumulated aforesaid, not to exceed the standard workweek for the employee. However, if an employee borrows sick leave, such sick leave borrowed shall be subtracted from future accumulations as above provided until accumulations equal excess sick leave actually taken. Thereafter, sick leave shall accumulate as provided in section (b) above. An employee who separates from employment while in arrears on sick leave shall be required to agree to a repayment plan for such sick leave days.

(d) Sick Leave Request:

To request to use sick leave if the need for leave is foreseeable, an employee must give the immediate supervisor reasonable advance written or oral notice. (Labor Code §§ 246(l); 246.5(a).) If the need for sick leave is not foreseeable, the employee shall provide written or oral notice of the need for the leave as soon as practicable. (Labor Code § 246(l).) If the employee is required to be absent on sick leave for more than one day, the employee must keep the immediate supervisor informed each day as to the date the employee expects to return to work and the purpose of the leave. Failure to request sick leave as required by this Policy without good reason, may result in the employee being treated as absent without leave.

(e) Certification

LAFCo may require that employees who are not seasonal, temporary, or extra help, must provide a physician's certification to support any absence that involves the illness of the employee or family member if LAFCo suspects that there is an abuse of sick leave by the employee. All employees, including seasonal, temporary, or extra help, who use paid leave to address issues related to domestic violence, sexual assault or stalking, and who cannot provide advance notice of their need for leave must provide certification of the need for leave within a reasonable time thereafter. (Labor Code § 230(d)(2).)

(f) Sick Leave on Separation from Employment

Unused sick leave is not cashed out upon termination, resignation, retirement, or other separation from employment. (Labor Code § 246(f)(1).) Unused sick leave may be converted to retirement service credits only as may be permitted under applicable retirement system laws and regulations.

(g) Sick Leave Reinstatement:

If an employee separates and is rehired within one year from separation, accrued and unused sick leave, to a maximum of ~~106~~ days or ~~8048~~ hours, whichever is greater, will be reinstated. (Labor Code § 246(f)(2).) An employee who worked at least 90 days in the initial employment with LAFCo may immediately use reinstated sick leave. An employee who had not worked 90 days in the initial employment with LAFCo must work the remaining amount of the 90 day-qualifying period to be able to use reinstated accrued sick leave. (Labor Code § 246(c).)

8.3 Family and Medical Care Leaves

LAFCo provides eligible employees with family medical leave ("Family and Medical Leave") under the California Family Rights Act ("CFRA").

8.3a Reasons for Leave.

Family and Medical Leave may be taken for the birth of the employee's child, the placement of a child with the employee for adoption or foster care, to care for the employee's spouse, domestic partner, child, parent, parent-in-law, grandparent, grandchild, sibling, or designated person who has a serious health condition, or for a serious health condition that makes the employee unable to perform his/her job. Leave can also be taken for certain military-related reasons as further detailed below. For purposes of this policy, a "serious health condition" does not include pregnancy or any related medical condition. For purposes of this policy, "designated

Commented [14]: The family medical leave policy was based on CFRA and FMLA. However, federal FMLA law doesn't apply to LAFCo, since LAFCo has less than 50 employees. Only CFRA applies, which has some different (and less extensive) provisions. I've updated and replaced your family medical leave policy with one that just focuses on CFRA.

person” means any person related by blood or whose association with the employee is the equivalent of a family relationship. An employee may identify the designated person at the time the employee requests leave. LAFCo limits an employee to one designated person per 12-month period for family care and medical leave.

8.3b Eligibility.

To be eligible for Family and Medical Leave, an employee must have at least 12 months of service with LAFCo and must have worked at least 1,250 hours during the 12-month period preceding the date the leave is to begin.

8.3c Duration.

Employees may take up to a maximum of twelve (12) workweeks of Family and Medical Leave within a 12-month period. LAFCo uses a “rolling” 12-month period to determine an employee’s eligibility for leave. The 12-month period is measured backward from the date an employee uses any Family and Medical Leave.

Leave may be taken intermittently (in blocks of time or on a reduced-time schedule) if the leave is for the serious health condition of the employee or the employee’s family member and if such intermittent leave is medically necessary as determined by the health care provider of the person with the serious health condition. The smallest increment of time that can be used for such leave is one-quarter of an hour (0.25).

Any leave taken for the birth, adoption, or foster placement of a child must be taken within one year of the birth or placement of the child with the employee. The minimum duration for leave taken in connection with the birth, adoption, or foster care placement of a child is two weeks, except that LAFCo shall grant a request for CFRA leave of less than two weeks on any two occasions during the one year period following the birth or placement of the child with the employee. Because pregnancy is not a “serious health condition” under CFRA, time taken on account of a pregnancy-related disability is not CFRA leave; baby bonding leave for eligible employees commences at the conclusion of any pregnancy-related disability leave.

8.3d Procedures.

Please contact the Executive Officer as soon as you become aware of the need for Family and Medical Leave. If the leave is for the birth, adoption, or foster placement of a child, or for planned medical treatment for a serious health condition of the employee or family member, the employee must provide at least 30 days’ advance notice before the leave is to begin. If 30 days’ notice is not possible, notice must be given as soon as practicable. For any planned medical treatment, employees must consult with their supervisor regarding the need for leave and must make a reasonable effort to schedule any treatment so as to minimize disruption of LAFCo’s operations. Actual scheduling is, however, subject to the approval of the patient’s health care provider.

If the leave is needed for the employee's own serious health condition, the employee must provide a certification from the health care provider stating:

- i. the date of commencement of the serious health condition;
- ii. the probable duration of the condition; and
- iii. that the employee is unable to work at all or is unable to perform any one or more of the essential functions of his/her position because of the employee's serious health condition.

LAFCo will require certification by the employee's health care provider that the employee is fit to return to his/her job.

If the leave is needed to care for the serious health condition of a family member, the employee must provide certification from the health care provider stating:

- i. the date of commencement of the serious health condition;
- ii. the probable duration of the condition;
- iii. an estimate of the amount of time that the health care provider believes the employee needs to take in order to care for the child, parent, or spouse; and
- iv. confirmation that the serious health condition warrants the participation of the employee.

Recertification may be required if the employee requests an extension beyond the original certification.

8.3e Compensation.

- (1) While receiving wage replacement benefits. For any period of time that an employee is eligible for and receiving any type of wage replacement benefits (i.e., disability benefits, SDI, and/or workers' compensation benefits), the employee is not required to use accrued sick leave, vacation, floating holidays, personal leave, or CTO in connection with his or her Family and Medical Leave. The employee may, however, choose to supplement these forms of wage-replacement payments with accrued paid leave on a pro rata basis, so long as the employee's pay does not exceed their normal wage. Should an employee desire to supplement SDI benefits with accrued sick and/or vacation leave, LAFCo will integrate benefits with paid leave.
- (2) While on otherwise unpaid leave. If an employee is on Family and Medical Leave for his or her own serious health condition and is not receiving any wage replacement benefits from another source, the employee must use any available sick leave and vacation during the leave. (See Pregnancy Disability Leave policy for rule applicable to employees disabled by pregnancy). If an employee is on Family and Medical Leave to care for a family member or bond with a new baby, the employee must use all available vacation during the leave and, at the

employee's choice, may use available sick leave.

Once all sick leave and vacation is exhausted (or if the employee has the choice and elects not to use it), Family and Medical Leave will continue on an unpaid basis for the remainder (if any) of the available 12-weeks. Any family and medical leave, whether paid, unpaid, or a combination thereof, will be counted toward the 12-week leave entitlement.

During any period of unpaid leave, employees will not continue to accrue sick leave, vacation, or any other forms of paid time off and will not be paid for holidays that occur during the leave.

8.3f Benefits.

An employee taking Family and Medical Leave will be allowed to continue participating in any health and welfare benefit plans in which he/she was enrolled before the first day of the leave (for up to a maximum of 12 workweeks) at the level and under the conditions of coverage as if the employee had continued in employment for the duration of such leave. LAFCo will continue to make the same premium contribution as if the employee had continued working, and the employee is expected to continue to pay his or her share of the monthly premiums (either by way of payroll deduction during any period of paid leave or by way of separate payment to LAFCo). The continued participation in health benefits begins on the date leave first begins.

Employees are eligible for a maximum of 12-weeks benefits continuation during any 12-month period, unless otherwise required by law. If leave lasts longer than 12 weeks and if the law does not otherwise require benefits to be continued, then the employee will be placed on COBRA and can opt for continued coverage at his or her own expense. An employee who does not return from leave may be required, under certain circumstances provided by the law, to reimburse LAFCo for any employee contributions paid by LAFCo while the employee was on unpaid leave.

8.3g Qualified Exigency Leave.

Eligible employees with a spouse, domestic partner, child, or parent on active duty or called to active duty in the armed forces of the United States may take up to the normal 12 weeks of leave because of any "qualifying exigency." For purposes of this policy, "qualifying exigency" includes: (1) short-notice deployment; (2) military events and related activities; (3) childcare and school activities; (4) finance and legal arrangements; (5) counseling; (6) rest and recuperation; (7) post-deployment activities; and (8) additional activities agreed to by the employer and the employee.

(1) Amount of Leave. For a qualifying exigency, an employee is entitled to a maximum of 12 weeks leave (when combined with leave for any other qualifying reason) in accordance with the rolling 12-month period measured backward.

- (2) Procedures. Please contact the Executive Officer as soon as you become aware of the need for any type of qualified exigency leave. Except in the case of exigency leave for short-notice deployment, LAFCo requires certification of the need for leave.

8.3h Reinstatement.

Upon return from a Family and Medical Leave, an employee will be reinstated to his/her original position or to an equivalent position with equivalent pay, benefits, and other employment terms and conditions. However, an employee has no greater right to reinstatement than if the employee had been continuously employed rather than on leave.

For example, if an employee on Family and Medical Leave would have been laid off had he/she not gone on leave, or if the employee's position has been eliminated during the leave, then the employee would not be entitled to reinstatement. An employee's use of Family and Medical Leave will not result in the loss of any employment benefit that the employee earned or was entitled to before the leave.

As stated above, when an employee takes leave on account of the employee's own serious health condition, LAFCo requires certification, prior to reinstatement, by the employee's health care provider that the employee is fit to return to his/her job.

If an employee fails to report to work promptly at the end of the Family and Medical Leave and fails to obtain approval for an additional personal leave of absence, LAFCo will treat the failure to return as a voluntary resignation.

8.3a—Statement of Policy; Concurrent Running of FMLA and CFRA Leaves—

~~LAFCo provides family and medical care leave for eligible employees as required by State and federal law. Employees who misuse or abuse family and medical care leave may be disciplined up to and including termination. Employees who fraudulently obtain or use CFRA leave are not protected by the CFRA's job restoration or maintenance of health benefits provisions. This Policy is supplemented by the Federal Family and Medical Leave Act ("FMLA"), and the California Family Rights Act ("CFRA"). Unless otherwise stated in this Policy, "Leave" means leave pursuant to the FMLA and CFRA. Unless otherwise provided by law, LAFCo will run each employee's FMLA and CFRA leaves concurrently.~~

8.3b—Definitions

- ~~(a) "12-Month Period" means a rolling 12-month period measured backward from the date leave is taken and continuous with each additional leave day taken. (29 CFR § 825.200(b)(4); 2 Cal. Code Regs. § 11090(b).)~~

- ~~(b) "Single 12 Month Period" means a 12-month period which begins on the first day the eligible employee takes FMLA leave to take care of a covered service member and ends 12 months after that date.~~
- ~~(c) "Child" means a biological, adopted, or foster child, a stepchild, a legal ward, a child of a domestic partner, or a child of a person standing in loco parentis. (Gov. Code § 12945.2(c)(1).)~~
- ~~(d) "Grandchild" means a child of an employee's child.~~
- ~~(e) "Parent" means the biological parent of an employee or an individual who stands or stood in loco parentis (in place of a parent) to an employee when the employee was a child. This term does not include parents in law. (29 CFR § 825.102; Gov. Code § 12945.2(c)(7).)~~
- ~~(f) "Parent in law" means the parent of a spouse or domestic partner.~~
- ~~(g) "Grandparent" means the parent of an employee's parent.~~
- ~~(h) "Spouse" means one or two persons to a marriage, regardless of the sex of the persons, and for purposes of CFRA leave, includes a registered domestic partner as defined below. (29 CFR § 825.102; Fam. Code § 300; 2 Cal.Code Regs § 11087(r).)~~
- ~~(i) "Domestic Partner" is another adult with whom the employee has chosen to share their life in an intimate and committed relationship of mutual caring and with whom the employee has filed a Declaration of Domestic Partnership with the Secretary of State, and who meets the criteria specified in California Family Code section 297. A legal union formed in another state that is substantially equivalent to the California domestic partnership is also sufficient. (Fam. Code § 299.2.)~~
- ~~(j) "Sibling" means a person related to another person by blood, adoption, or affinity through a common legal or biological parent.~~
- ~~(k) "Serious Health Condition" means an illness, injury impairment, or physical or mental condition that involves:
 - ~~1) Inpatient Care in a hospital, hospice, or residential medical care facility, including any period of incapacity (e.g., inability to work or perform other regular daily activities due to the serious health condition, treatment involved, or recovery therefrom). A person is considered "inpatient" when a health care facility admits~~~~

~~him or her to the facility with the expectation that he or she will remain at least overnight, even if it later develops that such person can be discharged or transferred to another facility, and does not actually remain overnight; or~~

- ~~2) Continuing treatment by a health care provider: A serious health condition involving continuing treatment by a health care provider includes any one or more of the following:
 - ~~a. A period of incapacity (i.e., inability to work, or perform other regular daily activities) due to serious health condition of more than three consecutive calendar days; and~~
 - ~~b. Any subsequent treatment or period of incapacity relating to the same condition, that also involves:
 - ~~i. Treatment two or more times by a health care provider, by a nurse or physician's assistant under direct supervision by a health care provider, or by a provider of health care services (e.g., a physical therapist) under orders of, or on referral by a health care provider; or~~
 - ~~ii. Treatment by a health care provider on at least one occasion which results in a regimen of continuing treatment under the supervision of the health care provider. This includes, for example, a course of prescription medication or therapy requiring special equipment to resolve or alleviate the health condition. If the medication is over the counter and can be initiated without a visit to a health care provider, it does not constitute a regimen of continuing treatment.~~~~~~
- ~~3) Any period of incapacity due to pregnancy or for prenatal care. (29 CFR § 825.120; Gov. Code §12945.2(c)(8).) Note that pregnancy is a "serious health condition" only under the FMLA. Under California law, an employee disabled by pregnancy is entitled to pregnancy leave. (See Policy 808, Leave Because of Pregnancy, Childbirth, or Related Medical Condition.)~~
- ~~4) Any period of incapacity or treatment for such incapacity due to a chronic serious health condition. A chronic serious health condition is one which:
 - ~~i. Requires periodic visits for treatment by a health care provider, or by a nurse or physician's assistant under direct supervision of a health care provider;~~
 - ~~ii. Continues over an extended period of time (including recurring episodes of a single underlying condition); and~~~~

~~iii. May cause episodic rather than a continuing period of incapacity (e.g., asthma, diabetes, epilepsy, etc.). Absences for such incapacity qualify for leave even if the absence lasts only one day.~~

~~5) A period of incapacity that is permanent or long-term due to a condition for which treatment may not be effective. The employee or family member must be under the continuing supervision of but need not be receiving active treatment by health care provider.~~

~~6) Any period of absence to receive multiple treatments (including any period of recovery therefrom) by a health care provider or by a provider of health care services under orders of, or on referral by, a health care provider, either for restorative surgery after an accident or other injury, or for a condition that would likely result in a period of incapacity of more than three consecutive calendar days in the absence of medical intervention or treatment. (29 CFR § 825.113; Gov. Code § 12945.2(c)(8); 2 Cal.Code Regs § 11087(q)(1).)~~

~~(f) "Health Care Provider" means:~~

~~1) A Doctor of Medicine or Osteopathy who is authorized to practice medicine or surgery in the State of California;~~

~~2) Individuals duly licensed as a physician, surgeon, or osteopathic physician or surgeon in another state or jurisdiction, including another country, which directly treats or supervises treatment of a serious health condition;~~

~~3) Podiatrists, dentists, clinical psychologists, optometrists, and chiropractors (limited to treatment consisting of manual manipulation of the spine to correct a subluxation as demonstrated by x ray to exist) authorized to practice in California and performing within the scope of their practice as defined under California State law;~~

~~4) Nurse practitioners and nurse-midwives and clinical social workers who are authorized to practice under California State law and who are performing within the scope of their practice as defined under California State law;~~

~~5) Christian Science practitioners listed with the First Church of Christ, Scientist in Boston, Massachusetts; and~~

~~6) Any health care provider from whom an employer or group health plan's benefits manager will accept certification of the existence of a serious health condition to substantiate a claim for benefits. (29 CFR § 825.102; Gov. Code § 12945.2(c)(6).)~~

- ~~(m) "Covered active duty" means: 1) in the case of a member of a regular component of the Armed Forces, duty during deployment of the member with the Armed Forces to a foreign country; or 2) in the case of a member of the reserve component of the Armed Forces, duty during the deployment of members of the Armed Forces to a foreign country under a call or order to active duty under certain specified provisions. (29 CFR § 825.102.)~~
- ~~(n) "Covered Servicemember" means: 1) a current member of the Armed Forces, including a member of the National Guard or Reserves, who is undergoing medical treatment, recuperation, or therapy, is otherwise in outpatient status, or is otherwise on the temporary disability retired list, for a serious injury or illness; or 2) a veteran who is undergoing medical treatment, recuperation, or therapy, for a serious injury or illness and who was a member of the Armed Forces, including a member of the National Guard or Reserves, at any time during the period of five years preceding the date on which the veteran undergoes that medical treatment, recuperation, or therapy. (29 CFR § 825.102 & 825.122.)~~
- ~~(o) "Outpatient Status" means, with respect to a covered servicemember, the status of a member of the Armed Forces assigned to either: (1) a military medical treatment facility as an outpatient; or (2) a unit established for the purpose of providing command and control of members of the Armed Forces receiving medical care as outpatients. (29 CFR § 825.102.)~~
- ~~(p) "Next of Kin of a Covered Servicemember" means the nearest blood relative other than the covered servicemember's spouse, parent, son, or daughter, in the following order of priority: blood relatives who have been granted legal custody of the covered servicemember by court decree or statutory provisions, brothers and sisters, grandparents, aunts and uncles, and first cousins, unless the covered servicemember has specifically designated in writing another blood relative as his or her nearest blood relative for purposes of military caregiver leave under the FMLA. (29 CFR § 825.102.)~~
- ~~(q) "Serious Injury or Illness" means: 1) in the case of a member of the Armed forces, including a member of the National Guard or reserves, means an injury or illness that a covered servicemember incurred in the line of duty on active duty in the Armed Forces (or existed before the beginning of the member's active duty and was aggravated by the service in the line of duty on active duty in the Armed Forces) and that may render the servicemember medically unfit to perform the duties of the member's office, grade, rank, or rating; or 2) in the case of a veteran who was a member of the Armed Forces, including a member of the National Guard or Reserves, means an injury or illness that was incurred by the member in the line of duty on active duty in the Armed Forces (or existed before the beginning of the member's active duty and was aggravated by service in the line of duty on active duty in the Armed Forces) and that manifested itself before or after the member became a veteran. (29 CFR § 825.102.)~~

~~8.3c—Reasons for Leave~~

~~Leave is only permitted for the reasons listed below.~~

- ~~(a) The birth of a child or to care for a newborn of an employee; (29 CFR § 825.120; Gov. Code § 12945.2(c)(3)(A));~~
- ~~(b) The placement of a child with an employee in connection with the adoption or foster care of a child; (29 CFR § 825.121; Gov. Code § 12945.2(c)(3)(A));~~
- ~~(c) Leave to care for a child, parent, grandparent, grandchild, sibling, spouse, or domestic partner who has a serious health condition; (29 CFR § 825.113; Gov. Code § 12945.2(c)(3)(A) & (B));~~
- ~~(d) Leave because of a serious health condition that makes the employee unable to perform any one or more essential functions of his/her position; (29 CFR § 825.113; Gov. Code § 12945.2(c)(3)(C));~~
- ~~(e) Leave for a variety of “qualifying exigencies” arising out of the fact that an employee’s spouse, domestic partner, child, or parent is on active duty or call to active duty status in the National Guard or Reserves in support of a contingency operation (29 CFR § 825.126 — This is an FMLA leave and not a CFRA leave); or~~
- ~~(f) Leave to care for a spouse, son, daughter, parent, or “next of kin” who is a covered servicemember of the U.S. Armed Forces who has a serious injury or illness: incurred in the line of duty while on active military duty; or existed before the beginning of the member’s active duty and was aggravated by service in the line of duty on active duty in the Armed Forces. This leave can run up to 26 weeks of unpaid leave during a single 12-month period. (29 CFR § 825.127 — This is a FMLA leave and not a CFRA leave.)~~

~~8.3d—Employees Eligible for Leave~~

~~An employee is eligible for leave if:~~

- ~~(a) The employee has been employed by LAFCo for at least 12 months; and~~
- ~~(b) The employee has been employed by LAFCo for at least 1,250 hours during the 12-month period immediately preceding the commencement of the leave; and~~
- ~~(c) The LAFCo directly employs at least 5 employees performing services for a wage or salary. (Gov. Code § 12945.2(b)(3).)~~

~~An employee is eligible for 12 weeks of parental leave to bond with a new child within one year of the child’s birth, adoption or foster care placement if:~~

- ~~(a) The employee has been employed by LAFCo for at least 12 months; and~~

- ~~(b) The employee has been employed by LAFCo for at least 1,250 hours during the 12-month period immediately preceding the commencement of the leave; and~~
- ~~(c) LAFCo directly employs at least 5 employees performing services for a wage or salary. (Gov. Code § 12945.6(b)(3).)~~

~~8.3e — Amount of Leave~~

~~Eligible employees are entitled to a total of 12 workweeks (or 26 workweeks to care for a covered servicemember) of leave during any 12-month period. If FMLA leave qualifies as both military caregiver leave and care for a family member with a serious health condition, the leave will be designated as military caregiver leave first. (29 CFR § 825.127.)~~

~~8.3f — Minimum Duration of Leave~~

- ~~(a) If leave is requested for the birth, adoption or foster care placement of a child of the employee, leave must be concluded within one year of the birth or placement of the child. In addition, the basic minimum duration of such leave is two weeks. However, an employee is entitled to leave for one of these purposes (e.g., bonding with a newborn) for less than two weeks duration on any two occasions. (2 Cal. Code Regs § 11090(d).)~~
- ~~(b) If leave is requested to care for a child, parent, spouse or the employee him/herself with a serious health condition, there is no minimum amount of leave that must be taken. However, compliance with the notice and medical certification provisions in this Policy is required. (29 CFR § 825.205; 2 Cal. Code Regs § 11090(e).)~~

~~8.3g — Employee Benefits While on Leave~~

- ~~(a) **Group Health Insurance During Unpaid Leave:** Leave under this Policy is unpaid. While on unpaid leave, employees will continue to be covered by LAFCo's group health insurance for up to 12 weeks each leave year to the same extent that coverage is provided while the employee is on the job. If the employee is disabled by pregnancy, coverage will continue up to four months each leave year. If an employee disabled by pregnancy also uses leave under the CFRA for baby bonding, LAFCo will maintain her coverage while she is disabled by pregnancy (up to four months or 17 1/3 weeks) and during her CFRA leave (up to 12 weeks). (Gov. Code §§ 12945(a)(2)(A) & 12945.2(c).)~~
- ~~(b) **Benefit Plans Not Provided through LAFCo Group Health Plan During Unpaid Leave Do Not Continue:** LAFCo does not pay for benefit plans that are not part of the group health plan for any employee on unpaid leave. As a result, employees will not continue to be covered under LAFCo benefit plans that are not provided through LAFCo group health plans while the employee is on unpaid leave. (2 Cal. Code Regs § 11092(e).)~~
- ~~(c) **Payment of Premiums:** Employees may make the appropriate contributions for continued coverage under the health benefits plans by payroll deductions (if the~~

employee is using his or her paid leave) or direct payments (if the employee is not using his or her paid leave). LAFCo will inform the employee whether the direct payments for premiums should be paid to the carrier or to LAFCo, and the deadlines for paying premiums in order to prevent coverage from being dropped. Employee contribution rates are subject to any changes in rates that occur while employee is on leave.

- (d) ~~**Recovery of Premium if the Employee Fails to Return from Leave:**~~ If an employee fails to return to work after his/her leave entitlement has been exhausted or expires, LAFCo shall have the right to recover its share of health plan premiums for the entire leave period, unless the employee does not return because of the continuation, recurrence, or onset of a serious health condition of the employee or his/her family member which would entitle the employee to leave, or because of circumstances beyond the employee's control. (29 CFR § 825.213; Gov. Code § 12945.2(f)(1); 2 Cal.Code Regs § 11092(c)(5).)

~~**8.3h — Substitution of Paid Accrued Leaves**~~

Although family and medical care leave is unpaid, an employee may elect and LAFCo will require an employee to concurrently use all paid accrued leaves during family and medical care leave as described below.

~~**8.3i.1 — Employee's Right to Use Paid Accrued Leave Concurrently with Family Leave**~~

An employee may use any earned or accrued paid leave except sick leave for all or part of any unpaid family and medical care leave. An employee is entitled to use sick leave concurrently with family and medical care leave for the employee's own serious health condition or that of the employee's parent, spouse, domestic partner or child. (Gov. Code § 129045.2(e); Labor Code §§ 233 & 246.5(a)(1).)

~~**8.3i.2 — LAFCo's Right to Require an Employee to use Paid Leave when using FMLA/CFRA Leave**~~

Employees must use and exhaust their accrued leaves concurrently with family and medical care leave to the same extent that employees have the right to use their accrued leaves concurrently with family and medical care leave with two exceptions:

- (a) Employees are not required to use paid leave during leave pursuant to a disability plan that pays a portion of the employee's salary while on leave unless the employee agrees to use paid leave to cover the unpaid portion of the disability leave benefit; (29 CFR § 825.207(d); 2 Cal.Code Regs. § 11092(b)(2) & (3)); and
- (b) An employee must agree to use accrued sick leave to care for a child, parent, spouse or domestic partner. (Gov. Code § 12945.2(e); 2 Cal.Code Regs § 11092(b).)

~~8.3i.3—LAFCo’s Right to Require an Employee to Exhaust FMLA/CFRA Leave Concurrently with Other Leaves~~

~~If an employee takes a leave of absence for any purpose which also qualifies under both the FMLA and CFRA, LAFCo will designate that leave as running concurrently with the employee’s 12-week FMLA/CFRA leave entitlement. (Labor Code §4850(e).)~~

~~8.3i.4—LAFCo’s and Employee’s Rights if an Employee Requests Accrued Leave without Mentioning FMLA or CFRA~~

~~If an employee requests to utilize accrued vacation leave or other accrued paid time off without reference to a FMLA/CFRA qualifying purpose, LAFCo may not ask the employee if the leave is for a FMLA/CFRA qualifying purpose. (2 Cal.Code Regs § 11092(b)(4)(A).) However, if LAFCo denies the employee’s request and the employee provides information that the requested time off is for a FMLA/CFRA qualifying purpose, LAFCo may require the employee to exhaust accrued leave as described above. (2 Cal.Code Regs § 11092(b)(4)(A)(1).)~~

~~8.3j—Medical Certification/Recertification~~

~~Employees who request leave must provide a medical certification and/or recertification to support the need for the leave as described below:~~

~~(a) **Employee’s Own Serious Health Condition:** Employees who request leave for their own serious health condition must provide written certification from the health care provider that contains all of the following: the date, if known, on which the serious health condition commenced; the probable duration of the condition; and a statement that, due to the serious health condition, the employee is unable to work at all or is unable to perform any one or more of the essential functions of his or her position. (Gov. Code § 12945.2(j)(2); 2 Cal. Code Regs § 11087(a)(2); 2 Cal.Code Regs § 11091(b)(2).) Upon expiration of the time period the health care provider originally estimated that the employee needed for his/her own serious health condition, the employee must obtain recertification if additional leave is requested. (Gov. Code § 12945.2(j)(2); 2 Cal. Code Regs § 11091(b)(2); 29 CFR § 825.308.)~~

~~(b) **Family Member Serious Health Condition:** Employees who request leave to care for a child, parent, grandparent, grandchild, sibling, domestic partner or a spouse who has serious health condition must provide written certification from the health care provider of the family member requiring care that contains all of the following: the date, if known, on which the serious health condition commenced; the probable duration of the condition; an estimate of the amount of time which the health care provider believes the employee needs to care for the child, parent, grandparent, grandchild, sibling, domestic partner, or spouse, and a statement that the serious health condition warrants the participation of the employee to provide care during a period of treatment or supervision of the family member. The term “warrants the participation of the~~

employee” includes, but is not limited to, providing psychological comfort, and arranging third-party care for the covered family member, as well as directly providing or participating in, the medical care. (Gov. Code § 12945.2(k)(1); 2 Cal.Code Regs § 11087(a)(1); 2 Cal.Code Regs § 11091(b)(1).) Upon expiration of the time period the health care provider originally estimated that the employee needed to care for a covered family member, the employer must obtain recertification if additional leave is requested. (Gov. Code § 12945.2(j)(2); 2 Cal.Code Regs § 11091(b)(1); 29 CFR § 825.308.)

(c) **Servicemember Serious Injury or Illness:** Employees who request FMLA leave to care for a covered servicemember who is a child, spouse, parent or “next of kin” of the employee, must provide written certification from a health care provider regarding the injured servicemember’s serious injury or illness. (29 CFR § 825.310.) LAFCo will verify the certification as permitted by the FMLA regulations. (29 CFR § 825.310(e) & (f).)

(d) **Qualifying Exigency:** The first time an employee requests FMLA leave because of a qualifying exigency, an employee may require the employee to provide a copy of the military member’s active duty orders or other documentation issued by the military which indicates that the military member is on covered active duty or call to active duty status in a foreign country, and the dates of the military member’s active duty service. A copy of the new active duty orders or similar documentation shall be provided to LAFCo if the need for leave because of a qualifying exigency arises out of a different active duty or call to active duty status of the same or a different military member. (29 CFR § 825.309.) LAFCo will verify the certification as permitted by the FMLA regulations. (29 CFR § 825.309(d).)

8.3k—Time to Provide a Medical Certification

When an employee has provided at least 30 days’ notice for a foreseeable leave, the employee must provide a medical certification before the leave begins. When this is not possible, the employee must provide the medical certification to LAFCo within the time frame requested by LAFCo (which must allow at least 15 calendar days after the employer’s request), unless it is not practicable under the particular circumstances to do so despite the employee’s diligent, good-faith efforts. (2 Cal.Code Regs § 11091(b)(3); 29 CFR § 825.305(b).)

8.3l—Consequences for Failure to Provide an Adequate or Timely Certification

If an employee provides an incomplete medical certification, the employee will be given a reasonable opportunity to cure any such deficiency. (2 Cal.Code Regs § 11091(b)(3); 29 CFR § 825.313(a) & (b).) However, if an employee fails to provide a medical certification within the time frame established in this Policy, LAFCo may delay the taking of FMLA/CFRA leave until required certification is provided or deny FMLA/CFRA protections following the expiration of the time period to provide an adequate certification. (2 Cal.Code Regs § 11091(b)(3); 29 CFR § 825.313(a).)

8.3m—Executive Officer Review of the Contents of Medical Certification for Employee's Own Serious Health Condition

- (a) **~~Complete and Sufficient:~~** The employee must provide a certification for his or her own serious health condition that is complete and sufficient to support the request for leave. ~~A certification is incomplete if one or more of the applicable entries on the certification form have not been completed. A certification is insufficient if the information on the certification form is vague, ambiguous, or not responsive. If the certification is incomplete or insufficient, the Executive Officer will give the employee written notice of the deficiencies and seven days to cure, unless a longer period is necessary in light of the employee's diligent, good faith efforts to address the deficiencies. (29 CFR § 825.305(c).)~~
- (b) **~~Authentication and Clarification:~~** After giving the employee an opportunity to cure the deficiencies in a medical certification for the employee's own serious health condition, ~~the Executive Officer may contact the health care provider who provided the certification to clarify and/or authenticate the certification. "Authentication" means providing the health care provider with a copy of the certification form and requesting verification that the information on the form was completed or authorized by the health care provider who signed the form. "Clarification" means contacting the health care provider to understand the handwriting on the medical certification or to understand the meaning of the response. The Executive Officer may not ask for additional information beyond that required on the certification form. (29 CFR § 825.307(a).)~~

8.3n—Second and Third Medical Opinions for Employee's Own Serious Health Condition

~~If LAFCo has a good faith, objective reason to doubt the validity of a certification for the employee's serious health condition, LAFCo may require a medical opinion of a second health care provider chosen and paid for by LAFCo. If the second opinion is different from the first, LAFCo may require the opinion of a third provider jointly approved by LAFCo and the employee but paid for by LAFCo. The opinion of the third provider will be binding. (29 CFR § 825.307(b) & (c); 2 Cal.Code Regs § 11091(b)(2)(A).) LAFCo must provide the employee with a copy of the second and third medical opinions, where applicable, without cost, upon the request of the employee. (29 CFR § 825.307(d); 2 Cal.Code Regs § 11091(b)(2)(D).)~~

8.3o—Intermittent Leave or Leave on a Reduced Leave Schedule

~~If an employee requests leave intermittently (a few days or hours at a time) or on a reduced leave schedule for his or her own serious health condition, or to care for an immediate family member with serious health condition, the employee must provide medical certification that such leave is medically necessary. "Medically necessary" means there must be a medical need for the leave and that the leave can best be accomplished through an intermittent or reduced leave schedule. (2 Cal.Code Regs § 11090(e); 29 CFR § 825.202(b).) LAFCo may require an~~

~~employee who certifies the need for a reduced schedule or intermittent leave to temporarily transfer to an alternate position of equivalent pay and benefits that better accommodates the leave schedule. (2 Cal.Code Regs § 11090(e)(1); 29 CFR § 825.204.)~~

~~8.3p—Employee Notice of Leave~~

~~Although LAFCo recognizes that emergencies arise which may require employees to request immediate leave, employees are required to give as much verbal or written notice as possible of their need for leave. (29 CFR § 825.304(a).) If leave is foreseeable, at least 30 days' notice is required. In addition, if an employee knows that he/she will need leave in the future but does not know the exact day(s) (e.g., for the birth of a child or to take care of a newborn), the employee shall inform his/her supervisor as soon as possible that such leave will be needed. (29 CFR § 825.302(a); 2 Cal.Code Regs § 11091(a)(2) & (3).) For foreseeable leave due to a qualifying exigency, an employee must provide verbal or written notice of the need for leave as soon as practicable, regardless of how far in advance such leave is foreseeable. (29 CFR § 825.302(a).)~~

~~8.3q—Reinstatement Upon Return from Leave~~

~~(a) **Reinstatement to Same or Equivalent Position:** Upon expiration of leave, an employee is entitled to be reinstated to the position of employment held when the leave commenced, or to an equivalent position with equivalent benefits and pay. Employees have no greater rights to reinstatement, benefits, and other conditions of employment than if the employee had been continuously employed during the FMLA/CFRA period. (2 Cal.Code Regs § 11087(f) & (g); 2 Cal.Code Regs § 11089(a); 29 CFR § 825.214-215; 29 CFR § 825.216.)~~

~~(b) **Date of Reinstatement:** If a definite date of reinstatement has been agreed upon at the beginning of the leave, the employee will be reinstated on the date agreed upon. If the reinstatement date differs from the original agreement of the employee and LAFCo, the employee will be reinstated within two business days, where feasible, after the employee notifies the employer of his/her readiness to return. (2 Cal.Code Regs § 11089(c)(1) & (2).)~~

~~(c) **Employee's Obligation to Periodically Report on His/her Condition:** Employees may be required to periodically report on their status and intent to return to work. This will avoid any delays to reinstatement when the employee is ready to return. (29 CFR § 825.311.)~~

~~(d) **Fitness for Duty Certification:** As a condition of reinstatement of an employee whose leave was due to the employee's own serious health condition, which made the employee unable to perform his or her job, the employee must obtain and present a fitness for duty certification from the health care provider stating that the employee is able to resume work. Failure to provide such certification will result in denial of reinstatement. (Gov. Code § 12945.2(k)(4); 29 CFR § 825.312.)~~

~~8.3r Required Forms~~

~~Employees must complete the applicable forms to receive family and medical care leave. The forms may be found on the LAFCo server and copies can be printed if requested by staff.~~

8.4 Leave Because of Pregnancy, Childbirth, or Related Medical Condition

8.4a Amount of Leave

An employee who is disabled because of pregnancy, childbirth, or a related medical condition is entitled to an unpaid leave for up to the number of hours she would normally work within four calendar months (one-third of a year or 17 1/3 weeks). (Gov. Code § 12945(a).) For a full-time employee who works 40 hours per week, “four months” means 693 hours of leave entitlement, based on 40 hour per week times 17 1/3 weeks. (2 Cal. Code Regs § 11042(a)(1).) An employee who works less than 40 hours per week will receive a pro rata or proportional amount of leave. (2 Cal. Code Regs § 11042(a)(2).)

8.4b Notice & Certification Requirements

(a) Notice: Requests for pregnancy disability leave must be submitted in writing with reasonable advance notice of the medical need for the leave. (2 Cal.Code Regs § 11042(c)(1).) All leaves must be confirmed in writing, have an agreed-upon specific date of return, and be submitted to the Executive Officer. (2 Cal.Code Regs § 11042(a).)

(b) Certification: The request for pregnancy disability leave must be supported by a written certification from the attending physician stating that: 1) the employee is disabled from working by pregnancy, childbirth or a related medical condition; 2) the date on which the employee became disabled by pregnancy, childbirth or a related medical condition; and 3) the estimated duration or end date of the leave. (2 Cal.Code Regs §§11050(b)(7); 11050(e).)

8.4c Compensation During Leave

Pregnancy disability leaves are without pay. However, the employee must first use sick leave, if any. (2 Cal.Code Regs § 11044(b)(1).) Once sick leave is depleted, the employee may elect to use vacation leave or any other accrued paid time off during the leave. (2 Cal.Code Regs § 11044(b)(2).)

8.4d Benefits During Leave

(a) Group Health Insurance: An employee on pregnancy disability leave may continue to receive any group health insurance coverage that was provided before her leave, beginning on the date the pregnancy disability leave begins and continuing for up to four months in a 12-month period, at the same level and under the same conditions

that coverage would have been provided if the employee had continued in employment continuously for the duration of the leave. (Gov. Code § 12945(a)(2)(A); 2 Cal. Code Regs § 11044(c).) LAFCo may recover premiums it paid to maintain health coverage if an employee does not return to work following pregnancy disability leave, unless the reason for the failure to return is a circumstance beyond her control or the use of the separate right to 12 weeks of bonding leave under the California Family and Medical Leave Act. (Gov. Code § 12945(a)(2)(A); 2 Cal. Code Regs § 11044(c)(3).)

- (b) *Sick and Vacation Leaves*: Sick and vacation leaves do not accrue while an employee is on unpaid pregnancy disability leave. (See 2 Cal. Code Regs § 11044(d)(1).)
- (c) *Employee Status during Leave*: The employee retains employee status during the leave. The leave is not a break in service for purposes of longevity or seniority under any collective bargaining agreement or employee benefit plan. Benefits will be resumed upon the employee's reinstatement in the same manner and at the same levels as provided when the leave began, without any new qualification period, physical exam, or other qualifying provisions. (2 Cal. Code Regs § 11044(e).)

8.4e Reinstatement

- (a) Upon the expiration of pregnancy leave, the employee will be reinstated to her original or a comparable position, so long as it was not eliminated for a legitimate business reason during the leave. (2 Cal. Code Regs § 11043(c).)
- (b) If the employee's original position is no longer available, the employee will be assigned to a comparable, open position. (2 Cal. Code Regs § 11043(c)(2).)
- (c) If upon return from leave an employee is unable to perform the essential functions of her job because of a physical or mental disability, LAFCo will initiate an interactive process with the employee in order to identify a potential reasonable accommodation in accordance with these Policies. (See Policy 206, Reasonable Accommodation and Interactive Process.)

8.5 Other Leaves

8.5a Reproductive Loss Leave

[LAFCo provides Reproductive Loss Leave to eligible employees.](#)

8.5a.1 Reproductive Loss Event

[A reproductive loss event is any of the following:](#)

Commented [15]: This is a new leave entitlement, effective 1/1/24.

- [Miscarriage](#)
- [Stillbirth](#)
- [Failed adoption](#)
- [Failed surrogacy](#)
- [Unsuccessful assisted reproduction](#)

8.5a.2 Eligibility

To be eligible for Reproductive Loss Leave, an employee must have worked for LAFCo for at least 30 days prior to the start of the leave. An employee can take leave following their own reproductive loss event or that of another person – such as a spouse or domestic partner – if the employee would have been the parent of the child born or adopted. Employees are not required to submit documentation in support of their leave request.

8.5a.3 Timing and duration of leave

An eligible employee may take up to five days' leave for each reproductive loss event. Reproductive Loss Leave does not need to be taken on consecutive days but must be completed within three months of the date of the event. This means employees can choose to take all five days at once or break up the days over a longer period, as long as their leave is completed within three months. Reproductive Loss Leave is separate from, and in addition to, other types of leave to which employees are entitled (such as leave under the California Family Rights Act (CFRA) or California's Pregnancy Disability Leave law (PDL)). If an eligible employee is taking leave under any other state or federal leave entitlement, prior to or immediately following the reproductive loss, then the employee shall complete their Reproductive Loss Leave within three months after the end of their other leave. If an employee experiences more than one reproductive loss event within a 12-month period, reproductive loss leave time is limited to a total of 20 days within a 12-month period.

8.5a.4 Pay during Reproductive Loss Leave

Employees can use any available vacation time, sick days, or personal days to cover their Reproductive Loss Leave. Otherwise, reproductive loss leave is unpaid.

8.5a.5 Confidentiality and No Retaliation

LAFCo will maintain the confidentiality of any employee requesting Reproductive Loss Leave. LAFCo will not retaliate against an individual for exercising any rights regarding Reproductive Loss Leave.

8.5a Jury Duty Leave/Subpoenaed or Court-Ordered Witness Leave

Any employee, who is summoned to serve on a jury, or subpoenaed or ordered to be a witness, must notify his or her supervisor ~~or department head~~ as soon as possible. Any employee who is

released from jury service prior to the end of his or her scheduled work hours must report to work unless otherwise authorized by his or her supervisor. (Gov. Code § 1230; Labor Code § 230; 28 USC § 1875(c).)

8.5a.1 Overtime-Eligible Employees

All overtime-eligible employees will be paid for actual work hours missed because of time spent in jury service or court. The time spent on jury duty is not work time for purposes of calculating overtime compensation. LAFCo will offset from pay the amount the employee receives from the Court for jury fees [\(but not amounts received for parking and/or mileage\)](#).

8.5a.2 Overtime-Exempt Employees

All FLSA-exempt employees will continue to receive their normal salary while on jury duty or as serving as a witness only for any work week in which they perform any work duties. (29 CFR § 541.602(a) & (b)(3).) LAFCo will offset the amount from pay the employee receives from the Court for jury fees [\(but not amounts received for parking and/or mileage\)](#). (29 CFR § 541.602(b)(3).)

8.5b Other Court or Administrative Proceeding Appearances

8.5b.1 Regarding Agency Duties

Any employee, including a temporary, seasonal, or extra help employee, who is subpoenaed to appear in court in a matter regarding an event or transaction in the course of his or her LAFCo job duties, must give his or her supervisor as much advance notice as is possible. LAFCo will determine whether the matter involves an event or transaction in the course of the employee's LAFCo job duties. If so, this leave to appear in court will be without loss of compensation, and the time spent will be considered work time. LAFCo will offset the amount from pay the employee receives for witness fees [\(but not amounts received for parking and/or mileage\)](#).

8.5b.2 Regarding Employee-Initiated Proceedings

Any employee, including a temporary, seasonal, or extra help employee who is subpoenaed to appear or appears in court because of civil or administrative proceedings that he or she initiated is not entitled to receive compensation for time spent related to those proceedings. An employee may request to receive time off without pay or may use any accrued leave other than sick leave for time spent related to those proceedings. The time spent in these proceedings is not considered work time. ~~Notwithstanding the above, an employee who is testifying or appearing as the designated representative in PERB conferences or hearings, or at a personnel or merit commission is entitled to paid release time. (Gov. Code § 3505.3(a)(2) & (3).)~~

8.5b.3 Regarding Crime Victim/ Victim Family Member Court Attendance Leave

Commented [16]: Since you don't have any represented employees or any MOUs or bargaining units, this does not have much relevance.

Any employee, including a temporary, seasonal, or extra help employee, who is a victim of a crime that is a serious or violent felony, or a felony involving theft or embezzlement, may take leave from work to attend judicial proceedings related to that crime, if the employee provides LAFCo a copy of the notice of the scheduled proceeding in advance. If advance notice is not feasible, the employee must provide LAFCo, within a reasonable time after the leave is taken, documentation from the District Attorney, victim's rights office, or court / governing agency that shows that the judicial proceeding occurred when the leave was used. An employee who is an immediate family member of such a crime victim, including: a registered domestic partner; the child of the registered domestic partner; spouse; child; stepchild; brother; stepbrother; sister; stepsister; mother; stepmother; father; or stepfather of the crime victim is also entitled to leave from work to attend judicial proceedings relating to that crime. The leave is unpaid unless the employee elects to use accrued vacation, sick, or other paid leave, or compensatory time off. (Labor Code § 230.2.)

8.5b.4 Regarding Crime Victim/ Family Member Victims' Rights Proceedings Leave

Any employee, including a temporary, seasonal, or extra help employee, who is a victim of a crime listed in Labor Code section 230.5(a)(2)(A), may take leave from work to appear in court to be heard at any proceeding in which the right of the victim is at issue, if the employee provides the employer reasonable advance notice. If advance notice is not feasible, the employee must provide LAFCo, within a reasonable time after the leave is taken, certification from a police report, a district attorney or court, or from a health care provider or victim advocate, that the employee was a victim of any of the crimes listed in Labor Code section 230.5(a)(2)(A). An employee who is a spouse, parent, child, sibling, or guardian of such a crime victim is also a victim who is entitled to this leave if the above notice or certification requirements are met. The leave is unpaid unless the employee elects to use accrued vacation or paid leave, or compensatory time off.

8.5c Leave for Victims of Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, or Stalking to Obtain Restraining Orders or Injunctive Relief

Any employee, including a temporary, seasonal, or extra help employee, who is a victim of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking, may take leave from work to obtain or attempt to obtain any relief, including, but not limited to: a temporary restraining order, restraining order, or other injunctive relief to help ensure the health, safety, or welfare of the employee or his or her child, if the employee provides advance notice of the need for leave. If advance notice is not feasible, the employee must provide any of the following certifications within a reasonable time after the leave: a police report indicating that the employee was a victim; a court order protecting the employee from the perpetrator; evidence from the district attorney or court that the employee has appeared in court; or documentation from a health care provider or counselor that the employee was undergoing treatment for physical or mental injuries or abuse. The leave is unpaid unless the employee elects to use 2014 Healthy Workplaces sick leave (Labor Code § 246.5(a)(2)), accrued vacation or paid leave, or compensatory time off. (Labor Code § 230.5(f).)

8.5c.1 Leave for Victims of Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, or Stalking to Obtain Medical Attention or Counseling or Safety Planning

Any employee, including a temporary, seasonal, or extra help employee, who is a victim of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking, may take leave from work to attend to any of the following: obtaining medical attention or psychological counseling; obtaining services from a shelter, program or crisis center; or participating in safety planning or other actions to increase safety, if the employee provides advance notice of the employee's intention to take time off for these purposes. If advance notice is not feasible, the employee must provide any of the following to LAFCo within a reasonable time after the leave: a police report indicating that the employee was a victim; a court order protecting the employee from the perpetrator; evidence from the district attorney or court that the employee has appeared in court; or documentation from a health care provider or counselor that the employee was undergoing treatment for physical or mental injuries or abuse. The leave is unpaid unless the employee elects to use 2014 Healthy Workplaces sick leave (Labor Code § 246.5(a)(2)), accrued vacation or personal leave, or compensatory time off.

8.5d Bereavement Leave

All employees, including ~~or except~~ temporary, seasonal, or extra help employees, may utilize paid bereavement leave to attend a funeral or memorial service, or to take care of family matters, that are related to the death of a member of immediate family. "Immediate family" consists of the following: employee's spouse, domestic partner, child, stepchild, parent, grandparent, grandchild, brother, sister, mother/father-in-law, son or daughter-in-law, brother or sister-in-law, legal guardian, or custodial child, or the same relatives of a domestic partner. Employees are entitled to up to ~~three~~ five days for each death in the immediate family (the first three of which are paid). An employee who utilizes bereavement leave shall notify his/her supervisor or department head of the intent to use such leave. Leave can be taken intermittently, but must be concluded within ninety (90) days of the death. The employee can substitute any available paid leave for the two otherwise unpaid days.

Commented [17]: Bereavement leave has been updated. Employees are entitled to take 5 days upon the death of designated family members. Those days don't need to be paid. Since you already provided 3 days, I specified that the additional two are unpaid (though employees can substitute paid leave at their choice). Time can be taken intermittently, as long as it's concluded within 90 days of the death.

8.5e Military Leave

Military leave will be granted in accordance with state and federal law. An employee requesting leave for this purpose shall promptly provide the ~~department head~~ Executive Officer with a copy of the military orders specifying the dates, site and purpose of the activity or mission. Within the limits of such orders, the ~~department head~~ Executive Officer may determine when the leave is to be taken and may modify the employee's work schedule to accommodate the request for leave.

8.5f School-Related Leave

8.5f.1 School or Licensed Day Care Activity Leave

Any employee who is a parent, guardian, stepparent, foster parent, grandparent, or person who stands in loco parentis to one or more children who are in kindergarten or grades 1 through 12, or who are in a licensed child care facility, shall be allowed up to 40 hours each school year, not to exceed eight hours in any calendar month of the school year, to: participate in activities of their child's school or licensed child care facility; find, enroll, or re-enroll a child in a school or with a licensed childcare provider; or to pick up a child due to a childcare provider or school emergency. The employee must provide reasonable advance notice to his/her supervisor of the planned absence. The leave is unpaid unless the employee uses vacation, personal leave or compensatory time off. The employee must provide documentation from the school or licensed childcare facility as verification that the employee participated in school or childcare facility activities on a specific date and at a particular time. If both parents, guardians, or grandparents having custody work for LAFCo at the same LAFCo work site, only the first parent requesting will be entitled to leave under this provision. (Labor Code § 230.8.)

8.5f.2 Child Suspension Leave

Any employee who is the parent or guardian of a child in grades 1 through 12 may take time off to go to the child's school in response to a request from the child's school, if the employee gives advance notice to his or her supervisor. A school has the authority to request that the parent attend the child's school if the child has: committed any obscene act; habitually used profanity or vulgarity; disrupted school activities; or otherwise willfully defied the valid authority of school personnel.

8.5g Paid Administrative Leave

LAFCo has the right to place an employee on leave with full pay for non-disciplinary reasons at any time when the Executive Officer has determined that the employee's and/or LAFCo best interests warrant the leave. The employee does not have a right to appeal the decision to be placed on administrative leave with pay.

8.5h Leave of Absence Without Pay Must Be Authorized by Law or These Policies

Unless authorized by law or a LAFCo policy, an employee is not entitled to a leave of absence without pay. An authorized leave of absence without pay is not a break in service for purposes of calculating seniority. Unless required by law, vacation leave credits, sick leave credits, increases in salary, all other paid leaves, holidays and fringe benefits and other similar benefits do not accrue to an employee on unpaid leave. Unless required by law, LAFCo will not maintain contributions toward group insurance or retirement coverage for the employee on such leave. During the period of authorized unpaid leave, all service and leave credits shall be retained at the levels existing as of the effective date of the leave.

8.5i Industrial Injury Leave

8.5i.1 Pay Status of Employees on Workers' Compensation Leave ~~Not Covered by Labor Code Section 4850~~

Commented [18]: This type of leave doesn't apply to your workforce, so I omitted reference to it.

Employees, ~~other than those covered by Labor Code section 4850, who are absent from work by reason of an injury or illness covered by Workers' Compensation,~~ shall continue in pay status under the following provisions.

8.5i.1.A Coordination of Benefits

When the employee authorizes, the difference between the amount granted pursuant to such Workers' Compensation and the employee's regular pay will be deducted from the employee's accumulated sick leave, vacation, ~~personal floating~~ holidays, ~~personal leave~~, and compensatory time, if any. The employee will continue in pay status and receive his or her pay until his/her accumulated sick leave, and authorized compensatory time, personal holidays and vacation days, have been depleted to the nearest hour.

8.5i.1.B Accrual of Sick and Vacation Leave Continues While on Paid Leave

During the time the employee is in fully paid status while absent from work by reason of injury or illness covered by Workers' Compensation, he or she shall continue to accrue sick leave and vacation benefits as though he or she were not on leave of absence.

8.5i.1.C Unpaid Leave and Continuation of Health Care Benefits

Any employee subject to this Policy who depletes his or her accumulated sick leave, compensatory time, personal holiday time and vacation days while absent from work by reason of an injury or illness covered by Workers' Compensation may receive an unpaid leave of absence and continuation of health care benefits consistent with state and/or federal law. During any unpaid leave, the employee will not continue to accrue sick leave, vacation, or any other paid leave.

8.5j Time Off to Vote

Any employee, if he or she does not have sufficient time outside of working hours to vote, may request up to two hours of paid leave either at the beginning or end of scheduled working hours to enable him or her to vote. The employee must request time off to vote from his or her supervisor at least two days prior to election day.

Chapter 9 Resignation, Job Abandonment, Layoff, and Separation

9.1 Resignation, Job Abandonment, Layoff and Separation

9.1a Types of Separation

All separations of employees from positions in LAFCo employment are designated as one of the following types:

- Probationary Release;
- Release of temporary/ seasonal/ extra help employee;
- Resignation;
- Retirement;
- Job abandonment;
- Layoff;
- Non-disciplinary separation; or
- Disciplinary separation.

9.1b Probationary Release

Probationary employees serving in their initial [\(or extended\)](#) probationary period with LAFCo may be released at any time during the probationary period as recommended by the Executive Officer, without cause or reason or notice. A released probationary employee has no right to appeal or to submit a grievance [regarding their release](#).

9.1c Release of Temporary/Seasonal/Extra Help Employees

A temporary/ seasonal/ extra help employee may be separated at any time, without cause, and without right to any appeal or grievance.

9.1d Resignation

An employee who wishes to resign his or her LAFCo employment in good standing must submit written notice of resignation to the Executive Officer at least two weeks prior to the planned separation date. The written notice must state the reasons for the resignation. Failure to follow the aforementioned procedure may be cause for denying future employment with LAFCo. A resignation becomes final when the Executive Officer accepts the resignation in writing. Once a resignation has been accepted, it is final and irrevocable. A resignation can be accepted by the Executive Officer even if it is submitted less than two weeks prior to the planned resignation date.

9.1e Retirement

An employee planning to retire may provide a written notice to the Executive Officer prior to the effective date of the retirement. A notice of retirement becomes final when the Executive Officer accepts the notice of retirement in writing. Once a notice of retirement has been accepted, it is final and irrevocable.

9.1f Job Abandonment

An employee is deemed to have resigned from his/her position if he or she is absent for five consecutive scheduled workdays/shifts without prior authorization and without notification during the period of the absence. The employee will be given written notice, at his or her address of record, of the circumstances of the job abandonment, and an opportunity to provide an explanation for the employee's unauthorized absence. An employee who promptly responds to the agency's written notice, within the timeframe set forth in the written notice, can arrange for an appointment with the Executive Officer before final action is taken, to explain the unauthorized absence and failure of notification. An employee separated for job abandonment will be reinstated upon proof of justification for such absence, such as severe accident, severe illness, false arrest, or mental or physical impairment which prevented notification. No employee separated for job abandonment has the right to a post-separation appeal.

9.1g Layoff

Whenever, in the judgment of LAFCo Commission, a reduction in personnel is necessary for economic or operational reasons, any employee may be laid off or demoted for non-disciplinary reasons.

9.1g.1 Selection

The Executive Officer shall prepare a layoff list, giving consideration to all applicable factors, including operational needs, business necessity, job performance, competence and skill-set of individual employees, and longevity of service with LAFCo (where practical). Longevity will not dictate layoff choice where other relevant factors apply.

9.1g.2 Notice

Employees to be laid off shall be notified as soon as practicable and given at least fourteen (14) calendar days prior notice. A layoff is not subject to appeal or any other challenge.

9.1g.1 Order of Layoffs

Commented [19]: The original policy is structured for a much larger organization. I recommend you have a much shorter/flexible/discretionary layoff policy, in light of the size of your staff. I've included an option here.

Employees will be laid off in the inverse order of their seniority in their classification in the department. Seniority is determined based on the length of employment in the affected classification in the department, or higher classifications in the department. Length of employment includes all days of employment in attendance at work and on authorized or legally protected leaves of absence. Length of service does not include unauthorized periods of leave or suspension or layoff. Within each classification, employees will be laid off in the following order: temporary; part time; probationary; and for cause status. If two or more employees in a classification to be laid off have the same length of employment, the employee to be laid off will be decided by lottery.

9.1g.2 Notification of Layoff

Employees to be laid off will be given 21 calendar days' notice of layoff.

9.1g.3 Displacement

For cause employees who are noticed for layoff and who have held for cause status in a lower classification within the same classification series in the same department, may displace employees in the lower classification provided that the employee seeking to displace has greater length of employment in the lower classification than the incumbent in the lower classification. Employees in lower classifications will be displaced in inverse order of their length of employment in the classification. Any employee who seeks to displace another must provide the Executive Officer with written notice no later than five working days after the date of the notice of layoff.

9.1g.4 Appeal

An employee who has been noticed for layoff, and who has any questions or concerns about the layoff decision or process may make an appointment to be heard by the Executive Officer for an informal pre layoff review. The employee must request this appeal in writing within five workdays from the date of the notice of layoff. The Executive Officer decision is final.

9.1h Non-Disciplinary Separation

Any employee separated because of an inability to accommodate after the reasonable accommodation and interactive process is concluded, will be given a written pre-separation notice of the reasons for the separation, the evidence supporting the decision to separate for non-disciplinary reasons, and an opportunity to respond before the separation takes effect. Any for-cause employee has the opportunity for a post-separation appeal as described in Chapter 10 of these rules, Causes for Discipline and Procedures.

9.1i Disciplinary Separation

A for-cause employee may be separated for disciplinary reasons pursuant to the policy and procedures in Chapter 10 of these rules, Causes for Discipline and Procedures.

9.1j Return of LAFCo Property

All LAFCo property in the employee's possession must be returned prior to separation, including keys, key fobs, identification cards, equipment, credit cards, gas cards, cell phones, pagers, and any other LAFCo equipment.

9.1k Job References/Verification of Employment

All reference inquiries and verifications of employment must be referred to and approved by the Executive Officer. Unless the Executive Officer receives a written waiver signed by the employee, LAFCo will release only the employee's dates of employment and, last position held, and final salary rate. Department heads and sSupervisors should not provide information in response to requests for reference checks or verification of employment, unless specifically approved by the Executive Officer on a case-by-case basis.

Chapter 10 Discipline

10.1 Causes for Discipline and Procedures

10.1a Causes for Discipline

Employees may be disciplined for, including but not limited to, any of the following causes of discipline:

1. Violation of any [employment policy](#), department rule, LAFCo policy or LAFCo regulation, ordinance or resolution;
2. Absence without authorized leave or tardiness;
3. Excessive absenteeism and/or tardiness as defined by the employee's department head, and/or these Policies;
4. Use of leave from work in a manner not authorized or provided for under LAFCo policies;
5. Making any false representation or statement, or making any omission of a material fact;
6. Providing wrong or misleading information or other fraud in securing appointment, promotion or maintaining employment;
7. Unsatisfactory job performance;
8. Inefficiency;
9. Damaging any LAFCo property, equipment, resource, or vehicle, or the waste of LAFCo supplies through negligence or misconduct.
10. Insubordination; or insulting or demeaning the authority of a supervisor or manager;
11. Dishonesty;
12. Theft;
13. Violation of the LAFCo's or a department's confidentiality policies, or disclosure of confidential LAFCo information to any unauthorized person or entity;
14. Misuse or unauthorized use of any LAFCo property, including, but not limited to: physical property, electronic resources, supplies, tools, equipment, LAFCo communication systems, LAFCo vehicles or intellectual property;

15. Mishandling of public funds;
16. Falsifying or tampering with any LAFCo record, including work time or financial records;
17. Discourteous or offensive treatment of the public or other employees;
18. Abusive conduct, including malicious verbal, visual or physical actions, or the gratuitous sabotage or undermining of a person's work performance.
19. Conviction, meaning any judicial determination of guilt, of a crime that has a nexus to the employee's job duties;
20. Unapproved outside employment or activity, or other enterprise that constitutes a conflict of interest with service to the LAFCo;
21. Any conduct that impairs, disrupts or causes discredit to the LAFCo, to the public service, or other employee's employment;
22. Reckless or unsafe conduct;
23. Working overtime without prior authorization or refusing to work assigned overtime;
24. Carrying firearms or other dangerous weapons while on duty when not required by job duties.
25. Horseplay or fighting.

10.1b Types of Counseling, Reprimands and Discipline

The following are types of counseling, reprimands and discipline which LAFCo may impose:

- (a) **Counseling Memo:** A counseling memo will be provided to an employee to identify: a failure of appropriate conduct or performance issue; the performance the employee is to demonstrate in the future; and consequences for failure to correct the behavior or problem. A counseling memo will be retained in the supervisor's file until the completion of the evaluation year, and then documented in the performance evaluation, as the supervisor deems necessary. A counseling memo is not subject to the discipline or discipline appeal procedures described below.
- (b) **Verbal Reprimand:** A verbal reprimand is a verbal direction from a supervisory employee to discontinue inappropriate conduct or to correct a performance issue. A verbal reprimand will be documented in writing and retained in the supervisor's file until the completion of the evaluation year and then documented in the performance evaluation, as the supervisor deems necessary. A verbal reprimand is not subject to the discipline or discipline appeal procedures described below.

- (c) **Written Reprimand:** A written reprimand is written direction from a supervisory employee to discontinue inappropriate conduct or to correct a performance issue. A written reprimand will be retained in the employee's personnel file and documented in the performance evaluation. Unless required by law, a written reprimand is not subject to the discipline or discipline appeal procedures described below. The employee has the right to have his or her written rebuttal attached to the reprimand in the employee's personnel file, if the employee submits the rebuttal to the Executive Officer within 14 days after the reprimand is received.
- (d) **Suspension Without Pay:** LAFCo may suspend an employee from his/her position without pay for cause. Documents related to a suspension shall become part of the employee's personnel file when the suspension is final and documented in the performance evaluation. A suspension without pay is subject to the discipline and discipline appeal procedures described below. Employees who are exempt from Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) overtime will only be suspended as authorized by the FLSA.
- (e) **Reduction in Pay ~~or Paid Leave:~~** LAFCo may reduce an employee's pay ~~or paid leave~~ for cause. A reduction in pay for disciplinary purposes may take one of three forms: 1) a decrease in salary to a lower step within the salary range; ~~or 2) a decrease in salary paid to an employee for a fixed period of time; or 3) loss of accrued paid vacation or administrative leave, floating holiday, or compensatory time off.~~ Documents related to a reduction in pay shall become part of the employee's personnel file when the reduction in pay is final and documented in the performance evaluation. A reduction in pay is subject to the discipline and discipline appeal procedures described below. Employees who are exempt from the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) overtime requirements are not subject to pay reduction below the minimum salary requirements, except loss of accrued vacation, floating holiday, or administrative leave.
- (f) **Demotion:** LAFCo may demote an employee from his or her position to a lower position for cause. Documents related to a demotion shall become part of the employee's personnel file when the demotion is final and documented in the performance evaluation. A demotion is subject to the discipline and discipline appeal procedures described below.
- (g) **Dismissal:** LAFCo may dismiss an employee from his or her position for cause. Documents related to the dismissal shall become a part of an employee's personnel file when the dismissal is final. A dismissed employee is entitled to the discipline and discipline appeal procedures described below.

Commented [20]: I don't recommend that you require an employee to forfeit paid leave as part of a disciplinary action. I'm not sure it's allowable, and you can accomplish the same goal by implementing a reduction in pay on a permanent or finite basis.

10.1c Discipline Procedures

The following discipline procedures only apply to the LAFCo's for-cause employees. All employees other than for-cause employees, namely temporary, seasonal, extra-help, at-will, probationary employees, may be disciplined or separated at will, with or without cause, and

without the disciplinary procedures listed below. The following discipline procedures apply only to suspension without pay, reduction in pay, demotion, or dismissal.

- (a) **“Skelly” Notice of Intended Disciplinary Action to Employee:** A written notice of the intended disciplinary action shall be given to the employee, which will include the following information:
- The level of the intended discipline;
 - The specific charges that support the intended discipline;
 - A summary of the facts that show that the elements of each charge at issue in the intended discipline;
 - A copy of all materials upon which the intended discipline is based;
 - Notice of the employee’s right to respond to the Executive Officer or designee regarding the intended discipline within seven calendar days from the date of the notice, either by requesting a *Skelly* conference, or by providing a written response, or both;
 - Notice of the employee’s right to have a representative of his or her choice at the *Skelly* conference; and
 - Notice that failure to respond by the time specified constitutes a waiver of the right to respond prior to final discipline being imposed.
- (b) **Response by Employee and *Skelly* Conference:** If the employee requests a *Skelly* conference, the Executive Officer or designee will conduct an informal meeting with the employee. During the informal meeting, the employee shall have the opportunity to rebut the charges against him or her and present any mitigating circumstances. The Executive Officer will consider the employee’s presentation before issuing the disciplinary action. The employee’s failure to attend the conference, or to deliver a written response by the date specified in the *Skelly* notice, is a waiver of the right to respond, and the intended disciplinary action will be imposed on the date specified in the *Skelly* letter.
- (c) **Final Notice of Discipline:** After the *Skelly* conference and/or timely receipt of the employee’s written response, the Executive Officer will: 1) take no disciplinary action; 2) modify the intended discipline; or 3) impose the intended disciplinary action. In any case, the Executive Officer will provide the employee with a notice that contains the following:
- The level of discipline, if any, to be imposed and the effective date of the discipline;
 - The specific charges upon which the discipline is based;
 - A summary of the facts that show that the elements of each charge at issue in the intended discipline;
 - A copy of all materials upon which the discipline is based; and
 - A reference to the employee’s appeal right and deadline to appeal.

- (d) Delivery of the Final Notice of Discipline:** The final notice of discipline will be sent by mail method that verifies delivery to the last known address of the employee or delivered to the employee in person. If the notice is not deliverable because the employee has moved without notifying LAFCo or the employee refuses to accept delivery, the effective date of discipline will be the date the post office or delivery service attempted delivery.

10.1d Discipline Appeal Procedures

The following appeal procedures only apply to LAFCo's for-cause employees. All employees other than for-cause employees, namely temporary, seasonal, extra-help, at-will, probationary employees, may be disciplined or separated at will, with or without cause, and without the disciplinary appeal procedures listed below. The following appeal procedures apply only to suspension without pay, demotion, reduction in pay or dismissal.

- (a) Request for Appeal Hearing:** An employee may submit a written request for appeal to the Executive Officer within 14 calendar days from: 1) receipt of the final notice of discipline; or 2) the date of attempted delivery by the post office or delivery service of the notice to the last known address of the employee. Failure to file a timely written request for an appeal waives the right to an appeal hearing and any appeal of the discipline. The Executive Officer shall forward a timely request for appeal to the Personnel Committee for further action.

Appeal Hearing Officer: ~~LAFCo's Personnel Committee shall hear the appeal, unless~~ LAFCo will designates an individual selected through the State Medication and Conciliation Service (SMCS) to serve as the Skelly-Hearing officer for the disciplinary appeal-at-issue.

Commented [21]: I do not recommend that the Personnel Committee be charged with conducting the disciplinary appeal. Instead of this option, I recommend you select a neutral Hearing Officer from the outset.

- (b) Date and Time of the Appeal Hearing:** Once the appeal hearing officer has been designated, the Executive Officer will set a date for an appeal hearing. The employee shall be notified in writing at least 21 days prior to the hearing of the scheduled date.
- (c) Prehearing Notice of Witnesses and Evidence:** No later than 10 days before the hearing date, each party will provide the other and the appeal hearing officer a list of all witnesses to be called (except rebuttal witnesses), ~~and a copy of all evidence (except rebuttal evidence) to be submitted~~ at the hearing. ~~LAFCo will use numbers to identify its evidence; the employee will use alphabet letters.~~ Neither party will be permitted to call any witness ~~or evidence~~ that has not been listed, unless that party can show that the party could not have reasonably anticipated the need for the witness ~~or exhibit~~.
- (d) Subpoenas:** Upon the request of either party, and upon his or her own motion, the hearing officer will issue subpoenas to compel attendance at the appeal hearing. Each party is responsible for serving his/her/its own subpoenas. LAFCo employees who are subpoenaed to testify during working hours will be released with pay to appear at the

hearing. LAFCo employees who are subpoenaed to testify during non-working hours will be compensated for the time they actually spend testifying.

- (e) **Continuances:** The appeal hearing officer may continue a scheduled hearing only upon good cause shown.
- (f) **Record of the Appeal Hearing:** The hearing shall be recorded, either electronically or by a court reporter, at the option of LAFCo. If LAFCo orders a transcript or makes a transcript of the recording, LAFCo will notify the employee within three days of ordering or making the transcript and will provide a copy of the transcript upon receipt of the costs of duplication.
- (g) **Employee Appearance:** The employee must appear personally before the hearing officer at the time and place set for the hearing. The employee may be represented by any person he or she may select, [provided the selected individual is not involved in the underlying matter giving rise to the disciplinary action](#).
- (h) **Conduct of the Hearing:**
 - 1) **Sworn Testimony:** All witnesses shall be sworn in prior to testifying. The hearing officer or court reporter shall request each witness to raise his or her hand and respond to the following: "Do you swear that the testimony that you are about to give is the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth?"
 - 2) **Evidence:** Hearings need not be conducted according to technical rules relating to evidence and witnesses, but hearings shall be conducted in a manner that the hearing officer decides is the most conducive to determining the truth. The rules dealing with privileges shall be effective to the same extent that they are recognized in civil actions. Irrelevant or unduly repetitious evidence may be excluded. The appeal hearing officer shall determine the relevance, weight and credibility of testimony and evidence.
 - 3) **Exclusion of Witnesses:** During the examination of a witness, all other witnesses, except the parties, shall be excluded from the hearing.
 - 4) **Burden of Proof:** LAFCo has the burden of proof by the preponderance of the evidence.
 - 5) **Authority of Hearing Officer:** The appeal hearing officer shall not have the power to alter, amend, change, add to, or subtract from any of the terms of these Policies.

- 6) **Professionalism:** All parties and their attorneys or representatives shall not, by written submission or oral presentation, disparage the intelligence, ethics, morals, integrity or personal behavior of their adversaries or the appeal hearing officer.
- (i) **Presentation of the Case:** The parties will address their remarks, evidence, and objections to the appeal hearing officer. The appeal hearing officer may terminate argument at any time and issue a ruling regarding an objection or any other matter. The appeal hearing officer may limit redundant or irrelevant testimony, or directly question the witness. The hearing will proceed in the following order unless the appeal hearing officer directs otherwise:
- 1) LAFCo is permitted to make an opening statement;
 - 2) The employee is permitted to make an opening statement;
 - 3) LAFCo will produce its evidence;
 - 4) The employee will produce its evidence;
 - 5) LAFCo, followed by the employee, may present rebuttal evidence;
 - 6) Oral closing arguments of no more than 20 minutes may be permitted at the discretion of the appeal hearing officer. LAFCo argues first, the employee argues second, and if LAFCo reserved a portion of its time for rebuttal, LAFCo may present a rebuttal.
- (j) **Written Briefs:** Either party may request to submit a written brief and/or a draft decision. The appeal hearing officer will determine whether to allow written briefs or draft decisions, the deadline for submitting briefs, and the page limit for briefs.
- (k) **Appeal Hearing Officer's Recommended Decision:** Within 60 days of the conclusion of the hearing, the appeal hearing officer shall make written findings and a recommended decision as to the discipline. That decision shall be provided to both parties.

The LAFCo Commission shall review the findings and recommendations of the appeal hearing officer, and will allow arguments on behalf of each party to be submitted in writing, and may then affirm, revoke, or modify the findings, recommendations, or disciplinary action taken recommendation of the Hearing Officer as to the disciplinary action taken. The decision of the LAFCo Commission is final. There is no process for reconsideration before the Commission.

Commented [22]: I recommend this additional step, so that the Board can consider the respective positions of both parties before rendering a decision.

- (l) **Proof of Service of the Written Findings and Decision:** LAFCo will mail a copy of the final written findings and decision, along with a proof of service of mailing that confirms that each of the parties and each of the parties' representatives were mailed the final

written findings and decision. It shall be the responsibility of the employee to inform the LAFCo of his/her address. A copy of the decision shall also be provided to the Executive Officer.

Chapter 11 Grievances

11.1 Grievance Procedures

11.1a Definition of a Grievance

A grievance is an alleged violation of a specific provision of these Policies that adversely affects the employee and that contains all of the information listed in the “Statement of the Grievance” below. The following procedure applies to all LAFCo employees, unless: another dispute resolution procedure applies to the dispute; or a discipline policy and procedure applies. The grievance procedure cannot be utilized to challenge the content of a performance evaluation or any form of discipline.

11.1b Statement of the Grievance

A concern is not a grievance unless the affected employee is able to state each of the following: the date of the alleged violation; the specific provision(s) of these Policies that were allegedly violated; a description of all facts regarding how the alleged violation occurred; and a list of all persons who are witnesses or are involved. The grievant may use a LAFCo form to make the Statement of the Grievance. A Statement of the Grievance must be signed by the employee filing the grievance to certify that it is filed in good faith.

11.1c Timelines

Failure of the LAFCo to comply with the time limits of the grievance procedures allows the grievant to appeal to the next level of review. Failure of the grievant to comply with the time limits of the grievance procedures constitutes settlement and resolution of the grievance on the basis of the last disposition. The parties may extend time limits by mutual written agreement in advance of a deadline.

11.1d Procedures

- (a) **Step I Informal Resolution with Supervisor:** The employee must first work in good faith to resolve the grievance informally through discussion with his/her immediate supervisor no later than 14 calendar days after the grievant first became aware of the facts or circumstances resulting in the filing of the grievance.
- (b) **Step II Formal Resolution:** If the employee believes that the grievance has not been resolved through Step I, the employee may submit a written Statement of the Grievance to the Executive Officer. The employee must submit the Statement of the Grievance within 28 calendar days after he or she first became aware that a grievance has occurred. The Executive Officer shall consider, discuss the grievance with the grievant, and/or investigate as he/she deems appropriate, and shall, within 14 days of receipt of the written Statement of the Grievance, submit his/her decision in writing to the grievant. The decision of the Executive Officer on the grievance shall be final.

Commented [23]: Disciplinary matters should not be subject to the grievance process, as there is a separate process in place for those. Including this reference here just makes clear that the grievance process doesn't apply.

Commented [24]: I don't recommend allowing the grievance about internal issues to be elevated to the Board or any of its committees. These are issues on which the Executive Officer should have final discretion.

~~(c) **Step III Personnel Committee:** If the employee believes that the grievance has not been resolved through Step II, the employee may appeal the grievance decision of the department head to the Policy and Personnel Committee. Such appeal must be filed within 14 days of the date of the department head's written decision. The Policy and Personnel Committee shall consider, discuss the grievance with the grievant, and/or investigate as it deems appropriate, and shall, within 21 days of receipt of the written Statement of the Grievance, submit its decision in writing to the grievant. The decision of the Policy and Personnel Committee shall be final.~~

Chapter 12 Miscellaneous Policies

12 Personnel Files

12.1a Confidential LAFCo Files

LAFCo maintains a personnel file on each employee. Files are kept for at least three years after separation of employment. (Labor Code § 1198.5(c)(1).) A personnel file will contain only material that LAFCo deems necessary and relevant or that is required by law. Personnel files are the property of LAFCo, and access to the information they contain is restricted to protect employee privacy interests.

12.1b Notification of Changes

Each employee is responsible to promptly notify the Executive Officer of any changes in his or her contact and benefits information, including: mailing address; telephone number; persons to contact in emergency; and number and names of dependents.

12.1c Access to Applicant or Employee Medical Information

All medical information about an employee or applicant is kept in [a separate medical files](#) and is treated as confidential. Access to employee or applicant medical information shall be strictly limited to only those with a legitimate need to have such information for LAFCo business reasons, or if access is required by law, subpoena or court order. In the case of an employee with a disability, managers and supervisors may be informed regarding necessary restrictions on the work or duties of the employee and necessary accommodations. (2 Cal.Code Regs § 11069(g)(1).)

12.1d Employee Access to Personnel File

- (a) Inspection of File:** A current employee may inspect his or her own personnel file, at reasonable times and at reasonable intervals, within 30 days of a written request. A former employee is entitled to inspect his or her personnel records one time per year. (Labor Code § 1198.5(d).) A current or former employee and/or his or her representative, who wishes to review his or her personnel file should make a written request to the Executive Officer. (Labor Code § 1198.5(b)(2)(A).) The inspection must occur in the presence of the Executive Officer or designee and: 1) at a location where the employee works and at a time other than the employee's work time (Labor Code § 1198.5(b)(1)); or 2) at another agreed upon location without loss of compensation to the employee. (Labor Code § 1198.5(c)(2).)
- (b) Copies:** A current or former employee is entitled to receive a copy of his or her personnel records within 30 days after the employer receives a written request. (Labor Code § 1198.5(b)(1).) A current or former employee who wishes to receive such a copy

should contact the Executive Officer in writing. LAFCo may charge a fee for the actual cost of copying. (Labor Code § 1198.5(b)(1); 1198.5 (b)(2)(A).)

- (c) **Representative's Inspection:** If the current or former employee wishes to have another person/representative inspect his or her personnel file, he or she must provide the person/representative with written authorization. (Labor Code § 1198.5(e).) The Executive Officer will notify the employee and/or representative of the date, time and place of the inspection in writing.
- (d) **No Removal of File Documents:** No person inspecting a personnel file is permitted to add or remove any document or other item to/from the personnel file.

12.1e Limitations on Access or Copying of Personnel File

Prior to making a copy of personnel records or allowing inspection, LAFCo may redact the names of nonsupervisory employees. (Labor Code § 1198.5(g).) Under no circumstances will LAFCo provide access or copying of the following categories of personnel file documents: records relating to the investigation of a possible criminal offense; letters of reference; ratings, reports, or records that were obtained prior to employment, prepared by identifiable examination committee members, or obtained in connection with a promotional examination. (Labor Code § 1198.5(h).)

12.2 Limitations on Outside Employment

12.2a No Outside Employment Without Prior Approval

An employee shall not engage in any paid or self-employment, activity, or enterprise which is inconsistent, incompatible or in conflict with his or her LAFCo duties, functions, responsibilities, or that of the department in which he or she is employed at LAFCo. In order to avoid perceived or actual conflicts of interest that may arise from outside employment, all employees must obtain written approval from the Executive Officer prior to undertaking any outside employment as described in this Policy. (Gov. Code § 1126(a).)

12.2b Authorization and Appeal Process

- (a) **Written Request:** Any employee who wants to undertake a paid outside employment, activity, or enterprise must submit a written request to ~~his or her department head~~ the Executive Officer. The written request must include: the work hours and/or time required; job title or the nature of the activity; the work location; and the supervisor, manager and name of the employer or activity.
- (b) **Analysis and Decision:** The Executive Officer will determine if the outside employment, activity, or enterprise is compatible with the employee's employment at LAFCo. If the Executive Officer determines such activity is compatible, or would be if any conditions or restrictions applied, he or she will authorize the activity and specify the conditions/

Commented [25]: This is a fairly extensive policy for an organization of your size. An alternate policy is included at the end for your review. If you prefer a shorter policy, you would delete the blue language.

restrictions in writing, give the employee the outside employment authorization, and place a copy of the written authorization in the employee's personnel file.

(c) One Year Authorization: An outside employment authorization is valid only up to one year. Should the employee continue the outside employment, activity, or enterprise for a longer duration, he or she must make another request following the process in this Policy.

Commented [26]: Make sure follow (or are prepared to follow) this timeline and the other specifics of this policy. If you wanted a shorter policy, I have suggested one at the end of this highlighted section. If you prefer the shorter policy, the blue version would be deleted.

(d) Appeal: If the Executive Officer denies an employee's outside employment request, the employee may submit a written notice of appeal to the Policy and Personnel Committee within 10 days after the date of the denial. The decision on appeal will be put in writing, provided within 10 days after the receipt of the appeal, and will be final.

12.2c Prohibited Outside Activities

An employee's outside employment, activity, or enterprise may be prohibited if it:

- (a) involves the use for private gain or advantage of LAFCo time, facilities, equipment, and supplies, or the badge, uniform, prestige, or influence of LAFCo or employment by LAFCo;
- (b) involves receipt or acceptance by the employee of any money or other consideration from anyone other than LAFCo for the performance of an act which the employee would be required or expected to render in the regular course of his/her LAFCo employment;
- (c) involves the performance of an act in other than his/her capacity as a LAFCo employee which act may later be subject directly or indirectly to the control, inspection, review, audit, or enforcement by such employee or the department by which he/she is employed; or
- (d) involves time demands that would render the employee's performance of his or her regular LAFCo employment less efficient or dangerous to the employee.

12.2d Changes in Outside Employment Status

The employee must promptly report in writing to the Executive Officer any of the following changes that may occur during the year of an authorized outside employment: the outside employment ends; or the authorized employment changes as to the number of work hours, location, or types of duties.

12.2e Revocation / Suspension of Outside Employment Authorization

Any outside employment authorization may be revoked or suspended during the year it is granted under the circumstances listed below. An employee may appeal the revocation or suspension as provided in this Policy.

- (a) The employee's work performance declines; or
- (b) An employee's conduct or outside employment conflicts with the conditions of the outside work authorization or is incompatible with the employee's work for LAFCo.

12.2f Use of LAFCo Equipment Prohibited

Under no circumstances may an employee use any LAFCo equipment, vehicles, tools, supplies, machines, or any other item that is LAFCo property while an employee is engaged in any outside employment, activity or enterprise.

By accepting employment with LAFCo, every employee commits to provide his or her best efforts and working time to LAFCo. No employee shall be permitted to accept employment in addition to or outside of LAFCo service if any of the following circumstances exist:

- The employee works in the additional or outside employment while on a leave of absence from LAFCo, and the nature of the work is inconsistent with the employee's medical restrictions;
- The additional or outside employment leads to a conflict of interest, or potential conflict of interest, for the employee;
- The nature of the additional or outside employment is such that it will reflect unfavorably on LAFCo or on the employee's status as a LAFCo employee;
- The duties to be performed by the employee in the additional or outside employment are in conflict with the duties involved in LAFCo service; and
- The timing of the outside employment conflicts with the employee's regularly scheduled hours, and it has been determined that schedule adjustments are not possible.

Any employee who seeks to obtain outside employment shall first obtain the approval of the Executive Officer. In seeking approval, the employee shall disclose the outside position to the Executive Officer, so LAFCo can determine whether the outside employment is compatible with the employee's position with LAFCo and to determine if any conflict exists. If the timing of outside employment conflicts with an employee's regularly scheduled working hours, LAFCo can (but is not obligated to) consider whether schedule adjustments can reasonably be made without adversely impacting LAFCo business or other employees. An employee who does have outside employment shall not be permitted to use LAFCo records, materials, equipment, facilities, or other LAFCo resources in connection with outside employment. An employee shall not devote any of his or her working time with LAFCo to any outside employment.

Approval of outside employment can be revoked at any time. The Executive Officer's decision

[not providing or revoking approval is final and not subject to appeal or challenge.](#)

12.3 Limitations on Political Activity

12.3a No Solicitation During Work Hours or LAFCo Offices

LAFCo employees or officers may not solicit or receive political funds or contributions to promote the passage or defeat of any ballot measure that would affect working conditions during the working hours of its officers and employees, or in LAFCo offices. (Gov. Code § 3209.)

12.3b No Targeted Solicitation of LAFCo Officers or Employees

Officers or employees of LAFCo, or candidates for elective office of LAFCo, may not directly or indirectly solicit political contributions from other officers or employees of LAFCo unless the solicitation is part of a solicitation made to a significant segment of the public which may incidentally include officers from and employees of LAFCo. (Gov. Code § 3205(c).)

12.3c No Political Activity in Uniform

No LAFCo employee or official shall participate in political activities of any kind while in a LAFCo uniform or other LAFCo -issued clothing. (Gov. Code § 3206.)

12.3d No Political Activity on LAFCo Property or Work Hours

LAFCo employees and officials are prohibited from engaging in political activity during working hours or on LAFCo property. (Gov. Code § 3207.)

12.4 Prohibitions on Drugs and Alcohol in the Workplace

12.4a Purpose and Scope

The purpose of this Policy is to promote a drug and alcohol-free workplace and to eliminate drug and alcohol-related inefficiencies and risks. This Policy applies to all LAFCo employees, whether they are on LAFCo property, or they are performing LAFCo related business elsewhere, except as this Policy is superseded by a memorandum of understanding or federally mandated drug and alcohol policies. Compliance with this Policy is a condition of employment. Disciplinary action will be taken against those who violate this Policy.

12.4b Drug- and Alcohol-Free Awareness Program

LAFCo's employee assistance provider (EAP) offers counseling and treatment of drug- or Alcohol-related problems. The employee assistance provider has information about: (a) the dangers of drug or alcohol abuse in the workplace; (b) the penalties that may be imposed for drug or alcohol abuse violations; (c) the LAFCo's Policy of maintaining a drug- and alcohol-free

workplace; and (d) any available drug or alcohol counseling, rehabilitation or employee assistance programs. (41 USC § 701(a)(1)(B) – federal contractors; 41 USC § 702(a)(1)(B) – federal grant recipients; Gov. Code § 8355(a)(2).)

12.4c Prohibited Conduct

- (a) The manufacture, distribution, sale, dispensation, possession, or use of any controlled substance in either LAFCo workplaces or wherever LAFCo business is performed. (41 USC §§ 701-702; Gov. Code § 8355(a)(1).)
- (b) Working or being subject to call in if impaired by alcohol or any controlled substance.
- (c) An employee’s failure to notify his/her department head before beginning work when taking medications or drugs which could interfere with the safe and effective performance of duties or operation of LAFCo equipment.
- (d) An employee’s failure to notify the Executive Officer of any criminal conviction for a drug violation that occurred in the workplace within five days after such conviction. (41 USC § 701-702.)
- (e) An employee’s criminal conviction for a drug violation that occurred in the workplace.

12.4d Drug and Alcohol Testing

LAFCo has discretion to test applicants and employees for alcohol and drug use under the following circumstances. LAFCo will use an outside laboratory to perform all testing.

~~(a) **Pre-Employment Testing for External Applicants for Certain Jobs:** Those external applicants who apply for certain jobs where a special need for pre-employment drug and alcohol testing exists must take and pass a drug and alcohol test following a conditional offer of employment. The categories of jobs subject to pre-employment drug and alcohol testing include, but is not limited to:~~

- ~~1) safety sensitive jobs that have public safety implications, such as operating heavy trucks to transport hazardous material, protecting national security, enforcing drug laws, and/or operating natural gas pipelines; and~~
- ~~jobs that involve the direct influence over children.~~

~~Currently, these jobs include the following: [LIST HERE THE TITLES OF POSITIONS THAT ARE DETERMINED TO BE SAFETY SENSITIVE].~~

~~(b)(a) **Reasonable Suspicion Testing:** LAFCo may require a blood test, urinalysis, or other drug and/or alcohol screening of those employees who are reasonably suspected of using or being under the influence of a drug or alcohol at work, under the following~~

Commented [27]: You have to have a “special need” to conduct pre-employment drug testing. If you have employees who perform office work and don’t use heavy equipment or otherwise engage in duties that carry the risk of harming others, you may not have any safety sensitive employees. If that’s the case, you could eliminate the pre-employment drug test and just do “reasonable suspicion” testing.

circumstances.

- 1) **“Reasonable suspicion”** to test exists if, based on objective factors, a reasonable person would believe that the employee is under the influence of drugs or alcohol at work. Examples of objective factors, include, but are not limited to: unusual behavior, slurred or altered speech, body odor, red or watery eyes, unkempt appearance, unsteady gait, lack of coordination, sleeping on the job, a pattern of abnormal or erratic behavior, a verbal or physical altercation, puncture marks or sores on skin, runny nose, dry mouth, dilated or constricted pupils, agitation, hostility, confused or incoherent behavior, paranoia, euphoria, disorientation, inappropriate wearing of sunglasses, tremors, or other evidence of recent drug or alcohol use. If LAFCo suspects drugs or alcohol may have played a role in an accident involving LAFCo property or equipment, that will also constitute reasonable suspicion.
- 2) **Document and Analysis:** In order to receive authority to test, the supervisor must record the factors that support reasonable suspicion in writing and analyze the matter with the Executive Officer. Any reasonable suspicion testing must be pre-approved by the Executive Officer.
- 3) **Testing Protocol:** If the documentation and analysis show that there is a reasonable suspicion of drug or alcohol abuse at work, and the Executive Officer has approved, the employee will be relieved from duty, transported to the testing facility and to his or her home after the test. The employee will be placed on sick or other paid leave until the test results are received. The method of testing will be consistent with applicable law. When testing is done, testing for marijuana-related substances will occur only if the testing facility can test only for psychoactive metabolites of THC (and exclude the non-psychoactive metabolites of THC).

(c) Authorized and Unauthorized Conduct. LAFCo adheres to the following:

- 1) Customary Use of Over-the-Counter Drugs. Nothing in this policy is intended to prohibit the customary and ordinary purchase, use, possession, or dispensation of over-the-counter drugs, so long as that activity does not violate any law or result in an employee being impaired by the use of such drugs in violation of this policy.
- 2) Off-the-Job Conduct. This policy is not intended to regulate off-the-job conduct, so long as the employee’s off-the-job use of alcohol or legal drugs does not result in the employee being under the influence of or impaired by the use of alcohol or drugs in violation of this policy. Employees can be subject to drug testing as described below.

Commented [28]: This language is intended to comply with recent changes to California law. Because testing of psychoactive metabolites is not available, most California employers are omitting marijuana/cannabis from their drug testing panels. I’ve included the language here to allow for such testing if/when the tests become available as a scientific matter.

Commented [29]: I’ve added provisions regarding other necessary topics in a drug testing policy.

(d) **Counseling/Employee Assistance.** Employees who suspect they may have alcohol or drug problems, even in the early stages, are encouraged voluntarily to seek diagnosis and to follow through with the treatment as prescribed by qualified professionals. Employees who wish to voluntarily enter and participate in an approved alcohol or drug rehabilitation program are encouraged to contact the Executive Director, who will determine whether the LAFCo can accommodate the employee by providing leave for the time necessary to complete participation in the program. LAFCo abides by all applicable laws and regulations regarding providing leaves of absence to employees who are addicted to drugs. Employees should be aware that participation in a rehabilitation program will not necessarily shield them from disciplinary action for a violation of this policy, particularly if discipline is imposed for a violation occurring before the employee seeks assistance. The time to request assistance is before any misconduct or violation of policy occurs, as LAFCo is not obligated to overlook or ignore any policy violations.

(e) **Accommodations.** Nothing in this Policy is intended to diminish LAFCo's commitment to employ and reasonably accommodate qualified disabled individuals. LAFCo will reasonably accommodate qualified disabled employees who must take legal drugs because of their disability and who, because of their appropriate use of such drugs, cannot perform the essential functions of their positions without reasonable accommodation. In addition, LAFCo will provide a leave of absence to eligible employees who wish to seek treatment for drug and alcohol dependency.

To this end, employees desiring such assistance should request a treatment or rehabilitation leave. LAFCo is not obligated, however, to continue to employ any person whose performance of essential job duties is impaired because of current drug or alcohol use, nor is LAFCo obligated to re-employ any person who has participated in treatment and/or rehabilitation if that person's job performance remains impaired as a result of dependency. LAFCo is not obligated to accommodate current usage of illegal drugs or alcohol.

Additionally, employees who are given the opportunity to seek treatment and/or rehabilitation, but fail to successfully overcome their dependency or problem, will not automatically be given a second opportunity to seek treatment and/or rehabilitation. This policy on treatment and rehabilitation is not intended to affect LAFCo's treatment of employees who violate the regulations described above. Rather, rehabilitation is an option for an employee who acknowledges a chemical dependency and voluntarily seeks treatment to end that dependency.

Violation of the above standards of conduct will not be tolerated. An employee who violates this policy is subject to discipline, up to and including immediate discharge, even for a first violation. Where appropriate, LAFCo also may bring the matter to the attention of appropriate law enforcement authorities.

12.5 Use of LAFCo Equipment or Resources

12.5a Policy and Applicability

LAFCo equipment and resources may only be used to conduct LAFCo business, except for incidental personal use that is consistent with this Policy. As a result, LAFCo equipment and resources are non-public forums. Every LAFCo employee is required to adhere to this Policy.

12.5b Agency Equipment or Resources

LAFCo equipment or resources is any LAFCo-owned or supplied item or resource, including, but not limited to: intellectual property (e.g., photographs, plans, drawings, formulas, customer lists, designs, formulas), vehicles, telephones, cell phones, pagers, tools, machines, supplies, copy machines, facsimile machines, desks, office equipment, computers (including hardware and software), file cabinets, lockers, Wi-Fi, internet, intranet, LAFCo network, data systems, routers, voice mail, servers, and email or voice mail communications stored in or transmitted through LAFCo electronic resources or equipment.

12.5c No Expectation of Privacy

LAFCo periodically and without prior notice, monitors, reviews, accesses, or retrieves data from its equipment or resources, including electronic communications and content contained in or transmitted through LAFCo networks or electronic resources. LAFCo employees must provide the agency with the employee's username or password for any LAFCo issued equipment or resource. The existence of passwords or delete functions does not restrict the LAFCo's access. As a result, LAFCo employees have no expectation of privacy in their use of any LAFCo equipment or resources.

12.5d Appropriate Use Only -- No Misuse

Employees may only use LAFCo equipment or resources in compliance with LAFCo policies. Except as authorized by this Policy, employees are expected to avoid any use or communication which is unrelated to LAFCo business, destructive, wasteful, or illegal. LAFCo has discretion to restrict or rescind employee access to LAFCo equipment or resources. The following are examples of misuse of LAFCo equipment or resources:

- (a) Any use that violates applicable law and/or LAFCo policies, rules or procedures.
- (b) Exposing others to material which is offensive, harassing, obscene or in poor taste. This includes information which could create an intimidating, offensive or hostile work environment.
- (c) Any use that may create or further a hostile attitude or give offense on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, gender, gender expression, gender identity, national origin, ancestry, citizenship, age, marital status, physical or mental disability, medical condition, genetic information, sexual orientation, veteran status or any other basis protected by law.
- (d) Communication of confidential LAFCo information to unauthorized individuals within or outside of LAFCo.
- (e) Unauthorized attempts to access or use LAFCo data or break into any LAFCo or non-LAFCo system.

- (f) Theft or unauthorized transmission or copying of paper or electronic files or data.
- (g) Initiating or sustaining chain/spam letters, e-mail or other unauthorized mass communication.
- (h) Misrepresentation of one's identity for improper or illegal purposes.
- (i) Personal commercial or business activities (e.g. "for sale" notices, personal ads, etc.).
- (j) Transmitting/accessing obscene material and/or pornography.
- (k) E-Commerce.
- (l) Online gambling.
- (m) Installing or downloading unauthorized software or equipment.
- (n) Violating terms of software licensing agreements.
- (o) Using LAFCo equipment or resources to access and/or use dating web resources, personal social media, or games of any type.
- (p) Any unauthorized access to LAFCo equipment or resources, including: using keys or key cards; using or disclosing the username or password of another person or employee to gain access to his or her email or other electronic resources; or making LAFCo equipment or resources available to others who would otherwise have no authorized access.
- (q) Using LAFCo equipment or resources to speak on the LAFCo's behalf without authorization.

12.5e LAFCo Email Address Must be Used for LAFCo Business

LAFCo's email system is an official communication tool for LAFCo business. LAFCo establishes and assigns official email addresses to each employee as LAFCo deems necessary. Employees must send all LAFCo communications that are sent via email to and from his or her official LAFCo email address. Employees are prohibited from using their private email address (such as Gmail, yahoo, MSN/Hotmail, etc.) when communicating LAFCo business via email. Should an email related to LAFCo business be sent to an employee's personal email account, the email should be immediately forwarded to the employee's LAFCo email account and responded to accordingly.

12.5f Incidental Personal Use of LAFCo Communications Equipment Permitted

Employees may use LAFCo telephones, cell phones, internet access, and e-mail for incidental personal communications provided that the use:

- (a) Is kept to a minimum and limited to break times or non-working hours;
- (b) Does not interfere or conflict with LAFCo operations or the work performance of any LAFCo employees;
- (c) Allows the employee to more efficiently perform [to](#) LAFCo work;
- (d) Is not abusive, illegal, inappropriate, or prohibited by this Policy (for example, no social media use, no electronic dating, no gaming); and
- (e) Clearly indicates it is for personal use and does not indicate or imply LAFCo sponsorship or endorsement.

12.6 Policy Against Violence in the Workplace

12.6a Safe and Secure Workplace

LAFCo is committed to providing a safe and secure workplace and will not tolerate acts or threats of violence in the workplace. (Labor Code § 6400.) The workplace includes any location where LAFCo business is conducted, including vehicles and parking lots. Any violation of this Policy may lead to criminal prosecution, and/or disciplinary action, up to and including termination.

12.6b Prohibited Behavior

Employees are prohibited from participating in or promoting acts of intimidation, violence, threats, coercion, assault and/or abusive behavior toward any person while in the course of LAFCo employment. LAFCo has zero tolerance for any conduct that references workplace violence, even if it was intended to be harmless, humorous, a prank, blowing off steam, or venting.

12.6c "Workplace Violence"

"Workplace violence" is defined as any conduct that causes an individual to reasonably fear for his or her personal safety or the safety of his or her family, friends, and/or property. Specific examples of workplace violence include, but are not limited to, the following:

- (a) Threats or acts of physical harm directed toward an individual or his/her family, friends, associates, or property.

- (b) The destruction of, or threat of destruction of LAFCo property or another employee's property.
- (c) Fighting, challenging another person to fight, or participating in dangerous or threatening horseplay.
- (d) Striking, punching, slapping, or assaulting another person.
- (e) Grabbing, pinching, or touching another person in an unwanted way whether sexually or otherwise.
- (f) Harassing or threatening phone calls.
- (g) Surveillance.
- (h) Stalking.
- (i) Possessing a weapon(s) during work hours unless LAFCo issues the weapon(s) for performance of the job. "Weapon" is defined as a firearm, chemical agent, club or baton, knife, or any other device, tool, or implement that can cause bodily harm if used as a weapon or displayed in such a manner to cause harm or threaten a person with harm.

12.6d Incident Reporting Procedures

- (a) Employees must immediately report to their supervisor or ~~department director~~Executive Officer whether they have been a victim of, or have witnessed, workplace violence. The supervisor or ~~department director~~Executive Officer will immediately report the matter to the Executive Officer.
- (b) The Executive Officer or designee will document the incident, including the employee names(s), date/time, location, incident description, witness names and statements, description of unidentified parties, description of the act(s) and/or behavior arising from the incident, action taken, and provide any other relevant information regarding the incident.
- (c) The Executive Officer or designee will take appropriate steps to provide security, such as:
 - 1) Placing the employee alleged to have engaged in workplace violence on administrative leave, pending investigation;
 - 2) Asking any threatening or potentially violent person to leave the site; or
 - 3) Immediately contacting an appropriate law enforcement agency.

12.6e Investigation

The Executive Officer will see that reported violations of this Policy are investigated as necessary.

12.6f Prevention

The Executive Officer or any department head has the authority to enforce this Policy by:

- (a) Training supervisors and subordinates about their responsibilities under this Policy;
- (b) Assuring that reports of workplace violence are accurately and timely documented and addressed;
- (c) Notifying the Policy and Personnel Committee, Executive Officer and/or law enforcement authorities of any incidents;
- (d) Making all reasonable efforts to maintain a safe and secure workplace; and
- (e) Maintaining records and follow up actions as to reports of workplace violence.

12.7 Appearance Standards

12.7a Basis for Standards

These dress code, tattoo, and body piercing appearance standards are designed to promote LAFCo's legitimate and non-discriminatory goals to promote workplace safety and a professional image that is consistent with the employee's job duties and level of public contact.

12.7b Dress Code

Employees are required to dress appropriately for the jobs they are performing. The following dress code regulations shall apply to all LAFCo employees. If an employee has questions about how these standards apply, the matter should be immediately raised with the employee's supervisor for consideration and determination.

- (a) All clothing and footwear must be neat, clean, in good repair, and appropriate for the work environment and functions performed.
- (b) Employees must present themselves in a manner that is neat, clean and well-groomed.
- (c) Jewelry is acceptable except where it constitutes a health or safety hazard.
- (d) Good personal hygiene is required.

-
- (e) Dress must be professionally appropriate to the work setting, particularly if the employee has contact with the public at work.

12.7c Tattoos

Employees are expected to project a professional appearance while at work. If an employee has questions about how these standards apply, the matter should be immediately raised with the employee's supervisor for consideration and determination.

12.7d Piercing

Employees are expected to project a professional appearance while at work and not endanger themselves or others with excessive body piercing. If an employee has questions about how these standards apply, the matter should be immediately raised with the employee's supervisor for consideration and determination.

Instructions: Separate form and return to executive officer.

.....

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

I, _____ [*print name*], acknowledge that I have received a copy of the Marin Local Agency Formation Commission (“LAFCo”) Personnel Handbook, and that LAFCo has provided me with instructions about how to access the document electronically. I further acknowledge and understand that I am responsible for reading and becoming familiar with the contents of the Handbook, and any of its revisions.

EMPLOYEE SIGNATURE

DATE

Staff Recommendation for Action

1. Staff Recommendation – Accept edits made by legal counsel and staff with any modifications as desired by the Committee for the full Commission to review and approve.
2. Alternate Option 1 – Continue this item to a future Committee meeting for further review.
3. Alternate Option 2 – Decide to make no changes to the Personnel Handbook and keep it as is with no further action.

Attachment:

1. Marin LAFCo Policy Handbook with suggested redlining edits
2. New remote work policy
3. Various remote work policies other agencies use.

New Remote Work Policy

LAFCo provides employees with the privilege of working remotely when appropriate. LAFCo considers remote work to be a viable alternative work arrangement in cases where the employee and the employee's position are well-suited to working remotely on a hybrid basis. Remote work allows employees to work offsite for part of their regular work week. Remote work is a voluntary work alternative that may be appropriate for some employees and some jobs. It is not a guarantee or an entitlement and it in no way changes the terms and conditions of employment with LAFCo.

- 1) All remote work employees are expected to:
 - a) Maintain consistent work hours during LAFCo's hours of operation.
 - b) Establish a routine of periodic reports to the Executive Officer.
 - c) Be readily available for impromptu video, email, and phone conversations. Communicate effectively and be responsive to requests (whether by phone, e-mail, or video).
 - d) Maintain a dedicated home office environment free of distractions and background noise.
 - e) Devote 100% attention when working remotely as if you were in the office.
 - f) Store all work products on the LAFCo network and do not store them in any local storage of the home computer or laptop.
 - g) Report to LAFCo's offices and/or other work locations in person for meetings or other activities as required by the employee's manager.
 - h) Provide their own internet services that are secure and reliable.
 - i) Keep all equipment with proper IT security requirements.
 - j) Managers may require additional methods of communication and reporting to ensure employees are accessible and reliable.
 - k) Follow all requirements that would be expected if at the office including:
 - i) Dress code during video meetings.
 - ii) Anti-discrimination/Equal opportunity
 - iii) Follow all other parts of both the Personnel and Policy Handbooks
- 2) Working from a remote location adds challenges to effective communication, teamwork, and collaboration. The remote employee is responsible for ensuring effective communication and participation while working remotely and for ensuring that coworkers and the Executive Officer feel informed and confident about the work results being produced.

El Dorado LAFCo

5.8 Remote Work

LAFCO provides employees the privilege of working remotely when appropriate. LAFCO considers remote work to be a viable alternative work arrangement in cases where the employee and the employee's position are well-suited to working remotely on either a full-time or hybrid basis. Remote work allows employees to work offsite for all or part of their regular workweek. Remote work is a voluntary work alternative that may be appropriate for some employees and some jobs. It is not a guarantee or an entitlement and it in no way changes the terms and conditions of employment with LAFCO.

Procedure: All remote work employees are expected to:

Maintain consistent work hours during LAFCO's hours of operation. Any changes to an employee's schedule or availability must be approved by the Executive Officer. Employees should follow the applicable process for requesting and obtaining time off.

Establish a routine of periodic work plans and reports to your manager to establish goals and document results.

Be readily available for impromptu video, email and phone conversations. Communicate effectively and be responsive to requests (whether by phone, e-mail, or video).

Maintain a dedicated home office environment free of distractions and background noise.

Devote 100% of attention when working remotely as if you were in the office.

Store all work product on the LAFCO network and do not store it on any local storage of the home computer or laptop.

Report to LAFCO's offices and/or other work locations in person for meetings or other activities as required by the employee's manager.

Managers may require additional methods of communication and reporting to ensure employees are accessible and reliable.

Communication:

Working from a remote location adds challenges to effective communication, teamwork, and collaboration. The remote employee is responsible for ensuring effective communication and participation while working remotely and for ensuring that coworkers and the Executive Officer feel informed and confident about the work results being produced.

5.2 EMPLOYEE REMOTE WORK POLICY AND AGREEMENT

A. Overview

The intent of this policy is to establish a remote working agreement between employees and managers to work from a non-office location. A Remote Work Agreement (Appendix A) will be provided by LAFCO and signed by the employee and Executive Officer. Remote work employees should indicate their primary working address in a remote working agreement. This contract will also outline their responsibilities as remote employees.

B. Policy

To ensure that employee performance will not suffer in remote work arrangements, we advise our remote employees to:

- Choose a quiet and distraction-free working space.
- Have an internet connection that's adequate for their job.
- Dedicate their full attention to their job duties during working hours.
- Adhere to break and attendance schedules agreed upon with their manager.
- Ensure their schedules overlap with those of their other members for as long as is necessary to complete their job duties effectively.

Employees and managers should determine long-term and short-term goals. They should frequently meet (either online or in-person when possible) to discuss progress and results.

Compliance with Policies

Remote employees must follow LAFCO policies as if they were office-based colleagues. Examples of policies that all employees should abide by are:

- Attendance
- Social media
- Employee Code of Conduct
- Anti-discrimination/Equal opportunity
- Dress code when meeting public or partners
- Keep their equipment password protected.

NORTH MARIN WATER DISTRICT

POLICY: Telecommuting Policy

STAFF POLICY NUMBER: 35

Original Date: Month 2024

Last Revised: Month 2024

Last Reviewed:

Purpose

Telecommuting, also called “telework,” or performing work for one’s employer from home or a remote location, is becoming an increasingly desirable employment model. High-speed internet connections, smart phones, and innovative telecommunications equipment routinely facilitate off-site work. Allowing employees the freedom to perform their job in locations other than on District property can improve employee performance, productivity and morale; facilitate optimum utilization of District office and parking facilities; promote employee health and wellness; improve air quality and traffic congestion; improve employee recruitment and retention; enhance the working life and opportunities of persons with disabilities; and effectively continue business as part of a disaster recovery or emergency plan.

Therefore, the purpose of this policy is to: (1) encourage employees who desires to, their position allows, and they are able to work from home or another remote location on a regular basis to discuss the feasibility of such an arrangement with their immediate supervisors; (2) develop a uniform policy for employees who work remotely; and (3) ensure that all telecommuting arrangements are in full compliance with applicable laws governing workplace safety, employee rights and responsibilities, and District policies.

Eligibility

Only employees whose job duties can be performed away from the District’s office (or other primary work location) may be considered for participating in a telecommuting program. In addition, other criteria may be considered in determining whether to grant a specific request for telecommuting. These other criteria may include, but are not limited to:

- The operational needs of the District, including the employee’s ability to perform their job duties remotely (without diminishing the quantity or quality of the work performed) and whether the employee’s absence from the primary work location will disrupt the workflow of other employees.
- Length of employment at the District.
- Whether the employee’s past work performance has shown reliable and responsible performance of work duties over time as documented in their annual evaluation.
- The ability to monitor and measure the employee’s work performance if working remotely.
- Whether the employee can reliably provide an alternative workspace that is both functional and safe.
- Whether the employee can demonstrate full understanding of the requirements of this policy.

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- Other considerations deemed necessary and appropriate by the District, including tax and other legal implications of telecommuting.

Supervisors may use other reasonable criteria in addition to these examples.

The following types of tasks/duties are not suitable for regular telecommuting:

- Jobs that require specialized equipment.
- Jobs that focus on operating, maintaining, and/or inspecting District facilities or equipment.
- Jobs that require frequent face-to-face contact with customers, co-workers, or subordinate staff.
- Jobs that require resources located at the employee's primary work location and are of such a nature that they cannot easily be removed or taken home as they will negatively impact operations.

Employee participation in a telecommuting arrangement is voluntary and granted only at the discretion of the General Manager or designee. Telecommuting is not an employee right, but rather is available to those employees who work in positions wherein the District has determined it is beneficial and/or consistent with operational business need. The determination of an employee's ability to telecommute is exclusively at the District's discretion. Telecommuting may be modified or revoked by the District at any time. District has no obligation to allow one employee to telecommute merely because another employee who performs the same or similar job duties has been approved for telecommuting.

An employee may decline a suggestion to telecommute.

A request to telecommute may be initiated by either the employee or the employee's supervisor.

Work Schedule

All telecommuting work schedules are at management's discretion. Telecommunicating arrangements do not necessarily provide the employee with a flexible work schedule. The work schedule shall be consistent with the operational needs of the employee's work group and department and overall management of District.

Non-FLSA exempt (hourly) employees are required to perform work duties within an established schedule and shall adhere to scheduled rest and meal breaks. An employee authorized to telecommute may not alter their work schedule or work additional hours beyond their authorized hours without prior written authorization. FLSA exempt employees may be required to work core hours, as directed by the General Manager.

Telecommuters are required to spend a minimum number of workdays per week or per month at their primary onsite work location. Operational needs may also demand the presence of a

regularly telecommuting employee in the office on a regularly scheduled telecommute day, with or without advance notice. Such a requirement does not constitute call-back pay. The District shall not reimburse a telecommuting employee for mileage when an employee is required to report to the office. The District shall attempt to provide as much notice as possible to the telecommuting employee.

Telecommuters shall maintain regular contact with supervisors and co-workers while they are telecommuting. Unless granted express permission by the employee's immediate supervisor, employees shall expect to adhere to a regular workday schedule as if they were present in the office, and shall be in communication during those hours.

An employee who is authorized for telecommute shall use their working hours to perform District work. Telecommuting arrangements do not substitute for dependent care or the use of any leave accruals. Employees shall ensure dependent care requirements are addressed and arrangements are in place so as not to interfere with the employee's work. Employees are expected to adhere to the same call-out procedures, as outlined by their supervisor, as they would if they were not telecommuting.

Work done on behalf of the District at the telecommute site is considered official District business. Products, documents, and records used by/or developed while telecommuting shall remain the property of the District and are subject to District rules regarding confidentiality, disclosure, and records retention requirements.

Meetings at the Telework Site

Telecommuting employees are not permitted to conduct work-related meetings at their remote worksites. Meetings must be conducted either onsite or through teleconferencing. Absent express written authorization from the telecommuting employee's supervisor, no other District employee is permitted to conduct District business at the remote worksite.

Benefits and Compensation

All benefits and compensation will be based on the employee's position, with no distinction made between telecommuting and onsite employees. All applicable policies governing an employee's position shall continue to apply in the telecommuting program.

District Policies

Employees who telecommute are bound by all District policies as if they were working onsite or on District property. This includes policies governing appropriate conduct in the workplace and towards one's fellow employees, regardless of working location. Any employee who violates any of District's policies while telecommuting shall be subject to revocation of their telecommuting arrangement, in addition to any disciplinary measures that would be taken if the employee was working onsite.

Health and Safety

District is committed to ensuring a safe worksite in compliance with the rules and guidelines set forth by the Division of Occupational Safety and Health (Cal/OSHA). Employees who telecommute are responsible for designating one area in their home as the worksite. The

employee's direct supervisor or other designated manager shall review the applicable health and safety rules with the employee, and the employee must complete a Safety Checklist (Attachment B) and certify in writing that the worksite meets all of the requirements for a safe and healthy work environment. The employee must also certify in writing that, should any condition arise at the worksite so that the health and safety requirements are no longer met or if any other hazardous condition occurs, the employee will notify their supervisor immediately and cease working at the remote worksite until the condition has been remediated. The employee shall not be permitted to resume telecommuting from the remote worksite without the express authorization of their supervisor.

Management may request a Safety Checklist (Attachment B) and/or photos of the employee's remote worksite at any time. If the employee refuses such a request, they may not be allowed to continue telecommuting. Management reserves the right to refuse or rescind a telecommuting agreement based on the employee's failure to adhere to the guidelines, or if a supervisor or other manager makes the reasonable assessment that the employee's worksite poses a health or safety risk.

If an employee incurs an injury or illness in the course or scope of employment while telecommuting, Workers' Compensation laws apply. Employees must immediately notify their supervisor and complete all necessary paperwork as required by District.

Actions that the telecommuter may take during break periods from working and actions not directly related to the approved remote worksite are not covered under Workers' Compensation. These non-covered actions include, but are not limited to, all actions that the employee would not be able to perform in their District office, such as caring for children or pets, domestic tasks, yard work, retrieving the mail, cooking, exercising, and interacting with non-District employees for non-business purposes.

District shall in no instance be liable for injuries to third persons, including members of the telecommuting employee's family, who enter the employee's worksite or otherwise interact with the employee or use their home office equipment.

District understands that compliance with the health and safety provisions of this policy does not necessarily provide the reasonable accommodations required by employees with disabilities. Telecommuting employees with disabilities shall be entitled to the same rights and accommodations they would be entitled to under all applicable state and federal laws and District policy. Telecommuting may be provided as a reasonable accommodation, and such arrangement is addressed in a separate reasonable accommodation policy.

Performance Standards and Evaluation

An employee participating in a telecommuting arrangement is accountable under the same performance standards as employees working onsite. As in "regular" office assignments, supervisors and employees should discuss and understand what is expected to be produced during telecommuting hours and when assignments are due. Supervisors and employees should also arrange when and how to make contact with each other on telecommuting days. Employee performance must remain satisfactory, or above, to participate in the telecommuting program.

Business Expenses and Reimbursement

Expenses incurred as a result of telecommuting will not be reimbursed by District unless they are normally reimbursable pursuant to District policies, or pre-approved in advance at the sole discretion of the employee's supervisor. Such non-reimbursable expenses include, but are not limited to, utility costs, purchase of office equipment or furniture, and travel to and from the primary District worksite if required to be onsite.

Telecommuting employees may use District office equipment and supplies at any time, according to need. For example, a telecommuting employee is allowed to come to District's office to use printing and copying equipment, administrative assistance, or other office resources to which the employee would have access if he or she was working onsite. With the advance approval of the employee's supervisor, a telecommuting employee may be permitted to take District office supplies to their remote worksite to facilitate productivity. Such supplies may include printer paper, pens and pencils, or other miscellaneous office-related or ergonomic-related items. Employees using District-provided telecommuting equipment must be able to independently transport and set-up the equipment at their own telework site. All District policies and procedures involving District equipment apply to employees using District equipment at the remote worksite. The District will provide for repairs to District equipment through an authorized vendor. An employee may be subject to disciplinary action for damage caused by negligence, intentional damage or damage resulting from a power surge if no surge protector is used, or as a result of other negligent action. Employees should not remove any item from District property to use offsite without the express permission of their supervisor. Please note that the District will not provide for repairs to Non-District equipment even if it has been approved for use by the District.

Use of Personal Computers, Smart Phones and Other Technology

Telecommuting employees shall only use District approved computers when accessing District resources and files. Telecommuting employees using internet connections, smart phones and other technology are responsible for ensuring and certifying that they meet the same security standards as if they were using District technology. Those standards vary across departments, and it is the responsibility of the supervisor to discuss electronic security with the telecommuting employee and assess whether the employee's remote worksite ensures the level of security required by District and/or department. At the supervisor's discretion, the telecommuting employee may be required, as a condition of telecommuting, to establish a secure internet connection, install enhanced password protection or encryption software, keep confidential materials in a locked or otherwise secured location, restrict non-employees' (such as family members') usage of computers or smart phones used for District business, and any other measure required to maintain District's information security standards.

Any and all policies governing employee usage of District approved computers, internet connections and mobile devices shall apply to telecommuting employees when they are using their personal equipment in the course and scope of employment, and when they are using District technology at any time. Employees using District technology or conducting District business on personal devices have no expectation of privacy.

Equal Opportunity

This policy does not alter District's commitment to maintaining an equal opportunity, discrimination-free workplace. All District policies, as well as all state and federal laws, governing District's anti-discrimination policy apply uniformly to telecommuting and onsite employees.

Harassment-Free Workplace

This policy does not alter District's commitment to maintaining a harassment-free workplace. All District policies, as well as all state and federal laws, governing District's anti-harassment policy apply uniformly to telecommuting and onsite employees.

Any employee who feels he or she has been subjected to harassment in the course of performing District business should report the incident in accordance with District's anti-harassment policy. Investigations of alleged harassment shall be conducted in the same manner for telecommuters as for onsite employees, regardless of where the incident occurred.

Procedure

Employees who wish to telecommute are encouraged to contact their immediate supervisor to discuss the feasibility of such an arrangement and are required to complete a Telecommuting Agreement form (Attachment A).

All telecommuting arrangements are subject to ongoing review and may be revoked at any time. Nothing in this policy shall grant a telecommuting employee any rights they would not have if working onsite, nor shall it limit their rights under all applicable District policies and state and federal laws.

NORTH MARIN WATER DISTRICT**POLICY:** Telecommuting Policy – Telecommute Agreement**STAFF POLICY NUMBER: 35A**

Original Date: Month 2024

Last Revised:

Last Reviewed:

This Agreement specifies the conditions applicable to an arrangement for performing work at an approved alternate non-District workplace and incorporates herein, agreement to adhere to the provisions specified in the District's Telecommuting Policy. I understand that all obligations, responsibilities, terms, and conditions of employment with the District remain unchanged, except those obligations and responsibilities specifically addressed in this Agreement and within the District's Telecommuting Policy. I understand this Agreement does not provide an ability to alter/modify my hours of work without prior written authorization nor does it allow for overtime to be worked without advanced approval from my supervisor.

1. EMPLOYEE NAME (Last, First, Middle Initial)	
2. POSITION	3. SUPERVISOR
4. APPROVED ALTERNATIVE WORKSITE ADDRESS	
5. REGULAR APPROVED SCHEDULE	
<input type="checkbox"/> MONDAY	HOURS:
<input type="checkbox"/> TUESDAY	HOURS:
<input type="checkbox"/> WEDNESDAY	HOURS:
<input type="checkbox"/> THURSDAY	HOURS:
<input type="checkbox"/> FRIDAY	HOURS:
<input type="checkbox"/> SATURDAY	HOURS:
<input type="checkbox"/> SUNDAY	HOURS:
6. APPROVED TELECOMMUTE DAYS	
<input type="checkbox"/> MONDAY	<input type="checkbox"/> THURSDAY
<input type="checkbox"/> TUESDAY	<input type="checkbox"/> FRIDAY
<input type="checkbox"/> WEDNESDAY	<input type="checkbox"/> SATURDAY
	<input type="checkbox"/> SUNDAY
7. APPROVED TELECOMMUTE PERIOD	
START:	END:

8. EQUIPMENT/SUPPLIES

- | | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> LAPTOP | <input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT | <input type="checkbox"/> PERSONAL |
| <input type="checkbox"/> DESKTOP | <input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT | <input type="checkbox"/> PERSONAL |
| <input type="checkbox"/> MONITOR | <input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT | <input type="checkbox"/> PERSONAL |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ERGO EQUIPMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT | <input type="checkbox"/> PERSONAL |
| <input type="checkbox"/> KEYBOARD | <input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT | <input type="checkbox"/> PERSONAL |
| <input type="checkbox"/> MOUSE | <input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT | <input type="checkbox"/> PERSONAL |
| <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER: _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT | <input type="checkbox"/> PERSONAL |

9. AGREEMENTS

I agree with and understand the following:

- To remain accessible during designated work hours and understand that the District retains the right to modify or revoke this Agreement on a temporary or permanent basis.
- To use District-owned records, and materials for purposes of District business only, and to protect them against unauthorized or accidental access, use, modification, destruction, loss, theft, or disclosure.
- To report to the supervisor instances of loss, damage, or unauthorized access, use, destruction, loss, theft, or disclosure at the earliest opportunity.
- To return District equipment, records, and materials upon termination of this agreement.
- That all equipment, records, and materials provided by the District remain the property of the District and I am responsible for maintaining District equipment/materials entrusted to my care
- It is important to maintain a safe and secure working environment
- I am responsible for arranging the approved off-site workspace in an ergonomically sound manner.
- To report any work-related injuries to the supervisor at the earliest opportunity.
- To hold the District harmless for injury to others at the alternate workplace.
- Any costs and expenses arising from the conduct of District business in my personal home (e.g., electricity, heat, water, connectivity/computer related charges) is paid at the employee's expense.
- The District is not obligated to approve a proposal for a telecommuting agreement for any employee. The decision is at the sole discretion of the General Manager or designee.
- This agreement and work schedules are subject to ongoing review and may be subject to modification or termination at any time based on performance concerns or business needs.
- I am responsible for adhering to all District rules, policies, regulations, and laws.
- That I may have to come into the office on an assigned telecommute day with or without notice.
- I am responsible for the cost to travel/commute to the office.
- I shall not bring clients, customers, vendors, or other persons into my home/telecommuting location to conduct District business.
- I am required to follow regular call-out procedures and use my accrued leave balances if I am unable to work on a day or any portion of a day that I am scheduled to telecommute.
- All documents, including emails, correspondence, memos etc., that employee sees, sends, receives, reviews etc., while working for the District belong solely and exclusively to the District. When employee separates employment with the District, employee is required to return all such emails, correspondence, memos etc., with the District.

I hereby affirm by my signature that I have read this Teleworking Agreement, and understand, agree to and will abide by all of its provisions.

Employee Signature

Date

Supervisor Signature

Date

General Manager Signature

Date

NORTH MARIN WATER DISTRICT**POLICY:** Telecommuting Policy – Safety Checklist**STAFF POLICY NUMBER: 35B**

Original Date: May 2023

Last Revised: May 2023

Last Reviewed: May 2023

The following checklist is recommended for use by each teleworker in organizing an alternate Work site. The telecommuter should review this checklist with their supervisor prior to the start of telework, and they are encouraged to work together to ensure the safety of the alternate work site.

Work Site

- Telecommuter has a clearly defined workspace that is clean and orderly.
- The work area is adequately illuminated with efficient lighting.
- Exits are free of obstruction.
- All supplies and equipment are in good condition.
- Storage is organized to minimize risks of fire.
- All extension cords have grounding conductors.
- There are no frayed or exposed wiring or cords.
- Electrical enclosures have tight-fitting covers or plates.
- Surge protectors are used for electronic equipment, including computer or laptop.

Emergency Preparedness

- Emergency phone numbers are available and easily accessible.
- A first aid kit is easily accessible.
- Portable fire extinguishers are easily accessible and serviced as needed.

Ergonomics

- Desk, chair, computer, and other equipment are of appropriate design and arranged to eliminate strain on all parts of the body.

Work-Related Injuries/Illness

- In case of a work-related injury, keep this number handy: 415-761-8909 (HR/Safety Manager)
- Call your supervisor to notify of the injury
- Call 911 immediately in the event of a life-threatening injury.

Telecommuting

1018.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to provide an alternative method of meeting the administrative needs of the District.

1018.2 POLICY

Telecommuting is not a formal, universal employee benefit. The District has the right to refuse to make telecommuting available to an employee and to terminate a telecommuting arrangement at any time. Employees are not required to telecommuting. Employees have the right to refuse to telecommuting if the option is made available.

The District's policies for telecommuting are as follows:

1018.3 WORK HOURS AND COMPENSATION

The amount of time the employee is expected to work per day or pay period will not change as a result of participation in the telecommuting program.

The employee's compensation, benefits, work status and work responsibilities will not change due to participation in the telecommuting program.

1018.4 ELIGIBILITY

Successful telecommuters have the support of their supervisors. Employees will be selected based on the suitability of their jobs, an evaluation of the likelihood of their being successful telecommuters, and an evaluation of their supervisor's ability to manage remote workers.

1018.5 EQUIPMENT/TOOLS

The use of equipment, software and data supplies provided by the District for use at the remote work location is limited to authorized persons and for purposes relating to District business. The District will provide for repairs to District equipment. When the employee uses her/his own equipment, the employee is responsible for maintenance and repair of equipment.

1018.6 WORKSPACE

The employee shall designate a workspace within the remote work location for placement and installation of equipment to be used while telecommuting. The employee shall maintain this workspace in a safe condition, free from hazards and other dangers to the employee and equipment.

Any District materials taken home should be kept in the designated work area at home and not be made accessible to others.

The District has the right to make on-site visits (with 48 hours advance notice) to the remote work location for purposes of determining that the site is safe and free from hazards, and to maintain, repair, inspect, or retrieve District-owned equipment, software, data or supplies.

Tiburon Fire Protection District

Tiburon FPD Fire Policy Manual

Tiburon FPD Fire Policy Manual

Telecommuting

The employee's at-home work hours will conform to a schedule agreed upon by the employee and his or her supervisor. If such a schedule has not been agreed upon, the employee's work hours will be assumed to be the same as before the employee began telecommuting.

The District assumes no liability for injuries occurring in the employee's home workspace outside the agreed-upon work hours.

The District is not liable for loss, destruction, or injury that may occur in or to the employee's home. This includes family members, visitors, or others that may become injured within or around the employee's home.

1018.7 DEPENDENT CARE

Telecommuting is not a substitute for dependent care. Telecommuters will not be available during District core hours to provide dependent care.

1018.8 INCOME TAX

It will be the employee's responsibility to determine any income tax implications of maintaining a home office area. The District will not provide tax guidance nor will the District assume any additional tax liabilities. Employees are encouraged to consult with a qualified tax professional to discuss income tax implications.

1018.9 COMMUNICATION

Employees must be available by phone and email during core hours. All client interactions will be conducted on a client or District site. Participants will still be available for staff meetings, and other meetings deemed necessary by management.

1018.10 EVALUATION

The employee remains obligated to comply with all District rules, practices and instructions.