



1ST DRAFT

POLICY TITLE: Nepotism
POLICY NUMBER: 3126

3126.1 It is the policy of CVPCSD to seek for its staff the best possible candidates through appropriate search procedures. There shall be no bars to appointment of individuals who have close relatives in any staff category in the same or different departments so long as the following standard is met:

3126.1.1 No employee shall vote, make recommendations, or in any way participate in decisions about any personnel matter that may directly affect the selection, appointment, promotion, termination, other employment status, or interest of a close relative.

3126.1.1.1 For the purpose of this policy, "close relative" is defined as husband, wife, mother, father, son, daughter, sister, brother, father-in-law, mother-in-law, sister-in-law and brother-in-law.

3126.2 When an individual is considered for appointment in a department in which an immediate family member is already assigned, review of this fact shall be required at all appointing levels. The objective of this review shall be to assure equity to all members of the department.

3126.3 When an individual is considered for appointment in a department where a close relative has supervisory responsibility, the appointment shall not be granted.



1ST DRAFT

POLICY TITLE: Recruitment and Hiring

POLICY NUMBER: 3134

Recruitment:

3134.1 **Announcement:** All recruitments for classification vacancies within the District shall be publicized by such methods as the General Manager deems appropriate, consistent with District standards. Special recruiting shall be conducted, if necessary, to ensure that all segments of the community are aware of the forthcoming position(s). Announcements shall specify the title and compensation of the classification; the nature of the work to be performed delineating the essential and marginal functions of the job; the minimum qualifications for the classification; the manner of making application; the examination components if any; and other pertinent information.

3134.2 **Applications:** Every applicant shall file a formal, signed District employment application. Other methods of acceptable application due to an applicant's disability will be considered. Application forms shall require information covering training, experience, and other pertinent information as required by the General Manager. The General Manager may also require applicants to submit additional job related information.

3134.3 **Examinations:** Examinations for the establishment of an eligibility list for a particular position shall be competitive and by such character shall test and determine the qualifications, fitness, and ability of applicants to perform the essential functions of the classifications for which they seek appointment.

The examination may include an investigation of character, personality, education, experience, criminal history, credit bureau, drug & alcohol and any tests of intelligence, capacity, technical knowledge, manual skill, or job-related physical fitness that the General Manager deems appropriate.

The General Manager shall designate the procedure, time, place, and type of examination, the conditions under which it may be conducted, and the individual or competent agency who will conduct the examination. The District will make every reasonable effort to accommodate disabled applicants in the administration of employment tests in accordance with applicable law. Examinations may be promotional, open, or continuous as directed by the General Manager. In making a decision regarding the type of examination, the General Manager will consider the availability of qualified interested personnel in the District workforce, the possible Affirmative Action implications, and the need for expediency in filling the position.

3134.3.1 **Open/Promotional Examinations:** Any person who meets the requirements set forth in the open/promotional examination announcement may compete in open/promotional examinations. The General Manager may adopt and implement objective standards to initially screen applications in order to reduce the number of applicants to a manageable size.

3134.3.2 **Promotional Examinations:** Regular and non-regular employees, except temporary



1ST DRAFT

employees, who meet the requirements set forth in the promotional examination announcement may compete in a promotional examination announcement.

3132.3.3 Continuous Examinations. Continuous examinations may be administered periodically for a single classification. Names shall be placed on eligibility lists and shall remain on such lists as prescribed in Section 3134.4

3134.4 Eligibility Lists

3134.4.1 Establishment: As soon as possible after the completion of an examination, the General Manager shall prepare and maintain an eligibility list consisting of the names of the applicants or employees who qualified in the examination. The names on the list shall be in order based on each applicant's competitive score for the examination process, with the highest score being first on the list. Each applicant or employee shall be given notice of the results of his or her examination and ranking on the eligibility list.

Applicants on the eligibility list for a particular classification may be certified by the General Manager for consideration to hire for a classification in an equal or lower salary range in the event that an eligibility list for that classification does not exist, provided that the applicant is qualified. This may be done only with the approval of the General Manager. Applicants will not be removed from the eligibility list pursuant to Section 3134.4.3 if they refuse to accept employment in the lower classification.

3134.4.2 Duration of Lists: All eligibility lists shall remain in effect until exhausted or abolished by the General Manager for due cause. As a general policy, eligibility lists shall remain in effect for not more than one (1) year. Eligibility lists may remain in effect for more than one (1) year at the General Manager's discretion. The General Manager may abolish eligibility lists with three (3) names or less before the one (1) year expires.

3134.4.3 Removal of Names from Eligibility Lists: The General Manager may remove a name of any eligible candidate appearing on an eligibility list if:

- The eligible candidate requests that his or her name be removed;
- The eligible candidate fails to provide notification of a change in address;
- The eligible candidate fails to attend a scheduled interview;
- The eligible candidate declined an interview on two (2) occasions;
- The eligible candidate declined an offer of employment;
- The eligible candidate was on an eligibility list as a result of a promotional examination and has subsequently left District employment; or
- The eligible candidate was on a list for a specialized classification within one department of the District and was determined to be unsuitable by the department head.



1ST DRAFT

3134.4.4 Disqualification: At any point in the recruitment and selection process, the General Manager may refuse to declare an applicant an eligible candidate, or may withhold or withdraw from certification, prior to appointment by the General Manager, anyone who:

- Has failed to provide proof for any of the requirements established in the announcement for the classification for which he or she applied;
- Has been convicted of a felony of such a nature as to have an adverse effect on the candidate's ability to perform the duties of the position;
- Has a history of dismissal from any position in public or private service for any cause which would be a cause for dismissal from District employment;
- Has practiced or attempted to practice any deception or fraud in his or her application, examination, or in securing eligibility; or
- Is otherwise not qualified for employment with the District.

Hiring:

3134.5 Decisions regarding employment are based upon an individual's qualifications for the applicable position as described below.

3134.5.1 Vacancies: Employees of the District are encouraged to apply for any vacant positions for which they are qualified. The District awards vacant positions to the applicants who are best suited to meet the needs of the District, regardless of whether the applicant is a current District employee or not.

If a vacancy is awarded to a current regular employee, that employee shall serve a three (3) month probationary period in that position with continued benefits for health care, sick leave, vacation and comp time-off as appropriate. Within three (3) months of the move to the vacant position, the employee may return to their previous position with written notice to and approval by the General Manager, so long as the position has not been filled.

3134.5.2 Selection of employees. All persons considered for employment with the District shall be qualified to perform the duties of the position for which they are employed. Before reporting for their first day of work, employees may be required to undergo a medical examination and drug/alcohol testing, which confirms their ability to perform the essential functions of the job.

- a) Citizenship Verification: All employees must provide necessary documentation to prove identity and their right to work in the United States in accordance with Federal and State Immigration and Naturalization laws. Failure to provide such documentation will result in disqualification from selection or immediate termination.

3134.5.3 Probationary Period. The purpose of the probationary period is to give the District and the new employee the opportunity to determine whether employment relationship suits both parties. New employees may be eligible for health benefits under the Affordable Care Act after ninety (90) days of



1ST DRAFT

employment, if not enrolled in the District's health care coverage. During the probationary period, the District evaluates the employee's job performance, and it is expected that the employee will use this time period to determine whether the District employment is satisfactory to him or her. Generally, employee evaluations may be performed at three (3) months and/or six (6) months after the date of hire and shall be performed at the end of the twelve (12) month probationary period. The employee's supervisor will conduct a written performance evaluation to ascertain the advisability of continued employment on a regular basis. However, written evaluations may be done at any time during the probationary period if determined to be necessary by the Supervisor or the General Manager.

Regardless of whether the supervisor completes a written performance evaluation, probationary employees are at-will and the District retains the right to terminate employment with or without cause, during the probationary period, in accordance with California law. Similarly, the probationary employee can end his or her employment at any time with at least two (2) weeks' written notice.

New employees hired for regular positions serve a probationary period of twelve (12) months, commencing with their first day of employment. The General Manager, in conjunction with the employee's supervisor, may extend the probationary period one or more times if it is determined that such an extension is appropriate. The status of regular employment following the probationary period shall only occur after a successful evaluation has taken place, and only if confirmed in writing by the District.



1ST DRAFT

POLICY TITLE: Unlawful Harassment
POLICY NUMBER: 3140

3140.1 Harassment and discrimination in employment on the basis of sex, race, color, national origin, ancestry, citizenship, religion (including religious dress and grooming practices), age (40 and over), physical or mental disability, medical condition, sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression, veteran status, marital status, registered domestic partner status, genetic information, or any other protected basis is prohibited by federal and state law. The District does not tolerate unlawful discrimination or harassment in the workplace or in a work-related situation. Unlawful discrimination and harassment is a violation of these Guidelines. Section 3140 shall also include and apply to members of the District Board of Directors, independent contractors, unpaid interns, volunteers, persons providing services to the District pursuant to a contract, and other persons with whom District employees may come into contact while working.

3140.2 Unlawful harassment in employment may take many forms. Some examples include, but are not limited to:

- Verbal conduct such as epithets, derogatory comments, slurs, or unwanted comments and jokes;
- Visual conduct such as derogatory posters, cartoons, drawings, or gestures;
- Physical conduct such as blocking normal movement, restraining, unwanted touching, or otherwise physically interfering with work of another individual;
- Threatening or demanding that an individual submit to certain conduct or to perform certain actions in order to keep or get a job, to avoid some other loss, or as a condition of job benefits, security, or promotion; and
- Retaliation by any of the above means for having reported harassment or discrimination, or having assisted another employee to report harassment or discrimination.
- Communication via electronic media of any type that includes any conduct that is prohibited by state and/or federal law or by District policy.

Please note that prohibited harassment is not just sexual harassment but harassment based on any protected category.

3140.3 Sexual harassment under state and federal laws is defined as unwelcomed sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature when:

- Submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly as a term or condition of an individual's employment;
- Submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for employment decisions affecting such individual;
- Such conduct has the purpose or effect of substantially interfering with a person's work performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive work environment; or adversely
- affected the employee's performance, appraisal, assigned duties, or any other condition of employment or career development; or
- Such conduct is offered in order to receive special treatment or in exchange for or in consideration of any personal action.

3140.4 Prohibited acts of sexual harassment can take a variety of forms ranging from unwanted verbal or physical actions from subtle pressure for sexual activity to physical assault. Sexual harassment conduct need not be motivated by sexual desire to be unlawful or to violate this policy. For example, hostile acts toward an employee because of his/her gender can amount to sexual harassment, regardless of whether the treatment is motivated by sexual desire.

Examples of the kinds of conduct included in the definition of sexual harassment are:

3140.4.1 Direct or indirect threats or suggestions of sexual relations or sexual contact which is not freely or mutually agreeable to both parties.



1ST DRAFT

3140.4.2 Continual or repeated verbal abuses of a sexual nature including graphic commentaries on the person's body; sexually suggestive objects or pictures placed in the work area that may embarrass or offend the person, sexually degrading words to describe the person, or propositions of a sexual nature.

3140.4.3 The following is a list of some, but not all, actions employees are to avoid that could be interpreted as sexual harassment:

- Unwelcome sexual advances and propositions;
- Offensive flirtations with sexual overtones;
- Sexual innuendo;
- Obscene and suggestive comments;
- Humor or jokes about sex or gender specific traits;
- Sexual or graphic comments about an individual's body, dress, or overall appearance; or
- Sexually suggestive or explicit graffiti, illustrations, visual or printed material in the workplace, including inappropriate emails, internet sites, and social media postings.

3140.5 Abusive conduct or workplace bullying of the District's employees, by any person in or from the work environment, is strictly prohibited. Abusive conduct or workplace bullying is the conduct of any employer or employee in the workplace, with malice, that a reasonable person would find hostile, offensive, and unrelated to an employer's legitimate business interest. Abusive conduct or workplace bullying includes, but is not limited to:

- Repeated infliction of verbal abuse;
- Derogatory remarks, insults, epithets;
- Verbal or physical conduct that a reasonable person would find threatening, intimidating, or humiliating; or
- Gratuitous sabotage or undermining of a person's work performance.

3140.6 Policy Publicizing. All employees shall be informed of the District's unlawful harassment policy and complaint process prior to their need to know, and again when any complaint is filed. Also, said policy and complaint process shall be readily available to all employees and members of the general public utilizing the District's facilities and services.

3140.6.1 All new employees shall be given a copy of the sexual harassment policy at the time of hiring and said policy's contents shall be discussed with said employee at that time by the division manager within whose division they will be working.

3140.6.2 An annual bulletin may also be prepared and distributed to all employees informing them of the District's sexual harassment policy.

3140.7 Complaint Process. Any employee who believes he or she is the victim of unlawful harassment, abusive conduct, or discrimination on any prohibited basis, or who has observed such conduct, or believes he or she is subject to retaliation ("Unlawful Harassment") may file a formal or informal confidential complaint without fear of reprisal or embarrassment.

3140.7.1 An informal complaint is made verbally by the employee to the immediate supervisor and/or HR Manager/Personnel Manager. Although filing the complaint with the immediate supervisor is preferred, the employee is free to file a complaint with any supervisory employee.

3140.7.2 A formal complaint is made in writing using the "Employee Grievance Form," see "Appendix A" in Policy #3120. Said form should be submitted by the employee to their immediate supervisor and/or HR/Personnel Manager. Although submitting the formal complaint with the immediate supervisor and/or HR/Personnel Manager is



1ST DRAFT

preferred, the employee is free to submit a formal complaint with any supervisory employee, including the General Manager, or with the President of the Board of Directors, if the employee's immediate supervisor is the General Manager and the General Manager is unavailable or personally involved in said complaint.

3140.8 Complaint Response Process. Any supervisory employee who receives a formal or informal Unlawful Harassment complaint shall maintain the confidentiality of the complainant to the extent possible and shall personally deliver said complaint immediately and directly to the division manager, or to the General Manager if the division manager is unavailable or personally involved in said complaint. If the General Manager is unavailable or personally involved in said complaint then said complaint shall be delivered to the President of the Board of Directors.

3140.8.1 After a formal or informal complaint is received, an impartial investigation shall be conducted by the manager of the division, the General Manager, the HR/Personnel Manager, or another impartial investigator within a timely manner.

3140.8.2 A written record of any investigation of an alleged Unlawful Harassment complaint shall be maintained. Findings will be sent to the General Manager. The General Manager shall immediately inform, in total confidentiality, the Personnel Committee of the Board if one exists or the entire Board of Directors. If the General Manager is personally involved in the complaint, such findings will instead be provided directly to the Personnel Committee of the Board if one exists or to the entire Board of Directors to determine options and/or remedial action, if appropriate.

3140.8.3 All discussions resulting from said investigation shall be kept confidential to the extent possible by all informed of said investigation.

3140.8.4 The person initiating the complaint has the right to be accompanied by an advocate(s) when discussing alleged incidents. Said person shall be advised of this right prior to the commencement of such discussions. Said advocate may support and/or represent the complainant but should not interfere with the integrity of the investigation or the investigatory process.

3140.9 Disciplinary Procedures and Sanctions. If upon the conclusion of the investigation of the alleged Unlawful Harassment claim, the investigator determines that harassment, discrimination, retaliation, or other prohibited conduct has occurred, appropriate corrective and remedial action shall be taken by the General Manager/Board of Directors against the harasser in accordance with the circumstances involved. The District will also take appropriate action to deter future misconduct. Any employee determined by the District to be responsible for harassment, discrimination, retaliation, or other prohibited conduct will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action, up to, and including, termination. Employees should also know that if they engage in unlawful harassment, they can be held personally liable for the misconduct.

3140.10 Retaliation. Retaliation against any individual for making a report, or for participating in an investigation, under this policy is strictly prohibited. Individuals are protected by law and by District policy from retaliation for opposing unlawful discriminatory practices, for filing an internal complaint under this policy or for filing a complaint with the California Department of Fair Employment and Housing ("DFEH") or Federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission ("EEOC"), or for otherwise participating in any proceedings conducted by the District under this policy or by either of these agencies.

3140.11 Employee should also be aware that the EEOC and the DFEH investigate and prosecute complaints of prohibited harassment, discrimination, and retaliation in employment. Information is available at www.eeoc.gov and www.dfeh.ca.gov.



1ST DRAFT

POLICY TITLE: Whistleblowing Policy
POLICY NUMBER: 3142

3142.1 It is the policy of CVPCSD that its employees should be free to report violations of law, abuse of authority, fraud, economic waste, or gross misconduct, incompetence or inefficiency without fear of retaliation or retribution. This policy is based on a finding that the CVPCSD best serves itself and its membership when it can be candid and honest without reservation in conducting the business of the CVPCSD.

The CVPCSD prohibits retaliation by employees, Board members or volunteers against any staff member, Board member or volunteer for making good faith complaints, reports or inquiries regarding illegal or improper activities under this policy to the CVPCSD or any law enforcement agency, or for participating in a review or investigation of any such complaints under this policy. This protection extends to those whose allegations are made in good faith, but prove to be mistaken. The CVPCSD reserves the right to discipline persons who make bad faith, knowingly false, or vexatious complaints or reports regarding alleged illegal or improper activities, or who otherwise abuse this policy.

Therefore, the purpose of this policy is to: (1) encourage staff, Board members and volunteers to report to the CVPCSD any credible information in their possession regarding illegal or improper activities and/or retaliation as defined herein, including violations of the CVPCSD's policies, promptly to those members of the CVPCSD specified in this policy; and (2) prohibit the CVPCSD's Board of Directors, Chief Executive Officer (General Manager) and supervising employees from retaliating against any employee who reports illegal or improper activities to the CVPCSD or law enforcement agencies as provided herein; and (3) specify a procedure by which information regarding illegal or improper activities or retaliation by members of the Board of Directors or employees can be reported to the CVPCSD and investigated; and (4) provide a hearing process to any employee or Board member who has filed a written complaint with the CVPCSD alleging actual or attempted acts of retaliation in response to having made a protected disclosure to the CVPCSD or law enforcement protected by this policy.

3142.2 Definitions:

- a) "Illegal Order" means a directive to violate or assist in violating a federal, state or local law, rule or regulation, or an order to an employee to work or cause others to work in conditions outside of their scope of duty that could unreasonably threaten the health and safety of employees or the public.
- b) "Illegal or Improper Activity" means an activity by a member of the Board of Directors, an employee, or a volunteer of the CVPCSD that is undertaken in the performance of that person's duties that is either: (1) a violation of any state or federal law or regulation including, but not limited to, corruption, malfeasance, bribery, theft of property, fraud, coercion, conversion, abuse of property or willful omission to perform a duty; or (2) violates CVPCSD policies, is economically wasteful, or involves gross misconduct, incompetence, or inefficiency. Illegal or Improper Activity includes alleged financial, accounting or audit improprieties and alleged ethical violations by employees or Board members
- c) "Protected Disclosure" means a good faith communication from an employee or Board member of the CVPCSD to the CVPCSD or law enforcement agencies that discloses information that may be evidence of Illegal or Improper Activity.
- d) "Retaliation" means an employee or director using or attempting to use his or her official authority or influence over an employee to intimidate, threaten, or coerce any employee in order to interfere with the



1ST DRAFT

rights of employees to freely report Illegal or Improper Activity to the CVPCSD or a law enforcement agency. Retaliation includes, but is not limited to, promising to confer, or conferring any benefit; affecting or threatening to affect any reprisal; or taking or directing others to take, recommend, or approve any personnel action against an employee making a Protected Disclosure including, but not limited to, demotion, transfer, assignment, performance evaluation, suspension, or other disciplinary action including termination.

3142.3 Encouragement of reporting of illegal or improper activity: CVPCSD encourages employees and members of the Board to file complaints or reports about Illegal Orders or Illegal or Improper Activity or alleged Retaliation with the General Manager. All such complaints shall include specific facts supporting any allegation of Illegal or Improper Activity, or Retaliation, as defined by this policy. Complaints of Illegal or Improper Activity or Retaliation may be made anonymously, but such anonymity may impede the ability of the DISTRICT to conduct a thorough investigation. If the General Manager is alleged to be involved in the complaint or report, then such complaint shall be filed with the President of the Board of Directors. If the President of the Board is also alleged to be involved in the complaint, then the complaint or report shall be filed with the CVPCSD's General Counsel.

Other allegations with respect to which the CVPCSD has existing complaint, grievance or appeal procedures as specified in the DISTRICT's policies should be addressed pursuant to those procedures, such as issues of alleged discrimination or harassment which are processed by the CVPCSD's human resources department.

This policy is not intended to provide a procedure for the filing of employee or Board member complaints regarding any employment issues other than whistleblowing activities and protection of employees from Retaliation for making Protected Disclosures.

3142.4 Investigations of Allegations of Illegal or Improper Activity: The General Manager may request that a person submitting a complaint alleging Illegal or Improper Activity provide his or her name and contact information and provide the names and contact information for any persons who could help substantiate the claim. However, this information is not required in order to submit a complaint.

Upon receiving a complaint from any employee or member of the Board that an employee or Board member has engaged in an Illegal or Improper Activity, the General Manager will conduct an investigation of the allegations in the complaint. The identity of the person filing the complaint, or of any person providing information in confidence regarding the facts in the complaint shall not be disclosed without the express permission of the person providing the information. However, the General Manager may disclose the facts in the complaint to a law enforcement agency in the event that an allegation of criminal conduct is contained in the complaint filed with the CVPCSD.

The General Manager may request the assistance of CVPCSD General Counsel and/or any outside consultant for assistance in evaluating an allegation of Illegal or Improper Activity or conducting an investigation of Illegal or Improper Activity as authorized by this policy. The General Manager shall investigate the allegations in the complaint and prepare a report of the results of the investigation within sixty (60) days of the date of the complaint.

If, upon completion of the investigation, the General Manager finds that an employee or Board member may have engaged or participated in an Illegal or Improper Activity, the General Manager shall make such findings in the investigative report and include recommended actions to prevent the continuation or recurrence of the Illegal or Improper Activity. Such recommendations may include taking disciplinary action against those employees found to have violated this policy, which action may be taken by the General Manager. The investigative report may also recommend imposing sanctions, including loss of office, on those Board members found to have violated this policy. In that event the report shall be filed with the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors which shall comply with the policies of the CVPCSD in initiating discipline against a member of the Board of Directors. The CVPCSD shall keep confidential all investigation work product including the investigative report.



1ST DRAFT

3142.5 Complaints of Retaliation and Investigation. An employee or volunteer who believes he or she has been subjected to Retaliation as defined and prohibited by this policy shall file a written complaint with the General Manager which specifies the alleged retaliatory conduct and identifies the individuals allegedly engaged in such conduct.

Upon receipt of the complaint the General Manager shall commence an investigation of the allegations contained in the complaint of Retaliation, which shall include interviews of the complainant and any potential witnesses. The General Manager may utilize the services of CVPCSD General Counsel and/or other consultants in conducting such investigation and preparing an investigation report. A written investigation report regarding the alleged Retaliation shall be completed within thirty (30) days of receipt of a complaint of Retaliation.

Based on the investigation, the General Manager shall make a determination as to whether Retaliation occurred in violation of this policy and, if so, what steps should be taken to remedy the situation. The General Manager's decision shall be communicated to the complaining employee. In making his or her determination, if it is alleged that improper disciplinary action was taken against the complaining employee in Retaliation for having made a Protected Disclosure, the General Manager shall consider whether the taking or failing to take any personnel action with respect to an employee who has complained of Retaliation is justified on the basis of evidence separate and apart from the fact that the person has made a Protected Disclosure, such as inadequate job performance. If the evidence in the investigation reveals that a Protected Disclosure was a contributing factor in the alleged Retaliation against a former or current employee, the burden of proof shall be on the supervisor or other employee imposing the discipline to demonstrate by clear and convincing evidence that the alleged personnel action would have occurred for legitimate, independent reasons even if the complaining employee had not engaged in Protected Disclosures of Illegal or Improper Activity.

The investigation report of the alleged Retaliation prepared by the General Manager shall include a written decision as to whether this policy has been violated. If the investigation report concludes that this policy has not been violated and the complaining employee disagrees with the determination of the General Manager, the complaining employee may appeal in writing the decision to the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors. That appeal must be filed within ten (10) business days of receipt of the investigation report and decision of the General Manager.

If an appeal is filed, the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors shall conduct a hearing of the complaining employee's appeal and hear and receive all evidence submitted by the complaining employee. In hearing the appeal, the Executive Committee may take evidence, and hear testimony from the complaining employee and other witnesses. The Executive Committee shall consider whether an activity protected by this policy was a contributing factor in the alleged Retaliation against the complaining employee and if the alleged retaliatory action could have occurred for legitimate, independent business reasons even if the complaining employee had not made Protected Disclosures. The Executive Committee shall render a final decision in writing to the complaining employee within thirty (30) days after completing the hearing which concludes whether Retaliation prohibited by this policy has occurred or not. If the Executive Committee finds that the provisions of this policy have been violated, it shall order that any personnel action taken against the complaining employee be reversed and that a memorandum be placed in the employee's personnel file indicating the results of the decision of the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors on appeal.

A complaining employee shall be required to exhaust his or her administrative remedies by filing an appeal with the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors regarding any alleged violation of this policy before being entitled to commence a civil action in the Superior Court.



1ST DRAFT

POLICY TITLE: Compensation
POLICY NUMBER: 3415

3415.1 This policy shall apply to all District employees.

3415.2 Compensation at Hiring.

3415.2.1 New Employees. All newly appointed employees shall be paid at the first step of the salary range for the position to which the employee is appointed except as provided elsewhere herein.

3415.2.2 Advanced Step Hiring. If the General Manager [or PERSONNEL DIRECTOR, etc.] finds that qualified applicants cannot be successfully recruited at the first step of the wage range, he/she may request the Board of Directors to authorize an appointment at an advanced step of the wage range.

3415.2.3 Former Employees. A person who previously held a full-time position from which the person was separated in good standing may, when re-employed in a position with the same or lower pay range than held at separation, be appointed at the same salary rate which was paid at the effective date of the person's termination, or the nearest lower applicable step for the range to which the person is appointed, provided such re-employment occurs within twelve (12) months from the date of said termination.

3415.3 Merit Advancement within Range.

3415.3.1 Performance Evaluation Required. The General Manager [or PERSONNEL DIRECTOR or other responsible managing employee] shall authorize a merit advancement within the salary range only after evaluating the employee's performance and determining that it is satisfactory. This determination shall be noted on a performance evaluation form to be placed in the employee's file, with a copy given to the employee.

3415.3.2 Period of Employment Required for Merit Advancement. Unless otherwise specified herein, each employee shall, in addition to receiving a satisfactory performance evaluation, complete the following required time of employment to be eligible to receive a merit increase:

3415.3.2.1 New Employees. A person hired as a new employee shall have a merit advancement date which is aligned to the adopted salary schedule.

3415.3.2.2 Promotion or Demotion. An employee who is promoted or demoted shall have a new merit advancement date which shall be one year from the date of promotion or demotion.



1ST DRAFT

3415.3.2.3 Voluntary Demotion. An employee who voluntarily demotes to a position at a lower salary range shall have no change in merit advancement date.

3415.3.2.4 Change-in-Range Allocation. If the salary range for an employee's position is changed, the employee's merit advancement date shall not change.

3415.3.2.5 Position Reclassification. An employee whose position is reclassified to a position having the same or lower salary range shall have no change in merit advancement date. An employee whose position is reclassified to a position having a higher salary range shall have a new merit advancement date which is one year following the effective date of the position reclassification.

3415.3.2.6 Non-Merit Step Adjustments. An employee whose salary step is adjusted to a higher step for reasons other than regular merit advancement shall have a new merit advancement date effective one year from the date of said adjustment.

3415.3.3 Effective Date. An employee's merit increase shall take place on the first day of the pay period in which his/her merit advancement date falls. The General Manager [or PERSONNEL DIRECTOR, etc.] may delay authorizing the merit advancement up to 90 days beyond the employee's merit advancement date without affecting the normal merit advancement date. In case of such a delay, the employee's merit advancement shall be effective the first day of the pay period following the General Manager's [or PERSONNEL DIRECTOR or other responsible managing employee] authorization. If authorization for merit advancement is delayed beyond 90 days from the employee's merit advancement date, the employee shall not be eligible for a merit increase until his/her next normal merit advancement date.

3415.4 Promotion. Employees promoted to a position with a higher salary range may be paid either at the minimum rate of the new range or at the nearest higher rate that the employee would otherwise be entitled to on the date the promotion is effective, whichever is greater, provided that an employee promoted to a salary range in excess of one range above his/her former range shall receive no less than one range increase [or 3%.], at the same step, in rate.