

Section 10.0 TRAVEL, MEETINGS AND EDUCATION AUTHORIZATIONS

It shall be the practice of the District to reimburse expenses incurred by officials, officers, and employees of the District when expenses are incurred while on authorized travel, meetings and educational events for District business. The allowances and amounts advanced to persons traveling or meeting on official business shall be established on the basis of specific guidelines set forth below. Administrative procedures are to be amended to conform to the guidelines of this policy.

Advances and/or reimbursements for authorized travel and meetings shall be made by the Manager upon receipt of a properly completed and approved travel and meeting authorization form unless waived in writing by the Manager and/or the Board of Directors.

Travel and meeting authorization forms are available upon request. Department Heads or supervisors shall exercise reasonable effort to complete and submit authorized travel and meeting authorization forms for warrant issuance on a timeline conducive to the payment processing schedule as established by the Manager.

Requests for advances and/or reimbursements for District travel, meetings and education shall be in accordance with the procedures and requirements as noted below:

1. Travel, Meeting and Education Authorization/Expense Reconciliation

Travel on official business which exceeds a cost, actual or estimated, of \$200 or calls for an overnight stay requires the completion of the District's Travel and Meeting Authorization Form and approval by the employee's immediate supervisor and/or the General Manager. When a District vehicle is used, the cost of such use, using the current mileage rate, shall be included in determining the total cost. Travel which exceeds \$2,500 or provides for out of state travel must be submitted on a Travel and Meeting Authorization Form to the Manager for approval prior to incurring any expenses: Payment may be advanced to the traveler based upon estimated costs as detailed on the Travel and Meeting Authorization Form. Within five (5) days of return, the Travel and Meeting Authorization Form shall be completed and submitted to the Manager wherein

actual travel expenses, including amounts advanced, must be reconciled on the Travel and Meeting Authorization Form.

A Department Head and/or the Manager may exercise his/her own discretion, regardless of the length of stay, as to whether an employee receives a per diem per subsection 4 below or receives an 'advance' for itemized expenses per subsection 5 below.

However, in all cases, if any amounts paid in advance for transportation, lodging, and registration, etc. wherein overpayments occur and are refunded directly to the employee, the employee must turn over such amounts to the District.

2. Transportation

a. Commercial Carrier

Air travel for District officials and employees shall be authorized and reimbursed at the lowest possible fare class with a major air carrier. Air travel other than the lowest possible fare class will be authorized ONLY when scheduling does not permit the use of the lowest possible fare class of flight, or when the flight is four (4) hours duration or more.

District officials and employees shall endeavor to book air travel to take advantage of discounts offered for purchasing flight tickets in advance of departure; i.e. 14 or 21 days and take advantage of non-refundable ticket fares where practical.

Transportation costs for commercial carriers shall be paid by the District directly and separately whenever practical. Round trip tickets shall normally be purchased whenever commercial carriers are used. Travel expenses of a family member of an official or an employee are not eligible for payment by the District. Travel arrangements and payment of costs for family members are to be handled directly by the employee.

b. Personal Vehicles

The use of personal vehicles, when approved as a mode of travel to and from destinations, will be reimbursed at the established mileage rate. When a commercial carrier is used, a traveler will be reimbursed for personal vehicle mileage to and from the airport and the actual cost of airport parking regardless of airport location.

(1) Travel in San Luis Obispo County

Employees receiving monthly auto allowances shall not, except under special circumstances as authorized by the Manager, be eligible to use a District vehicle or receive mileage reimbursement for use of personal vehicles when travel is within San Luis Obispo County.

(2) Travel Outside San Luis Obispo County

The use of personal vehicles on District authorized business outside San Luis Obispo County will be reimbursed at the authorized mileage rate for all District officials and employees. Payment of mileage will be based upon the most direct route from point of departure to point of destination. A District official or employee may leave from his/her home for a meeting, conference, seminar or training session. However, the mileage from home to the destination should not exceed the mileage from District offices to the destination.

3. Lodging

Hotel accommodations should be arranged directly by the District, not traveler. Receipts for lodging must be attached to the Travel and Meeting Authorization Form in order to obtain reimbursement. Hotel expenses for District officials and employees only will be reimbursed at the single occupancy rate. Room movies and other miscellaneous, such as alcoholic beverages are not eligible for reimbursement including room service meals if a per diem has been provided.

4. Per Diem

Each person traveling on official District business, which includes an overnight stay, may (1) receive a per diem for meals, taxes, gratuities, and incidental expenses equal to \$75.00 if travel time is 4 hours or more per day provided that receipts are submitted to the District. If the amount shown on the receipts is less than \$75 the difference is considered taxable income; or (2) receive a per diem equal to the IRS regional allowance, in which case no receipts are required, and the full amount is non-taxable.

Meals and food charged to a motel/hotel room via room service shall be counted on the final reconciliation of the Travel and Meeting Authorization Form towards the per diem. Per diem shall be paid for travel days just prior and just after the event. One-half of the daily rate shall be paid if the distance to the event is less than 275 miles except that if the event ends later than 3:00 p.m. a full day per diem may be paid. A full day per diem shall be paid if the one-way distance is greater than 250 miles. Expense reimbursement for amounts over the per diem amount must include receipts for all expenses.

5. Itemizing Expenses

If travel encompasses not more than a single day, the traveler shall itemize the expenses incurred for reimbursement. Upon return, supporting documents such as receipts or paid invoices must be submitted on the Travel and Meeting Authorization Form. In the case of overnight travel, the traveler may claim actual expenses rather than per diem. However, all receipts or paid invoices must be submitted with the Travel and Meeting Authorization Form in order to be reimbursed.

6. Registration Fee

Registration fees charged for any authorized convention, conference, seminar or meetings are reimbursable and should be paid in advance. Effort should be made to pay registration fees directly by the District.

7. Taxi, Car Rental, Shuttle Service and Parking

Expenses incurred for car rental and limousine service will not be reimbursed unless authorization is received from the Manager prior to the travel. Whenever possible, District officials and employees should utilize hotel courtesy buses or local shuttle services. Whenever possible, hotel accommodations should be within easy access to the functions for which the travel was authorized. Taxi service should be used only when no other convenient, less costly transportation is available. Expenses for parking shall be reimbursed in addition to any other allowances paid to the traveler. Effort should be made to pay any transportation fees directly by the District.

8. District Merchant Cards

Merchant card receipts for all charges on the credit cards shall be attached to the final reconciled Travel and Meeting Authorization Form submitted to the Manager.

Fuel credit cards issued to the District may only be used to purchase fuel, diesel exhaust fluid (DEF) and oil in a District owned vehicles. Use of District fuel credit cards for personal vehicles is strictly prohibited, regardless of whether or not the use of the personal vehicle was for authorized District business.

9. Mileage Rate

The mileage rate for personal vehicle use shall be determined each January 1st by the Manager. The mileage rate shall be equal to the mileage rate allowance as set by the Internal Revenue Service for business use of a vehicle as confirmed by the Manager.

10. Miscellaneous Meetings

Miscellaneous meetings wherein food, beverages, and related sundries are provided either on-site or at a dining establishment may be paid and/or reimbursed by District when required for official business. Payment and/or reimbursement may be made via; petty cash, merchant card, vendor charge account, purchase order, warrant request or Travel and Meeting Authorization Form.

In all cases, the payment and/or reimbursement request shall be accompanied by a receipt or other documentation and in the case of the use of a merchant card, the customer copy of the merchant card charge slip. The receipt and/or payment request should clearly identify the purpose of the meeting, the general attendees (i.e. lunch with auditors) and the budgetary account number. A Travel and Meeting Authorization Form need only be utilized when the cost of an individual, miscellaneous meeting exceeds \$200.

11. Discretion

These procedures do not claim to have addressed all contingencies and conditions. Any necessary and reasonable expenses that may from time-to-time be justified due to circumstances or opportunities for the District will be honored upon approval by the Manager in the form of reimbursements to the traveler and upon adequate documentation and justification.