



**To:** Board of Directors  
**From:** Edward Miller, President of the Board  
**Date:** June 18, 2019  
**Subject:** Changes and/or Additions to District Policy

Background:

Earlier this month, I received information from North Tahoe Fire regarding a proposed new policy entitled "Legislative Advocacy" (attached). They asked if Meeks Bay Fire would like to be included in the body of the policy. As you will see, it only pertains to North Tahoe Fire.

I requested this be placed on the agenda because I believe any policy additions or changes should be discussed by the Board.

Recommendation:

Include Meeks Bay Fire Protection District in Policy 104 allowing the Fire Chief or other designee, the flexibility to adopt positions on legislation in a timely manner.

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## Legislative Advocacy

### 104.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of the policy is to guide NTFPD officials and staff in considering legislative and regulatory proposals that are likely to have an impact on the District and to allow the Fire Chief, or other designee, the flexibility to adopt positions on legislation in a timely manner. Although the expenditure of public funds for the purpose of supporting or opposing a ballot measure or candidate is prohibited[1], the expenditure of public funds is allowed to advocate for or against proposed legislation or regulatory actions, which will affect expending the public funds.[2]

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[1] Cal. Gov. Code 54964

[2] Cal. Gov Code 53060.5; Stanson v Mott (1976) 17 Cal. 3<sup>rd</sup> 206

### 104.2 POLICY GOALS

- Advocate the District's legislative interests at the State, County and Federal levels.
- Inform and provide information to the Board of Directors and District staff on the legislative process and key issues and legislation that could have impact on the District.
- Serve as an active participant with other local governments and local government associations on legislative and regulatory issues that are important to the District and the region.

### 104.3 PROCEDURES

It is the policy of NTFPD to proactively monitor and advocate for legislation as directed by the Fire Chief.

- The Fire Chief, or other designee, shall review legislation to determine if the legislation aligns with the District's interest.
- If the legislation is of interest, the Fire Chief could direct a response in the form of a letter, phone call, or email to the legislative body reviewing the bill or measure.
- The response to draft legislation shall state whether the District "supports", "supports if amended", "opposes", or "opposes unless amended". If possible, the letter should include examples of how a bill would specifically affect the District.
- When a letter is sent to a state or federal legislative body, the appropriate legislators representing NTFPD shall be included as a copy or "cc" on the letter. The appropriate contacts at local government associations could also be "cc'd" with the approval of the Fire Chief.