

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-02

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
THE MORONGO VALLEY COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT
ESTABLISHING POLICIES FOR ITS RELATIONS
AMONG DIRECTORS AND WITH STAFF**

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of the Morongo Valley Community Services District finds as follows:

A. The Morongo Valley Community Services District (“the District”) is a community services district organized and operating pursuant to California Government Code Section 61000 et seq.

B. The District is governed by an elected Board of Directors (“the Board”) whose meetings are subject to the requirements of the Ralph M. Brown Act, California Government Code Section 54950 et seq. (“the Brown Act”) pursuant to California Government Code Section 61044.

C. The Board adopted Ordinance No. 2014-01 on November 12, 2014, establishing guidelines for the conduct of its public meetings and activities and imposing requirements upon itself which allow greater access to its meetings than prescribed by the Brown Act.

D. The purpose of this Resolution is to supplement Ordinance No. 2014-01 and to ensure that the Board’s deliberations are conducted honorably and that its activities are performed in a manner that reflects a dedication to the highest standards of integrity so as to continue to earn the trust and confidence of the public served by the District.

THEREFORE, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS of the Morongo Valley Community Services District does hereby resolve as follows:

Section 1. **RELATIONS BETWEEN DIRECTORS.**

1.1. **Duties.** The Board shall govern the District. The Board shall establish policies for the operation of the District. The Board shall provide for the implementation of those policies which is the responsibility of the District's Director of Operations. All members of the Board shall exercise their independent judgment on behalf of the entire District, including the residents, property owners, and the public as a whole in furthering the purposes and intent of the District.

1.2. **Officers.**

1.2.1. Within 45 days after each general district or unopposed election, the Board shall meet and elect the officers of the Board.

1.2.2. The officers of the Board are President and Vice-President. The President shall preside over meetings of the Board and the Vice-President shall serve in the President's absence or inability to serve. The Board may create additional offices and elect members to those offices, provided no members of the Board shall hold more than one office.

1.3. **Parliamentary Procedure.**

1.3.1. A majority of the total membership of the Board shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of District business. Except as otherwise specifically provided by law, a majority of the total membership of the Board is required for the Board to take action. The Board shall act only by ordinance, resolution, or motion. The Board President shall have the same rights and obligations of the other directors concerning voting procedures. The minutes of the Board shall record the aye and no votes taken by the members of the Board for the passage of all ordinances, resolutions, or motions. The Board shall keep a record of all its actions, including financial transactions.

1.3.2. Meetings of the Board shall be subject to the Brown Act and Ordinance No. 2014-01 (as may be amended from time to time). Robert's Rules of Order shall provide general guidance for the conduct of the Board's business, except where otherwise provided by law,

ordinance, resolution, or motion of the District, or otherwise inconsistent with the intent of the Board. The Board President (or committee chair) shall preserve order and decorum and will rule on all matters of procedure, with the advice of legal counsel. All other questions from Board Members about matters of law, must be referred to the District's legal counsel for an opinion after a majority vote of the Board on the subject presented to the Board. District staff will inform legal counsel of the approval with the caveat that, any unapproved calls, texts, or emails that have not been approved by the Board will not be paid for by the District.

1.4. **Committees**. Any matter brought before the Board may, if deemed necessary, be referred to District staff or a committee of the Board composed of less than a quorum of the Board for review and recommendation. The Board may establish such standing and ad hoc committees as it deems necessary. The selection of the Board members to serve on such committees shall be at the discretion of the Board President, unless otherwise overridden by majority vote of the Board. Pursuant to Section 1 of Ordinance No. 2014-01, all meetings of standing committees of the Board shall be conducted in compliance with all applicable requirements of the Brown Act. Meetings of ad hoc committees of the Board may be exempt from the notice, agenda, and public participation requirements of the Brown Act as long as the committee substantially comply with the following guidelines: (1) The committee's life should be restricted to a relatively short period of time; (2) The committee's purpose should be limited to a single and specific task; (3) The committee shall not be given any independent discretionary authority to make ultimate decisions on behalf of the Board with respect to the final resolution of the task; (4) The committee's charge should not be automatically renewed upon completion of its particular assignment or expiration of its fixed term; (5) The committee's meeting schedule should not be on a regular basis or established by formal action of the Board; and (6) Public notice of the formation of the committee shall be given in a timely manner.

1.5. **Personal Conduct.** The business of the District is a team effort. All Board members should work together in a collaborative manner, assisting each other in conducting the affairs of the District. Directors shall, at all times, conduct themselves with courtesy to each other, to staff, and to members of the audience present at Board meetings. Directors shall defer to the President concerning the conduct of Board meetings, but shall be free to question and discuss items on the agenda. In turn, the Board President shall not exercise the privileges of the office in such a manner as to unfairly advance his or her own personal opinions or unduly prejudice the positions of other Board members. When responding to requests and concerns from the public and other District customers, Board members should be courteous, responding to individuals in a positive manner and routing their questions through appropriate channels and to responsible management personnel. Board members should develop a working relationship with the District's Director of Operations wherein current issues, concerns, and District projects can be discussed comfortably and openly. Board members should function as a part of the whole. Issues should be brought to the attention of the entire Board, rather than to individual members or outside agencies selectively. Board members are responsible for monitoring the District's progress in attaining its goals and objectives, while pursuing its mission.

1.6. **Communication of Views and Positions.** The Board is committed to providing excellence in legislative leadership necessary to furnish the highest quality of government services to the public and to the District's customers. In order to achieve this goal, cooperative interaction between and among Board members is encouraged. As such, the following rules shall be observed:

1.6.1. The dignity, style, values, and opinions of each Board member shall be respected. Responsiveness and attentive listening in communication is encouraged.

1.6.2. The needs of the public and the District's customers should be the priority of the Board.

1.6.3. Board members should commit themselves to emphasizing the positive, avoiding double talk, hidden agendas, gossip, backbiting, and other negative forms of interaction.

1.6.4. Board members commit themselves to focusing on issues and not personalities. The presentation of the opinions of others should be encouraged. Cliques and voting blocks based on personalities rather than issues will be avoided.

1.6.5. Differing viewpoints are healthy in the decision-making process. Individuals have the right to disagree with ideas and opinions in a constructive and forthright manner. However, once the Board has taken action, individual Board members should commit to support said action and not create barriers to the implementation thereof.

1.7. **Board Discipline.** In the exercise of its discretion, the Board, by affirmative vote of a majority of its members, may censure any of its members for a period of time deemed appropriate by said majority of the Board. Unless otherwise prohibited by law, the maximum penalty that may be imposed upon the censured member by said majority of the Board during the period of such censure shall be the following:

1.7.1. The suspension of all spending of District funds by the censured Board member and of all reimbursement from District funds of any costs incurred by the censured Board member, unless otherwise allowed by the Board.

1.7.2. The removal of the censured Board member from service as an officer of the Board, and/or on all committees and other assignments on behalf of the District and/or the Board, unless subsequently authorized by the Board.

1.7.3. The withholding of all compensation by the District to the censured Board member except as otherwise allowed for attending meetings of the Board and other meetings subsequently authorized by the Board.

Section 2. **RELATIONS WITH STAFF.**

2.1 **Director of Operations.**

2.1.1. The Board shall appoint a Director of Operations for the District. The Director of Operations shall serve at the pleasure of the Board. The Board shall set the compensation for the Director of Operations. The Board may require that the Director of Operations be bonded. The District shall pay the cost of the bonds.

2.1.2. The Director of Operations shall be responsible for all of the following:

a. The implementation of the policies established by the Board for the operation of the District.

b. The appointment, supervision, discipline, and dismissal of the District's employees, consistent with the employee relations system established by the Board;

c. The supervision of the District's facilities and services; and

d. The supervision of the District's finances.

2.1.3. The Director of Operations is the Board's primary link to operational achievement and conduct of the District, so that all authority and accountability of staff, as far as the Board is concerned, is considered the authority and accountability of the Director of Operations. Board members will refrain from making requests directly to District employees (other than the Director of Operations) to undertake analyses, perform work assignments, or change the priority of work assignments; however, Board members may request non-confidential, factual information regarding District operations from District employees. Additionally, Board members are to refrain from having open discussions regarding the District's operations or topics of a potentially sensitive nature with any staff member other than the Director of Operations, as doing so could undermine management, jeopardize the District's credibility, or even put the District at risk legally. The Board, as a whole, will not evaluate, either formally or

informally, any staff member other than the Director of Operations. In seeking clarification on informational items, Board members should contact the Director of Operations to obtain information needed to supplement, upgrade, or enhance their knowledge to improve legislative decision-making. Any Board member requests that require substantial work, as determined by the Director of Operations, will be addressed with the Board President.

2.2. **Treasurer.** Pursuant to California Government Code Section 61053, the Board has designated an alternative depository for District funds in place of the San Bernardino County Treasury and has appointed a District Treasurer to serve in place of the County Treasurer. The same person may be appointed by the Board to serve as both the Director of Operations and the District Treasurer. The District Treasurer shall serve at the pleasure of the Board. The Board shall set the compensation of the District Treasurer. The Board shall require the District Treasurer to be bonded. The District shall pay the cost of the bonds.

Section 3. **REVIEW AND AMENDMENT.**

Each year the Board shall review this Resolution to determine its effectiveness and the necessity for its continued operation. The District's Director of Operations shall report to the Board on the operation of this Resolution, and make any recommendations deemed appropriate, including proposals to amend the Resolution. Upon conclusion of its review, the Board may take any action it deems appropriate concerning this Resolution. Nothing herein shall preclude the Board from taking action on the Resolution at times other than upon conclusion of the annual review. Any of the within rules not required by law may be suspended or changed by a majority of the members of the Board.

Section 4. **SEVERABILITY.**

If any provision of this Resolution, or the application thereof to any person or circumstances, is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of this Resolution which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions

of this Resolution are declared to be severable.

Section 5. **EFFECTIVE DATE.**

The provisions of this Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

ADOPTED this 23 day of April, 2020.

AYES: 5
NOES: 0
ABSTAIN: 0
ABSENT: 0



President, Board of Directors

ATTEST:



Secretary, Board of Directors