Chester Public Utility District

Manual of Policies

POLICY TITLE: Debt Management Policy

POLICY NUMBER: 3090

This Debt Management Policy (the "Debt Policy") of the Chester Public Utility District (the "District") was approved by the Board of Directors to be effective as of the date first set forth above. The Debt Policy may be utilized by staff with the discretion to deviate as determined appropriate by the District General Manager, and may be amended by the Board of Directors of the District as it deems appropriate from time to time in the prudent management of the debt and financing needs of the District.

3090.01 Findings

This Debt Policy is intended to comply with applicable law.
The District hereby recognizes that a fiscally prudent debt policy is required in order to:

- Help maintain the District's financial health.
- Ensure the District has the flexibility to meet its financial needs.
- Protect the District's credit-worthiness.
- Ensure that all debt is structured to benefit both current and future constituents of the District.
- Ensure that the District's debt is consistent with the District's planning goals and objectives.

3090.02 Policies

A. Purposes for Which Debt May Be Issued

- Long-Term Debt. Long-term debt may be issued to finance the construction, acquisition, and/or rehabilitation of capital improvements and facilities, property, and other assets, equipment, and land to be owned and operated by the District or funded for the benefit of the District.

(a) Long-term debt financings are appropriate when the following conditions exist:

- When the project to be financed is necessary to provide basic services.
- When the project to be financed will provide benefit to constituents over multiple years.
- When total debt does not constitute an unreasonable burden to the District and its constituents.
- When the debt is issued to refinance outstanding debt in order to produce savings or to realize other benefits of a debt restructuring.

(b) Long-term debt financings will not generally be considered appropriate for recurring operating expenses and routine maintenance expenses.

(c) The District may use long-term debt financings subject to the following conditions:

- The project and/or costs to be financed must be approved by the District Board.
- The weighted average maturity of the debt will generally not exceed the average useful life of project being financed.
- The District estimates that sufficient revenues will be available to service the debt through its maturity.
- The District determines that the issuance of the debt will comply with the applicable state and federal law.

(ii) Short-term debt. Short-term debt may be issued to provide financing for the District's operational cash flows in order to maintain a steady and even cash flow balance. Short-term debt may also be used to finance short-lived capital projects; for example, the District may undertake lease-purchase financing for equipment.

(iii) Financings on Behalf of Other Entities. The District may also find it beneficial to issue debt on behalf of other governmental agencies or private third parties in order to further the public purposes of District. In such cases, the District shall take reasonable steps to confirm the financial feasibility of the project to be financed and the financial solvency of any borrower and that the issuance of such debt is consistent with the policies set forth herein.

B. Types of Debt

The following types of debt are allowable under this Debt Policy:

- Installment sale agreements, loans and similar debt-financing contracts
- Loans and contracts with State or Federal agencies, including the United States Department of Agriculture–Rural Development
- Lines of credit
- General obligation bonds (GO Bonds)
- Bond or grant anticipation notes (BANs)
- Lease revenue bonds, certificates of participation (COPs) and lease-purchase transactions
- Other revenue bonds and Certificates of Participation (COPs)
- Tax and revenue anticipation notes (TRANs)
- Land-secured financings, such as special tax revenue bonds issued under the Mello-Roos Community Facilities Act of 1982, as amended, and limited obligation bonds issued under applicable assessment statutes
- Refunding bonds, notes, loans, and other obligations

The District Board may from time to time find that other forms of debt would be beneficial to further its public purposes and may approve such debt without an amendment of this Debt Policy.

Debt shall be issued as fixed rate debt unless the District makes a specific determination as to why a variable rate issue would be beneficial to the District in a specific circumstance.

C. Relationship of Debt to Capital Improvement Program and Budget

The District is committed to long-term capital planning. The District intends to issue debt for the purposes stated in this Debt Policy and to implement policy decisions incorporated in the District's capital budget and the capital improvement plan. Items outside the capital budget or capital improvement plan may also be financed.

The District shall strive to fund the upkeep and maintenance of its infrastructure and facilities due to normal wear and tear through the expenditure of available operating revenues.

The District shall integrate its debt issuances with the goals of its capital improvement program by timing the issuance of debt to ensure that funding is available for capital and non- capital projects when needed in furtherance of the District's public purposes.

The District shall seek to issue debt in a timely manner to avoid having to make unplanned expenditures from its general fund.

D. Policy Goals Related to Planning Goals and Objectives

The District is committed to long-term financial planning, maintaining appropriate reserves levels and employing prudent practices in governance, management and budget administration. The District intends to issue debt for the purposes stated in this Debt Policy and to implement policy decisions incorporated in the District's annual operations budget.

It is a policy goal of the District to protect its constituents by utilizing conservative financing

methods and techniques so as to obtain the highest practical credit ratings (if applicable) and the lowest practical borrowing costs.

The District will comply with applicable state and federal law as it pertains to the maximum term of debt and the procedures for levying and imposing any related taxes, assessments, rates and charges.

When refinancing debt, it shall be the policy goal of the District to realize, whenever possible, and subject to any overriding non-financial policy considerations, minimum net present value debt service savings equal to at least 3.0% of the refunded principal amount.

E. Internal Control Procedures

1. Any use of a line of credit shall be authorized by the Chester Public Utility District Board of Directors during an official meeting by a majority vote.
2. In the event of a sudden fiscal emergency or catastrophic loss of District Property or infrastructure, the General Manager has the power to access the line of credit with immediate notification to the Board of Directors.

3. Any use of a line of credit shall be paid off as a District priority.

When issuing debt, in addition to complying with the terms of this Debt Policy, the District shall comply with any other applicable policies regarding initial bond disclosure, continuing disclosure, post-issuance compliance, and investment of bond proceeds.

Without limiting the foregoing, the District will periodically review the requirements of and will remain in compliance with the following:

- Any continuing disclosure undertakings entered into by the District in accordance with Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) Rule 15c2-12.

- Any reporting obligations to the California Debt and Investment Advisory Commission (CDIAC)

- Any federal tax compliance requirements, including, without limitation, arbitrage, and rebate compliance.

- The District's investment policies as they relate to the use and investment of bond proceeds.

Proceeds of debt will be held either (a) by a third-party trustee or fiscal agent, which will disburse such proceeds to or upon the order of the District upon the submission of one or more written requisitions by the District General Manager (or his or her designee), or (b) by the District, to be held and accounted for in a separate fund or account, the expenditure of which will be carefully documented by the District.

END OF DEBT MANAGEMENT POLICY

Chester Public Utility District

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Adopted 04-20-2021