
Cash Reserve Policy

I. Policy Statement

A key element of prudent financial planning is to ensure that sufficient funding is available for current operating, capital, and debt service needs. Additionally, fiscal responsibility requires anticipating the likelihood of, and preparing for, unforeseen events. The Walnut Valley Water District (District) will at all times strive to have sufficient funding available to meet its operating, capital, and debt service obligations. Reserve funds will be accumulated and maintained to allow the District to fund operating expense and capital expenditures in a manner that is consistent with its annual operating budget and capital improvement budget and to help minimize significant customer rate fluctuations due to changes in funding requirements.

The Board of Directors may designate specific reserve accounts and maintain certain balances that it has determined to be in the best interest of the District. The cash reserve policy as outlined in this document is intended to ensure that the District has sufficient funds to meet current and future needs.

II. Definitions

There are three types of reserve funds:

- A. GENERAL ACCOUNT – Funds that accumulate from day-to-day operations that have not otherwise been designated or restricted.
- B. DESIGNATED RESERVES – Established by action of the Board and designated for specific purposes. These funds are utilized to fund such things as future capital facilities, repair and replacement of existing assets, economic uncertainties, local disasters and other financial hardships or downs in the local and nation economy.
- C. RESTRICTED RESERVES – Restrictions on the use of these funds are imposed by an outside source such as creditors, grantors, contributors, laws or regulations governing use.

III. General Provisions

The District will maintain a separate accounting and invest reserve funds in a manner that insures financial soundness and provides transparency to its ratepayers. Such established reserves will be reviewed at least annually by the Board. If the annual review reflects actual or projected reserve levels that fall either 10% below or 10% above the levels prescribed in this policy, District staff shall provide an explanation of why reserve levels are not at the targeted level, and/or provide an identified course of action to bring reserve levels to the target amount.

IV. Reserve Levels and Management

GENERAL ACCOUNT

These are the funds that accumulate from day-to-day operations and represent funds that have not otherwise been designated or restricted. Typically, funds that accumulate during the year are then transferred to specific reserves at the end of each fiscal year. Interest generated by these funds is maintained within this account.

DESIGNATED RESERVES

- A. **Operating Reserve** - The District maintains an Operating Reserve to help ensure the District can provide essential services in cases where normal cash flows are interrupted.
- **Target Funding Level** – The operating reserve shall maintain a balance equal to an average of two months of operating expenses based on the current fiscal year's operating budget, excluding purchased water costs and debt obligations. Interest generated by these funds shall be maintained within the General Account.
 - **Events or Conditions Prompting the Use of Reserve Funds** – In cases where cash flows have been interrupted or are otherwise insufficient, these funds may be used for operating expenses, capital expenditures, or other purposes as authorized by the Board.
- B. **Capital Improvement Reserve** - The District maintains a Capital Improvement Reserve for the purpose of funding the acquisition and construction of new capital assets. This reserve fund is established for all new capital items or projects with a cost of \$5,000 or more and a useful life of five years or greater. Interest generated by these funds is allocated to and maintained within this reserve.
- **Target Funding Level** – The reserve for capital projects shall be maintained with a minimum balance equal to the estimated cost of all capital improvement projects approved by the Board through the regular budget process. On average the District needs approximately \$500,000 annually to fund new capital projects. The Capital Reserve will not exceed five years of capital funding totaling an estimated \$2,500,000.
 - **Events or Conditions Prompting the Use of Reserve Funds** – Funds from this reserve can be used for any purpose deemed appropriate by the Board. Typically, funds will be used to construct or purchase assets as approved by the Board as part of the District's Capital Improvement Budget (CIP), or by separate Board action.
- C. **Reserve for Replacement** - The District maintains a Reserve for Replacement to be used for funding the replacement or refurbishment of existing capital assets, including the District's buildings. This reserve fund is established for all replacement items with a cost of \$5,000 or more and a useful life of five years or greater. Interest generated by these funds is allocated to and maintained within this reserve.

- Target Funding Level – It is the intent of the District to maintain a balance sufficient to fund the immediate and long-term replacement costs of the District’s assets. Target reserve levels are based on the District’s 20-Year Asset Replacement and Refurbishment Plan (AR&R). The minimum funding level shall be equal to 5-years of replacement funding with a maximum reserve goal equal to 10-years of funding as detailed in the 20-Year AR&R Plan.
 - Events or Conditions Prompting the Use of Reserve Funds – Funds from this reserve can be used for any purpose deemed appropriate by the Board. Generally, assets to be replaced will be included and approved by the Board as part of the District’s annual CIP budget, or by separate action by the Board.
- D. **Stored Water Reserve** - The District maintains a Stored Water Reserve for purposes of accumulating funds to purchase untreated imported water necessary to operate Water Supply Reliability Projects.
- Target Funding Level – An annual contribution equal to the cost of purchasing a quantity of water equal to at least 50% of the water produced from the project during the year.
 - Events or Conditions Prompting the Use of Reserve Funds – As water become available from MWD, funds from this reserve will be used to purchase untreated imported water.
- E. **Project Reserve** - The District maintains a Project Reserve to ensure sufficient funding is available to fund components of the Regional Water Supply Project or District Headquarters projects that were initially expected to be funded through the issuance of debt but were substituted for other District projects. To ensure compliance with certain bond provisions, or for other identified reasons, the District may determine that it would be advantageous to fund certain “substitute projects” from bond proceeds rather than components of the Regional Water Supply Project or District Headquarters Project. In the event a “substitute project” is funded from bond proceeds, an amount equal to the actual expenses paid from bond proceeds will be moved from the reserve fund from which the “substitute project” was originally approved to the Project Reserve. Interest generated by this fund shall be maintained within the General Fund.
- Target Funding Level – There is no target level established for this reserve. Amounts in this reserve are dependent upon projects that have been substituted for use with Bond proceeds.
 - Events or Conditions Prompting the Use of Reserve Funds – The funds in this reserve have been set aside to fund components of the Regional Water Supply Project or District Headquarters Project as identified in the revenue bond documents.
- F. **Employee Liabilities Reserve** - The District maintains this reserve to cover the employees’ accrued sick and vacation time, other post-employment benefits (OPEB), and other employee liabilities. Interest generated by these funds is allocated to and maintained within the General Account.

- Target Funding Level – For funds related to the accrued sick and vacation time, the reserve is adjusted at the end of the fiscal year to equal 100% of the accrued liability. The sick liability represents 75% of the accrued sick hours. The vacation liability represents 100% of the accrued vacation hours.

The District has established an OPEB Trust for the purpose of funding retiree benefits, other than pension. It is the goal of the District to fund this liability through a combination of contributions and investments earnings within a period of 20 years.

- Events or Conditions Prompting the Use of Reserve Funds – Funds from this reserve can be used for the payment of accrued sick and vacation. Funds related to the OPEB liability, or other employee related liabilities will be held until such time as they are approved for transfer to an established trust, used to pay for such expenses, or designated for another purpose.

F. **Rate Stabilization** - This reserve was established by the District in order to avoid fluctuations in its water rates. This fund is established to provide flexibility to the Board when setting water rates to allow for absorbing fluctuations in water demand, to pay for water supplies (including water leases, supply allocation penalties, or to pay for other costs that would otherwise be collected as part of the rates. In addition, in accordance with the provisions of the bond documents, monies from the Rate Stabilization reserve can be withdrawn and included as an adjustment to the calculation of net revenues for purposes of calculating compliance with its rate covenant. In general, the District must have net revenue equal to at least 125% of its annual debt service. Interest generated by these funds is allocated and maintained by the General Account.

- Target Funding Level – This reserve shall be maintained at a minimum level equal to 125% of the District’s annual debt service, with a maximum level equal to 200% of the District’s annual debt service.
- Events or Conditions Prompting the Use of Reserve Funds – This fund is intended to be used to defray any temporary unforeseen decreases in the sale of water, to pursue the purchase of water rights, lease water for planned District projects, or for other unforeseen expenses. The Board, on a case-by-case basis, will determine the amount and timing for any use of the fund. In the event the District’s net revenues are less than that which is required by the bond covenants, such funds can be withdrawn and included as an adjustment to net revenues for the purposes of ensuring compliance with the District’s rate covenant.

G. **Badillo Grand Catastrophic Insurance** - This reserve has been established for the purpose of self-insurance retention for the Badillo Grand Transmission Line. Interest generated by these funds is allocated to and maintained within the General Account.

- Target Funding Level – This reserve shall be maintained at a funding level of \$500,000.
- Events or Conditions Prompting the Use of Reserve Funds – In the case of a catastrophic event, where costs to repair or replace the Badillo Grand Line are either not covered or were denied by the insurance carrier, such costs could be reimbursed from this reserve.

RESTRICTED RESERVES

- A. **Acreage Supply (ASC) Reserve** - This reserve is restricted by law, Section 35470 of the State Water Code, and represents monies received from developers for the purpose of constructing or upsizing water distribution and transmission mains.
- **Target Funding Level** – Developer Fees are collected as a condition of development in accordance with the District’s Rules and Regulations. The balance in this account will fluctuate depending on the amount collected and the amount expended for capital improvement projects for facilities and assets in the District’s water system. Therefore, no minimum or maximum levels will be established.
- B. **Acreage Supply (ASC)/Tres Hermanos Reserve** - This reserve is restricted by law, Section 35470 of the State Water Code, and represents monies received for the Tres Hermanos Development. Interest generated by these funds is allocated to and maintained within this reserve. This reserve will be evaluated annually to ensure compliance with all applicable laws and regulations. Interest generated by these funds is allocated to and maintained within this reserve.
- **Target Funding Level** – Developer Fees are collected as a condition of development in accordance with the District’s Rules and Regulations. The balance in this account will fluctuate depending on the amount collected and the amount expended for capital improvement projects for facilities and assets in the District’s water system. Therefore, no minimum or maximum levels will be established.
- C. **Reservoir Capacity Charge (RCC) Reserve** - This reserve is restricted by law, Section 35470 of the State Water Code, and represents monies received from developers for the purpose of constructing future water storage and pumping facilities. This reserve will be evaluated annually to ensure compliance with all applicable laws and regulations. Interest generated by these funds is allocated to and maintained within this reserve.
- **Target Funding Level** – Developer Fees are collected as a condition of development in accordance with the District’s Rules and Regulations. The balance in this account will fluctuate depending on the amount collected and the amount expended for capital improvement projects for facilities and assets in the District’s water system. Therefore, no minimum or maximum levels will be established.
- D. **Water Supply Charge (WSC) Reserve** - This reserve is restricted by law, Section 35470 of the State Water Code, and represents monies received from developers for the purpose of funding projects to meet new system demand. This reserve will be evaluated annually to ensure compliance with all applicable laws and regulations. Interest generated by these funds is allocated to and maintained within this reserve.

- Target Funding Level – Developer Fees are collected as a condition of development in accordance with the District’s Rules and Regulations. The balance in this account will fluctuate depending on the amount collected and the amount expended for water supply projects. Therefore, no minimum or maximum levels will be established.
- E. **Capacity Charge Reserve** - This reserve is restricted by law, Section 35470 of the State Water Code, and represents monies received from developers for the purpose of improving and expanding the system. This reserve will be evaluated annually to ensure compliance with all applicable laws and regulations. Interest generated by these funds is allocated to and maintained within this reserve.
- Target Funding Level – Developer Fees are collected as a condition of development in accordance with the District’s Rules and Regulations. The balance in this account will fluctuate depending on the amount collected and the amount expended for system improvements. Therefore, no minimum or maximum levels will be established.
- F. **Customer/Developer Deposits Reserve** - This reserve represents the liability of the District associated with deposits received from customers and developers collected in accordance with the District’s Rules and Regulations. This reserve fund fluctuates based on deposits received, refunded, or expended for system improvements. Interest generated by this fund is allocated to and maintained within the General Account.
- Target Funding Level – This reserve fund fluctuates based on deposits received, refunded, or expended for system improvements. Therefore, no minimum or maximum levels will be established.
- G. **Badillo Grand Maintenance Reserve** - This reserve is restricted by agreement and derived from the \$1 per acre-foot received for maintenance costs related to the Badillo Grand line. The reserve is adjusted monthly based on monies received or paid out during the month. Interest generated by these funds is allocated to and maintained within this reserve.
- Target Funding Level – This reserve fund fluctuates based on monies received or paid out during the month. Therefore, no minimum or maximum levels will be established.