



**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND MEETING OF THE
BARTON SPRINGS EDWARDS AQUIFER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Thursday, April 14, 2022

5:00 PM

IN-PERSON

Notice is given that a **Regular Meeting** of the Board of Directors (Board) of the Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer Conservation District will be held on **Thursday, April 14, 2022** commencing at **5:00 p.m.** at the **District office, located at 1124 Regal Row, Austin, Texas**. This meeting will be audio recorded and the recording will be available on the District's website after the meeting.

Public Comments at the Board Meeting – Please complete a comment card prior to the start of the meeting. Each registered person will be recognized and identified by the Presiding Officer or staff moderating the communications when it is their turn to speak. **Public comment is limited to 3 minutes per person.**

AGENDA

Note: The Board of Directors of the Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer Conservation District reserves the right to meet in Executive Session at any time during the course of this meeting to discuss any of the matters listed on this agenda, as authorized by the Texas Government Code Sections §551.071 (Consultation with Attorney), 551.072 (Deliberations about Real Property), 551.073 (Deliberations about Gifts and Donations), 551.074 (Personnel Matters), 551.076 (Deliberations about Security Devices), 551.087 (Economic Development), 418.183 (Homeland Security). No final action or decision will be made in Executive Session.

- 1. Call to Order.**
- 2. Citizen Communications (Public Comments of a General Nature).**
- 3. Consent Agenda.** *(Note: These items may be considered and approved as one motion. Directors or citizens may request any consent item be removed from the consent agenda, for consideration and possible approval as a separate item of Regular Business on this agenda.)*
 - a. Approval of Financial Reports under the Public Funds Investment Act, Directors' Compensation Claims, and Specified Expenditures greater than \$5,000. **Pg. 4**
 - b. Approval of minutes of the Board's March 10, 2022 Regular Meeting and Public Hearing. **Not for public review at this time**

4. General Manager's Report. Discussion and possible action. Topics

- a. Review of Status Report and update on team activities/projects. **Pg. 24**
- b. Aquifer status update.
- c. Upcoming events of possible interest.

5. Discussion and Possible Action.

- a. Discussion and possible action related to proposed modifications to the Employee Policy Manual. **Pg. 41**
- b. Update on Camp Scholarship contest winners. **Pg. 130**

6. Director Reports.

Directors may report on their involvement in activities and dialogue that are of likely interest to the Board, in one or more of the following topical areas:

- Meetings and conferences attended or that will be attended;
- Board committee updates;
- Conversations with public officials, permittees, stakeholders, and other constituents;
- Commendations; and
- Issues or problems of concern.

7. Adjournment.

Please note: This agenda and available related documentation, if any, have been posted on the District website, www.bseacd.org. If you have a special interest in a particular item on this agenda and would like any additional documentation that may be developed for Board consideration, please let staff know at least 24 hours in advance of the Board Meeting so that we can have those copies made for you. The Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer Conservation District is committed to compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Reasonable accommodations and equal opportunity for effective communications will be provided upon request. Please contact the District office at 512-282-8441 at least 24 hours in advance if accommodation is needed.

Item 1

Call to Order

Item 2

Citizen Communications

Item 3

Consent Agenda

(Note: These items may be considered and approved as one motion. Directors or citizens may request any consent item be removed from the consent agenda, for consideration and possible approval as a separate item of Regular Business on this agenda.)

- a. Approval of Financial Reports under the Public Funds Investment Act, Directors' Compensation Claims, and Specified Expenditures greater than \$5,000.**
- b. Approval of minutes of the Board's March 10, 2022 Regular Meeting.**

Financial Reports –March 2022

April 14, 2022 Board Meeting

1. Profit and Loss Budget vs Actual

September 1, 2021 through March 31, 2022

2. Profit and Loss Previous Year Comparison

September 1, 2021 through March 31, 2022

3. Balance Sheet Previous Year Comparison

As of March 2022 (compared to March 2021)

4. Check Register – TRUIST Bank Account

March 1, 2022 through March 31, 2022

1. Profit and Loss Budget vs Actual

September 1, 2021 - March 31, 2022

BARTON SPRINGS EDWARDS AQUIFER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
PROFIT AND LOSS - BUDGET VS ACTUAL

September 1, 2021 - March 31, 2022

	Sept 1, 2021-Mar 31, 2022	Budget	% of Budget	Notes
INCOME				
4400.0 · Interest Income	323.74	1,000.00	32.37%	
4625.0 · MISCELLANEOUS INCOME	17,849.57	0.00	100.0%	See detailed Quickbooks Account Quick Report attached
4800.0 · USAGE AND PRODUCTION FEES	1,117,214.27	1,527,582.00	73.14%	
4810.0 · OTHER FEES	10,306.44	12,300.00	83.79%	Well development, applications, and pluggings
TOTAL INCOME	1,145,694.02	1,540,882.00	74.35%	
EXPENSE				
6000.0 · UTILITIES	11,957.65	22,000.00	54.35%	
6005.0 · Print/Copy/Photo Services	695.75	2,000.00	34.79%	
6007.0 · Postage/Freight/Shipping	626.57	2,500.00	25.06%	
6010.0 · Office Supplies	3,156.47	6,000.00	52.61%	
6010.2 · Office Furniture	0.00	1,500.00	0.0%	
6011.0 · Comp Hardware-Plotter Supplies	4,071.24	6,000.00	67.85%	Two older desktops required replacement
6014.0 · Software Acquisition & Upgrades	529.50	6,000.00	8.83%	
6015.0 · IT Monthly Maintenance	10,097.50	19,140.00	52.76%	
6016.0 · Meeting Expense	946.86	2,000.00	47.34%	
6019.0 · Subscriptions/Publications	2,530.45	4,200.00	60.25%	
6020.0 · Advertising	2,218.84	4,000.00	55.47%	
6021.0 · MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES	495.74	0.00	100.0%	Not budgeted, by design
6022.0 · Accounting System Operation	2,189.95	6,600.00	33.18%	Includes Journyx timekeeping software
6023.0 · MAINTENANCE	7,905.19	20,400.00	38.75%	Office and Auto
6025.4 · Facilities Repairs	2,859.80	5,000.00	57.2%	Septic system repair
6040.0 · LEASES	5,519.70	10,650.00	51.83%	Copier and postage machine
6065.0 · DIRECTOR EXPENSES	0.00	2,500.00	0.0%	
6066.0 · Directors Compensation	9,850.00	25,000.00	39.4%	
6075.0 · DUES & MEMBERSHIPS	3,662.63	6,100.00	60.04%	
6080.0 · COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH	1,510.00	19,011.00	7.94%	In April, \$6360 will be posted here for camp scholarships

	Sept 1, 2021-Mar 31, 2022	Budget	% of Budget	Notes
6081.0 · REGULATORY COMPLIANCE	1,722.22	21,000.00	8.2%	
6084.92 · GENERAL MANAGEMENT	3,889.01	34,523.00	11.27%	
6089.0 · AQUIFER SCIENCE	8,252.32	34,800.00	23.71%	
6090.0 · Conservation Credits	0.00	20,184.00	0.0%	Actual credits \$44,741 (with \$16,772 being donated back)
6100.0 · INSURANCE - DISTRICT	3,534.66	7,047.00	50.16%	Property, Liability, Auto, E&O
6150.0 · INSURANCE - GROUP	66,146.76	173,900.00	38.04%	Employee Health, Dental, Life, Vision
6160.0 · LEGAL SERVICES	39,969.00	85,000.00	47.02%	General Matters
6170.0 · PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	32,458.35	106,150.00	30.58%	Includes audit, elections, retirement fees + 6 others
6179.0 · LEGISLATION	6,000.00	12,000.00	50.0%	Currently not in session
6180.0 · PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT	4,344.28	19,000.00	22.87%	
6199.0 · SALARIES AND WAGES	450,308.04	951,668.00	47.32%	
6203.0 · TAXES & BENEFITS	60,290.99	133,527.00	45.15%	
6800.0 · PROJECTS	20,771.88	83,000.00	25.03%	Jacob's Well Project
TOTAL EXPENSE	768,511.35	1,852,400.00	41.49%	
NET ORDINARY INCOME	377,182.67	-311,518.00	-121.08%	Negative effect (shortfall) to budget before accounting for the transfers to balance the budget, shown below.
OTHER INCOME				
9000.00 · Transfer from Reserves	0.00	311,868.00	0.0%	\$175,000 from Cash Flow Reserve; \$3361 scholarship donations;
TOTAL OTHER INCOME	0.00	311,868.00	0.0%	\$83,000 Jacobs Well project; \$50,507 from General.
NET INCOME	377,182.67	350.00		This is the difference between the negative amount in Net Ordinary Income before the transfers in from other accounts, needed to balance the budget

CAPITALIZATION INDICATES ACCOUNTS THAT HAVE SUB-CATEGORIES. This is a collapsed view.

**Barton Springs Edwards Aquifer
Account QuickReport
September 2021 through March 2022**

Type	Date	Num	Name	Memo	Amount
4625.0 · MISCELLANEOUS INCOME					
4626.1 · Other Income					
Deposit	09/29/2021	876440	United Healthcare	Loss Ration Rebate	456.58
Deposit	10/20/2021	73861244	MetLife	Quarterly Trust Interest	15.36
Deposit	12/10/2021	198965	TML Intergovernme...	refund from Payroll Audit	569.00
Deposit	02/24/2022	75370775	MetLife	Quarterly Trust Interest	15.36
Deposit	03/25/2022	76823015	MetLife	Quarterly Trust Interest	15.36
Total 4626.1 · Other Income					1,071.66
4626.2 · Scholarship Program					
General Journal	03/31/2022	Mar 05 DCW		AWU Scholarship Donation	4,500.00
Total 4626.2 · Scholarship Program					4,500.00
4631.0 · Donations					
General Journal	03/31/2022	Mar 05 DCW		AWU Remaining Amount to Education Budget	12,277.91
Total 4631.0 · Donations					12,277.91
Total 4625.0 · MISCELLANEOUS INCOME					17,849.57
TOTAL					17,849.57

2. Profit and Loss - Previous Year Comparison

September 1, 2021 - March 31, 2022

**BARTON SPRINGS EDWARDS AQUIFER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
PROFIT AND LOSS - PREVIOUS YEAR COMPARISON**

September 1, 2021 - March 31, 2022

	Sept 1, 2021-Mar 31, 2022	Sept 1, 2020-Mar 31, 2021	\$ Change	% Change
INCOME				
4400.0 · Interest Income	323.74	793.13	-469.39	-59.18%
4625.0 · MISCELLANEOUS INCOME *	17,849.57	557.95	17,291.62	3,099.13%
4800.0 · USAGE AND PRODUCTION FEES **	1,117,214.27	1,283,400.80	-166,186.53	-12.95%
4810.0 · OTHER FEES (well development, applications, pluggings)	10,306.44	10,428.43	-121.99	-1.17%
TOTAL INCOME	1,145,694.02	1,295,180.31	-149,486.29	-11.54%
EXPENSE				
6000.0 · UTILITIES	11,957.65	11,869.86	87.79	0.74%
6005.0 · Print/Copy/Photo Services	695.75	484.02	211.73	43.74%
6007.0 · Postage/Freight/Shipping	626.57	764.32	-137.75	-18.02%
6010.0 · Office Supplies	3,156.47	1,580.34	1,576.13	99.73%
6011.0 · Comp Hardware-Plotter Supplies (replaced two 7-yr old desktops)	4,071.24	1,256.87	2,814.37	223.92%
6014.0 · Software Acquisition and Upgrades	529.50	2,510.12	-1,980.62	-78.91%
6015.0 · IT Monthly Maintenance (contract services increased)	10,097.50	7,000.00	3,097.50	44.25%
6016.0 · Meeting Expense	946.86	502.67	444.19	88.37%
6019.0 · Subscriptions/Publications	2,530.45	600.88	1,929.57	321.12%
6020.0 · Advertising (Redistricting Public Notices)	2,218.84	435.50	1,783.34	409.49%
6021.0 · MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES (refunded EP SOAH deposit - \$53,404)	495.74	54,990.24	-54,494.50	-99.1%
6022.0 · Accounting System Operation (includes Journyx timekeeping software)	2,189.95	2,213.00	-23.05	-1.04%
6023.0 · MAINTENANCE (Office and Auto)	7,905.19	6,717.63	1,187.56	17.68%
6025.4 · Facilities Repairs (includes septic repair expense)	2,859.80	2,320.00	539.80	23.27%
6040.0 · LEASES (Copier and Postage Machine)	5,519.70	5,351.27	168.43	3.15%
6065.0 · DIRECTOR EXPENSES	0.00	-411.23	411.23	100.0%
6066.0 · Directors Compensation	9,850.00	11,350.00	-1,500.00	-13.22%
6075.0 · DUES & MEMBERSHIPS	3,662.63	4,763.12	-1,100.49	-23.1%
6080.0 · COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH	1,510.00	1,774.39	-264.39	-14.9%
6081.0 · REGULATORY COMPLIANCE	1,722.22	4,206.74	-2,484.52	-59.06%

PROFIT AND LOSS - PREVIOUS YEAR COMPARISON

September 1, 2021 - March 31, 2022

	Sept 1, 2021-Mar 31, 2022	Sept 1, 2020-Mar 31, 2021	\$ Change	% Change
6084.92 · GENERAL MANAGEMENT	3,889.01	773.85	3,115.16	402.55%
6089.0 · AQUIFER SCIENCE	8,252.32	10,506.56	-2,254.24	-21.46%
6100.0 · INSURANCE - DISTRICT (Property, Liability, Auto, E&O)	3,534.66	3,537.65	-2.99	-0.09%
6150.0 · INSURANCE - GROUP (Employee Health, Dental, Life, Vision)	66,146.76	74,662.64	-8,515.88	-11.41%
6160.0 · LEGAL SERVICES	39,969.00	71,151.45	-31,182.45	-43.83%
6168.11 · SOAH - EP	0.00	1,171.88	-1,171.88	-100.0%
6170.0 · PROFESSIONAL SERVICES (unexpected election expense - \$92,597)	32,458.35	126,521.24	-94,062.89	-74.35%
6179.0 · LEGISLATION (not in session)	6,000.00	18,000.00	-12,000.00	-66.67%
6180.0 · PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (Conference attendance now available)	4,344.28	618.78	3,725.50	602.07%
6199.0 · SALARIES AND WAGES	450,308.04	468,622.04	-18,314.00	-3.91%
6203.0 · TAXES & BENEFITS	60,290.99	64,599.57	-4,308.58	-6.67%
6800 0 · PROJECTS (Jacob's Well Project)	20,771.88	0.00	20,771.88	100.0%
TOTAL EXPENSE	768,511.35	960,445.40	-191,934.05	-19.98%
NET INCOME	377,182.67	334,734.91	42,447.76	12.68%

CAPITALIZATION INDICATES ACCOUNTS THAT HAVE SUB-CATEGORIES.

Those sub-categories have been collapsed

* See detailed report attached to the Budget vs Actual report for specifics.

** Difference attributed to the decreased CoA fees in 2022 (approx \$150,000 at the time of this report), and the higher conservation credits in 2022 (\$44,741).

3. Balance Sheet - Previous Year Comparison

As of March 2022
(compared to March 2021)

**BARTON SPRINGS EDWARDS AQUIFER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BALANCE SHEET - PREVIOUS YEAR COMPARISON**

As of March 31, 2022

	March 31, 2022	March 31, 2021	\$ Change	% Change
ASSETS				
Current Assets				
Checking/Savings				
1000.0 · Cash in Bank-Checking Truist	76,782.20	68,324.62	8,457.58	12.38%
1010.0 · Cash in Bank - Payroll Truist	36,828.33	9,047.25	27,781.08	307.07%
1030.0 · TexPool Funds - General				
1030.1 · Aquifer Protection Reserve	52,050.00	52,050.00	0.00	0.0%
1030.2 · Deposits Held (EP SOAH deposit has been refunded)	0.00	54,575.62	-54,575.62	-100.0%
1030.21 · Cash Flow Reserve (approved reduction used for operational budget)	175,000.00	350,000.00	-175,000.00	-50.0%
1030.3 · Hays Co/HTGCD Jacobs Well (funds are now in operational budget)	0.00	83,000.00	-83,000.00	-100.0%
1030.0 · TexPool Funds - General - Operational	897,016.76	448,174.03	448,842.73	100.15%
Total 1030.0 TexPool Funds - General	1,124,066.76	987,799.65	136,267.11	13.8%
1040.0 · TexPool Funds - Contingency	504,869.74	504,737.55	132.19	0.03%
1045.0 · TexPool Funds - Reserve (Benefits Payable)	61,072.16	61,056.14	16.02	0.03%
Total Checking/Savings	1,803,619.19	1,630,965.21	172,653.98	10.59%
Accounts Receivable				
1200.0 · Accounts Receivable				
1200.1 · A/R DMF (drought management fees)	0.00	-750.00	750.00	100.0%
1200.0 · Accounts Receivable (balance of invoice payments not yet received)	13,750.37	26,752.48	-13,002.11	-48.6%
Total 1200.0 · Accounts Receivable	13,750.37	26,002.48	-12,252.11	-47.12%
Total Accounts Receivable	13,750.37	26,002.48	-12,252.11	-47.12%
Other Current Assets				
1100.0 · Petty Cash	300.00	300.00	0.00	0.0%
1300.0 · Pre-paid Expenses	8,245.53	6,630.84	1,614.69	24.35%
1499.0 · Undeposited Funds-A/R payments (received, posted, but not yet deposited)	4,136.51	9,065.81	-4,929.30	-54.37%
Total Other Current Assets	12,682.04	15,996.65	-3,314.61	-20.72%
Total Current Assets	1,830,051.60	1,672,964.34	157,087.26	9.39%

	March 31, 2022	March 31, 2021	\$ Change	% Change
Fixed Assets				
1400.0 · Field Equipment	376,487.89	376,487.89	0.00	0.0%
1410.0 · Office Equipment & Furniture	19,722.90	19,722.90	0.00	0.0%
1410.1 · Computer Hardware & Software	19,329.69	19,329.69	0.00	0.0%
1420.0 · Vehicles	52,363.03	52,363.03	0.00	0.0%
1430.0 · Accumulated Depreciation	-608,852.24	-608,852.24	0.00	0.0%
1440.0 · Land (Antioch Cave)	165,415.00	165,415.00	0.00	0.0%
1445.0 · Office Building	268,588.04	268,588.04	0.00	0.0%
Total Fixed Assets	293,054.31	293,054.31	0.00	0.0%
Other Assets				
1500.0 · Organizational Costs	300,783.26	300,783.26	0.00	0.0%
1510.0 · Accumulated Amortization	-326,324.26	-326,324.26	0.00	0.0%
1600.0 · Deposits Paid (Utilities)	71.00	71.00	0.00	0.0%
Total Other Assets	-25,470.00	-25,470.00	0.00	0.0%
TOTAL ASSETS	2,097,635.91	1,940,548.65	157,087.26	8.1%
LIABILITIES & EQUITY				
Liabilities				
Current Liabilities				
Other Current Liabilities				
2010.0 · Rebates Payable - Conservation Credits	44,741.10	20,183.63	24,557.47	121.67%
2100.0 · Deferred Revenue	75,741.00	75,741.00	0.00	0.0%
2110.0 · Direct Deposit Liabilities	434.74	1,035.00	-600.26	-58.0%
2220.0 · Federal Income Tax Withheld	-1,035.01	-1,035.01	0.00	0.0%
2230.0 · Employer Fica and Medicare Payable	-139.25	-139.25	0.00	0.0%
2250.0 · TWC Unemployment Tax Payable	90.00	2,749.95	-2,659.95	-96.73%
2270.0 · Payroll Liabilities	0.09	0.09	0.00	0.0%
2300.0 · Accrued Vacation Payable	54,839.94	50,904.43	3,935.51	7.73%
Total Other Current Liabilities	174,672.61	149,439.84	25,232.77	16.89%
Total Current Liabilities	174,672.61	149,439.84	25,232.77	16.89%
Total Liabilities	174,672.61	149,439.84	25,232.77	16.89%

	<u>March 31, 2022</u>	<u>March 31, 2021</u>	<u>\$ Change</u>	<u>% Change</u>
Equity				
3000.0 - Fund Balance	1,180,353.37	1,090,946.64	89,406.73	8.2%
3000.3 - Invested in Capital Assets	365,127.26	365,127.26	0.00	0.0%
3110.0 - Reserve for Petty Cash	300.00	300.00	0.00	0.0%
Net Income	377,182.67	334,734.91	42,447.76	12.68%
Total Equity	<u>1,922,963.30</u>	<u>1,791,108.81</u>	<u>131,854.49</u>	<u>7.36%</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u>2,097,635.91</u>	<u>1,940,548.65</u>	<u>157,087.26</u>	<u>8.1%</u>

4. Check Register

TRUIST BANK
March 1 – March 31, 2022

BARTON SPRINGS EDWARDS AQUIFER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
MONTHLY CHECK REGISTER
March 1, 2022 - March 31, 2022

Type	Date	Num	Name	Memo	Amount	Balance
Check	03/01/2022	26222	Pedernales Electric Cooperative	Electricity		66,564.51
Check	03/01/2022	26223	Exxon Mobil Business Card	Gasoline	-498.05	66,066.46
Deposit	03/02/2022			Deposit (CoA/AWU 3rd quarter water use fees)	-100.07	65,966.39
Deposit	03/02/2022			Deposit (permittee production fees and one LLP)	200,727.00	266,693.39
Transfer	03/03/2022			Funds Transfer (transfer to Payroll account to cover bi-weekly payroll)	12,975.49	279,668.88
Transfer	03/03/2022			Funds Transfer (funds too high in checking due to CoA/AWU check deposit)	-23,000.00	256,668.88
Check	03/03/2022	26224	Waste Management	Trash and Recycle Dumpster Service 3/1 -3/31/2022	-160,000.00	96,668.88
Check	03/03/2022	26225	Jan-Pro of Austin	March Cleaning Service	-455.46	96,213.42
Check	03/03/2022	26226	Texas AgriLife Extension Service	Water Sample Testing	-270.00	95,943.42
Check	03/04/2022	26227	LCRA-ELS	Aquifer Science Chemistry Sampling	-240.00	95,703.42
Check	03/04/2022	26228	Home Depot	Smoke Alarm and Mailbox	-490.00	95,213.42
Check	03/04/2022	26229	Bickerstaff	GM/Personnel/Redistricting Legal through 2/15/2022	-199.42	95,014.00
Check	03/08/2022	26230	Integritek	Monthly IT, Phones, and MS 365	-7,729.00	87,285.00
Check	03/08/2022	26231	CNA Surety	Director Bond CS	-1,942.50	85,342.50
Check	03/08/2022	26232	Michael Redman	Mileage Reimbursement Luling 80.6 miles at \$0.585/mile	-178.00	85,164.50
Check	03/08/2022	26233	San Marcos Daily Record	Public Hearing Ad for Redistricting	-47.15	85,117.35
Check	03/08/2022	26234	Charter Communications	Internet Service 3/1/2022-3/29/2022	-243.41	84,873.94
Deposit	03/08/2022			Deposit (permittee production fees)	-231.19	84,642.75
Check	03/09/2022	26235	Watson, Jeffrey A.	Smartphone Reimbursement December 2021-February 2022	39,890.59	124,533.34
Check	03/09/2022	26236	Wilson, Dana C.	Smartphone Reimbursement December 2021-February 2022	-150.00	124,383.34
Check	03/09/2022	26237	Smith, Brian A.	Smartphone Reimbursement December 2021-February 2022	-150.00	124,233.34
Check	03/09/2022	26238	Loftus, Timothy T.	Smartphone Reimbursement December 2021-February 2022	-150.00	124,083.34
Check	03/09/2022	26239	Swanson, Erin Y.	Smartphone Reimbursement pro-rated to February	-35.00	124,048.34
Check	03/09/2022	26240	Raymond, Tammy A.	Smartphone Reimbursement December 2021-February 2022	-150.00	123,898.34
Check	03/09/2022	26241	Redman, Michael J.	Smartphone Reimbursement December 2021-February 2022	-150.00	123,748.34
Check	03/09/2022	26242	Camp, Justin P.	Smartphone Reimbursement December 2021-February 2022	-150.00	123,598.34
Check	03/09/2022	26243	Marino, David S.	Smartphone Reimbursement December 2021-February 2022	-150.00	123,448.34
Liability Check	03/10/2022	EFT3102022	United States Treasury	74-2488641 Employee Bi-weekly Payroll Taxes	-150.00	123,298.34
Liability Check	03/10/2022	EFT03102022	Reliance Trust Company	Employee Bi-weekly Retirement	-8,517.79	114,780.55
Check	03/11/2022	26244	Mayan Dude Ranch	TELEA 2022 Bandera Conference Lodging and Meals	-4,325.13	110,455.42
Check	03/11/2022	26245	TELEA	TELEA 2022 Bandera Conference and Membership Fee	-584.80	109,870.62
					-185.00	109,685.62

Type	Date	Num	Name	Memo	Amount	Balance
Check	03/11/2022	26246	Hays Free Press	Redistricting Public Notice	-215.00	109,470.62
Check	03/11/2022	26247	Geological Society of America	Membership Renewal JC	-100.00	109,370.62
Check	03/11/2022	26248	In-Situ Inc.	Hydro VU Annual Subscription	-420.00	108,950.62
Check	03/11/2022	26249	Wellintel Inc	Analytics Dashboard Well Subscription	-1,700.00	107,250.62
Check	03/11/2022	26250	Well Scope LLC	Jacob's Well E-Logs	-4,600.00	102,650.62
Check	03/11/2022		Trust	Various Charges - Office Maintenance, Supplies, Septic Repair	-1,028.68	101,621.94
Transfer	03/14/2022			Funds Transfer (transfer to Payroll account to cover bi-weekly payroll)	-26,000.00	75,621.94
Check	03/14/2022	26251	Sledgelaw Group	Legislative Services February 2022	-1,000.00	74,621.94
Check	03/15/2022	26252	Westbay Instruments	Jacob's Well Monitor Well Equipment/Supplies	-1,197.40	73,424.54
Check	03/15/2022	26253	CIT Technology Fin Serv, Inc	March Copier Lease	-675.00	72,749.54
Check	03/15/2022	26254	Fidelity Security Life Insurance	April Gap Insurance Premium	-827.22	71,922.32
Liability Check	03/15/2022	26255	Sun Life Assurance	April Life/Dental/Vision/Disability Premium	-1,130.51	70,791.81
Liability Check	03/15/2022	26256	United Healthcare	April Health Insurance Premium	-9,988.16	60,803.65
Liability Check	03/15/2022	26257	AFLAC	March Employee-paid Premium	-107.30	60,696.35
Liability Check	03/17/2022	EFT03172022	United States Treasury	74-2488641 Director Compensation Liabilities	-283.06	60,413.29
Check	03/17/2022	26258	Westbay Instruments	Jacob's Well Monitor Equipment	-4,584.20	55,829.09
Check	03/17/2022	26259	Westbay Instruments	Jacob's Well Monitor Well Service Technician	-9,526.90	46,302.19
Transfer	03/18/2022			Funds Transfer - replenish checking balance	40,000.00	86,302.19
Deposit	03/18/2022			Deposit (permittee production fees, one application, one plugging)	12,497.47	98,799.66
Liability Check	03/24/2022	EFT3242022	United States Treasury	74-2488641 Employee Bi-weekly Payroll Liabilities	-8,517.75	90,281.91
Liability Check	03/24/2022	EFT03242022	Reliance Trust Company	Employee Bi-weekly Retirement	-4,325.13	85,956.78
Check	03/24/2022	26260	Ready Refresh	Water Cooler Rental Fee 2/9/22 - 3/8/22	-10.00	85,946.78
Check	03/24/2022	26261	City of Austin	March Water Utility	-20.38	85,926.40
Check	03/24/2022	26262	GSI Environmental	Modflow Training and Support	-1,413.75	84,512.65
Deposit	03/25/2022			Deposit (permittee production fees and one plugging)	26,999.93	111,512.58
Transfer	03/29/2022			Funds Transfer (transfer to Payroll account to cover bi-weekly payroll)	-30,000.00	81,512.58
Check	03/30/2022	26263	Insurance Claim and Appraisal	TMLIRP Fee for Claim on Tacoma	-95.00	81,417.58
Check	03/30/2022	26264	Bickerstaff	General Legal, Personnel, and Redistricting	-3,381.50	78,036.08
Check	03/30/2022	26265	Staples	Files, Clips, Pens	-78.66	77,957.42
Check	03/30/2022	26266	Orsak Landscape Services	Lawn Maintenance	-75.00	77,882.42
Check	03/30/2022	26267	Pedemales Electric Cooperative	Electricity Bill 2/19/2022 - 3/22/2022	-441.31	77,441.11
Check	03/30/2022	26268	Exxon Mobil Business Card	Gasoline 2/22/2022 through 3/18/2022	-172.79	77,268.32
Check	03/30/2022	26269	WM Corporate Services	Trash/Recycle Dumpsters 4/1/22-4/30/22	-483.03	76,785.29
Check	03/31/2022			Service Charge	-4.00	76,781.29
Deposit	03/31/2022			Interest	0.91	76,782.20
					<u>10,217.69</u>	<u>76,782.20</u>

Item 4

General Manager's Report Discussion and possible action topics

Topics

- a. Review of Status Report and update on team activities/projects.**
- b. Aquifer status update.**
- c. Upcoming events of possible interest.**

Summary of April Team Activities and On Deck for May/June

Aquifer Science Team

April Activities:

- Evaluating data for aquifer status. We are probably a couple of months from entering drought.
- Working with City of Buda as they do injection testing in their ASR well.
- Collecting water-level data from the District's multiport wells and other monitor wells.
- Working with modeling consultants (GSI) on calibrating the model.
- The multiport well at Jacob's Well was completed on March 11. The well consists of 10 monitoring zones and is completed into the Lower Trinity.
- Drilling of the second monitor wells at Jacob's Well started on April 7.

On Deck:

- Continuing to follow aquifer conditions and impact from low rainfall since February.
- Continue working with modeling consultants on in-house model and with the BRAAT model.
- Testing and sampling of monitor wells at Jacob's Well.

Administration Team

April Activities:

- Texas Workforce Commission Tax Rate Notice – annual change every March 1 to be retroactive to January 1 (adjustments need to be made to each individual paystub to account for new effective rate)
- Special District Local Law Reporting to Texas Comptroller's Office database
- Calendar Year 2022 First Quarter Payroll Tax Reporting

On Deck: (May/June)

- Budget Planning, Pumpage Analysis, and Preliminary Budget Initial Version brought before Board.

Regulatory Compliance Team

April Activities:

- Buda ASR pilot project and permitting
- Rule Review
- New Wells
- Sustainable Yield Study

On Deck:

- Management Plan renewal
- Potentially entering back into drought
- Milestone/Gragg Tract Development
- Carpenter Creek Rd RV Park PWS

Communications and Outreach Team

April Activities:

- Finalize Newsletter for Distribution the week of April 18
- Shoot Video of new monitor well being drilled near Jacob's Well
- Put Out Information on Water Conservation Period that begins on May 1, 2022
- Attend Buda Trash Off on Saturday, April 9. BSEACD is a sponsor. We will have a table set up with District information before volunteers gather and pick-up trash at 8:30 a.m.
- Kent S. Butler Scholarship deadline is Wednesday April 20. Communications and Outreach will continue to promote throughout April. All judges have been chosen and essays will be judged after deadline passes and essays are collected and distributed. Winners announced at May Board Meeting.

On Deck

- Prepare Stage II Alarm Drought Materials – Distribute Press Release in the event that we go into Stage II Drought
- Work on new Science in 60 Seconds Video

**STATUS REPORT UPDATE
FOR THE APRIL 14, 2022 BOARD MEETING**

Summary of Significant Activities – Prepared by Staff Leads

Upcoming Dates of Interest

- Johnson Screens Well Design Class – April 19-21 (San Antonio)
- TAGD (Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts) Business Meeting and PFIA Training – May 17-18 (Arlington)
- Texas Water Conservation Association (TWCA) Summer Conference – June 15-17 (Round Rock)
- Catalyst Water Mastermind Summit – July 27-29 (San Antonio)
- Texas Groundwater Summit – August 30-September 1 (San Antonio)
- Texas Desal Annual Conference – September 14-17 (Austin)
- TWCA Fall Conference – October 5-7 (San Antonio)
- Water for Texas – January 23-25 (Austin) - 2023

DROUGHT MANAGEMENT

Drought Status and Water-Level Monitoring (Justin)

We have been in a status of No Drought since it was officially declared at the July 8, 2021 Board meeting.

La Nina conditions (declared by NOAA on 10/14/21) have strengthened in February 2022 and are favored to continue into summer 2022. This means that we are predicted to receive below average rainfall and above average heat through May-June, which are historically the wettest months of the year in central Texas.

The Texas Hill Country has received an average of 5 inches - 4 inches behind annual average rainfall - from January through early April. Water levels in the Edwards showed a short-lived rise after some late January rains (2.5 inches) provided some recharge. Trinity water levels also displayed a delayed rise in response to late 2021 rain. However, those rising levels are slowing down.

On April 7, 2022, the Lovelady well had a level of 486 ft msl, 8 ft above the drought trigger level. On April 7, Barton Springs was flowing at 53 cfs (10-day average), 15 cfs above the drought trigger point of 38 cfs.

Drought Communication (David, Michael)

Staff has updated District resources and the website to reflect the current Stage 1 drought stage. Written permittee notifications and public notice of non-drought conditions were mailed and emailed out. Educational resources have been prepared and are available upon request for permittees. Digital educational downloads are available on the website with the Drought Media Tool-Kit located on the Drought Education Page and includes links to other helpful resources. <https://bseacd.org/drought-edu/>

DISTRICT PROJECTS

GMA Joint Planning

➤ ***GMA 10 Coordination (Michael)***

The last GMA 10 meeting was held on February 22, 2022, where the representatives discussed the need for consultants during the next planning cycle due to new models and scientific tools being produced. The discussion of creating a RFQ and bringing a draft RFQ to the next meeting was discussed as well. GMA 10 also appointed Michael Redman as the liaison for Region K. The next meeting date is to be determined.

➤ ***Explanatory Report Development (Michael, Jeff)***

The Explanatory Reports were submitted Dec 21, 2021 and are under review by the TWDB. The TWDB has not given approval to the DFCs as of April 7, 2022.

Trinity Aquifer Sustainable Yield Study & Planning

➤ ***Advisory Workgroup Planning (Kendall)***

GM and staff are continuing to review research on sustainability goals, metrics and thresholds. Staff has met with our facilitator four times to discuss the project timeline, communication, and certain components of an Advisory Work Group. Staff has begun discussions to evaluate the level of public participation, the fundamental objectives of the Advisory Work Group, the scope, and process and workflow to engage the participants, all of which will be incorporated into the Advisory Work Group Plan. Staff recently met with the facilitator to discuss the process overview and is working to finalize the level of participant engagement. Staff is meeting internally to discuss how to work through the unreasonable impact factors and what data and information is needed to assess.

Technical Evaluations (Brian, Jeff)

Aquifer Science staff continue to collect data on the geology and hydrogeology related to the Trinity Aquifers. We are evaluating water-level data for a number of Trinity wells to look for long-term trends. We are working with Hays County and Wimberley Valley Watershed Association to install Trinity monitor wells in the Jacob's Well area. Work on the first phase of the District's own numerical modeling has been completed. This phase involved the development of a steady-state model. We are currently converting the steady-state model into a transient model which will allow simulation of different pumping and drought scenarios over time. Calibration of the transient model is almost complete and we will start running future scenarios by the end of April. We have hired a consulting firm called GSI to assist us with progressing the model to transient and had our project kick-off meeting with GSI staff on July 31. We are continuing to meet biweekly with GSI as they help us with the calibration process. We are members of a technical committee to guide the development of a numerical groundwater model of the aquifers influenced by the Blanco River. A meeting of the technical committee was held on January 6, 2022. Southwest Research Institute started work on the model in September.

Habitat Conservation Plan (Brian, Erin)

- **COA/BSEACD Technical Meeting:** In December 2021, Aquifer Science hosted a meeting with staff from the City of Austin Watershed Protection Department to discuss activities related to the HCPs of each entity and to share data and reports about these activities.

- **MAC Meeting & Annual Report:** Staff prepared the annual report for review by the Management Advisory Committee (MAC). The MAC met on January 26, 2022 for its annual meeting and provided minimal edits and comments. Comments and edits are being reviewed and incorporated in the draft report. The annual report was submitted on February 16, 2022.
- **Implementation Schedule:** Staff is reviewing previous planning documents and will develop a new implementation timeline and schedule to guide project tasks and activities for the 1-3 year timeframe.
- **Planning for Technical Tasks:** Aquifer Science staff are coordinating studies at Barton Springs with COA staff. These studies include measurement of dissolved oxygen in the Barton Springs pool and the installation of a monitor well within Zilker Park and south of the pool. The Watershed Protection Department has offered to install monitoring equipment in Barton Springs Pool to measure dissolved oxygen as the springs experience wet to drought conditions. Those instruments will likely be deployed in spring 2022.

Database Management System - Intera Inc (Tim)

Contrary to last month's status report where the database project was pronounced over (or essentially aborted,) the database project has been revived since leadership at Intera has turned the matter over to Mr. Eric Markland, Chief Administrative and Financial Officer. (More specifically, the current effort is aimed at revisiting the project status in order to know what is needed to complete the project.) Mr. Markland contacted me on March 11 to inform me that he is investigating the history of our project in order to reach a resolution with the District. He promised to get back with me the following week to arrange a meeting to discuss the matter. That didn't happen and on March 28th, I emailed Eric to express my sense of urgency to settle the matter. Among other matters mentioned in my message, I reminded Eric that while we were now apparently working towards agreeing on how close (i.e., a percentage of the project finished) the project was to completion, "... the District now has 100 percent of nothing." I have been consistent throughout my communications with upper-level staff at Intera that the District cannot afford to walk away from our contractual arrangement with nothing but an expenditure of \$100,000 to (unsuccessfully) obtain a functional database.

Mr. Markland responded the following day, March 29, and reiterated their interest in obtaining our assessment of what work remains. I offered the MS-Excel file that Kendall created and was sent to Intera last November. On April 1, Eric requested a telephone meeting and that conversation occurred on April 5th. Intera is developing a few mockups to share with us to help us reach agreement about where the project stands and what work remains to be done. Intera continues to believe that there may have been some "scope creep" that might partially explain the current status of the project. They've had staff turnover in the application software department, added new staff, and are now partnering with [Epic Engineering and Consulting](#), headquartered in Winter Springs, Florida, to help finish the project. Once agreement is reached with the District about what work remains, Intera will be able to develop a cost estimate of completing the work. I was asked if the District would be willing to consider a financial contribution to Epic once their costs were determined. I indicated we would consider that aspect. I also suggested that once all costs were determined for Intera and their subcontractor to complete the project per the original scope-of-work, that Intera consider offering the District a cash settlement option that would allow us to part ways amicably and enable the District to pursue other database-development options. He agreed

to consider that option. I am not expecting an update from Intera during the week of April 18th. It should be noted that all communications between the District GM and Mr. Markland have been productive, professional, and conducted with both concern for and interest in maintaining a positive relationship beyond the resolution of this project. For what it's worth, I'll add that Mr. Markland presents himself as a first-class guy who is representing Intera exceptionally well under these challenging circumstances.

The process got underway with the current GM's involvement by way of a Zoom meeting that was held on February 11, 2022 and included Tim Loftus, and both Kelly Hunter and Wade Oliver of Intera. That Zoom meeting was preceded by a strategy session that included Director Stansberry, Bill Dugat, and Tim Loftus. Upon receipt of Intera's position statement, it will be forwarded to Director Stansberry and Bill Dugat and likely followed by another internal District discussion. The District is currently without a functional database and will have to begin a new process of working with a new vendor to meet the District's database needs.

ILA Commitments (Brian)

The District has ILA commitments with Hays County and HTGCD to install two monitor wells in the Jacob's Well Area. Information from these wells will be used to better understand the flow system that delivers Middle Trinity groundwater to Jacob's Well, and to develop our numerical groundwater models. Drilling of the first of the two monitor wells started on March 3 in the Coleman's Canyon area (north of Jacob's Well) for the installation of a Westbay multiport monitor well. Drilling and Westbay installation was completed on March 11. On April 7, 2022 drilling and coring began inside the Jacob's Well Natural Area on the second monitor well which will be a standard monitor well into the Cow Creek, but with a piezometer installed in the Lower Glen Rose.

The ILA with COA is intended to coordinate studies for the respective HCPs such as scientific feasibility studies and monitoring evaluations; to collaborate on the planning of future Kent Butler Summits; and to exchange technical information regularly on an annual basis.

Status update – An annual technical meeting was held in December 2020. In January 2021, the annual MAC meeting was held. Kent Butler Summit small group discussions took place in Jan- Feb 2021. COA/BSEACD plan to have additional discussions and planning efforts to coordinate the details of the DO studies and the monitor well installation.

Region K Planning Activities (Michael)

Region K meet on January 26, 2022, to discuss picking candidates for the empty representatives. The group voted in 2 members into 2 vacancies. Bylaw committee introduced updates to the bylaws. The Region K consultants gave a presentation on the upcoming regional planning process and timelines. TWDB gave updates on regional planning processes and upcoming projects. Discussion regarding members acting as liaisons to nearby regional planning groups. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 27, 2022 at LCRA.

Strategic Planning Implementation (Tim):

The GM and select staff (KBE and DM) have met, exchanged ideas via email, and have essentially begun to revisit the strategic planning process and initial output that was created in 2021. These three staff members might reasonably be considered the new core-staff strategic planning team.

The GM shared candid feedback with President Stansberry about original planning output and learned valuable background information about the genesis of the project. Staff will meet again to discuss ideas for moving forward.

WPAP

Staff recently received the Oak Hill Parkway Project WPAP and CZP for Construction of segments 2B and 3.

Oak Hill Parkway project traverses both the Edwards Aquifer Recharge Zone and Contributing Zone. For construction purposes, the Oak Hill Parkway Project has been broken into five segments. Segment 2 is further divided into 2A and 2B with Segments 2B and 3 within the Recharge Zone. Construction of the portion of the Oak Hill Parkway Project within the Recharge Zone will consist of the following elements:

Segment 2B:

- Four-lane frontage roads in each direction
- Four-lane mainlane bridges in each direction
- Intersection widening and improvements at William Cannon and US 290
- Sidewalks and shared use paths
- Mainlane overpass bridges at the William Cannon/US290 intersection
- Reconstruction of McCarty Ln. and William Cannon, south of US 290
- Hydraulic bridge crossings at Williamson Creek

Segment 3:

- Three-lane frontage road in each direction
- Four-lane mainline in each direction
- Sidewalks and shared use paths
- Bridge widening at the Old Fredericksburg Rd. overpass
- Bridge widening at the Monterey Oaks Blvd overpass

The permanent stormwater section to reduce TSS by 80% with a combination of vegetative filters strips, a sedimentation/filtration water quality pond, and two existing water quality ponds.

Four sensitive features (F1, F4, F5, and F6) were identified in the GA. Features F1 and F5 are within Williamson Creek and will be protected. F4 and F6 will be impacted by construction and will be sealed.

The temporary stormwater section is proposed BMPs including sediment traps with dewatering bags, rock berms, soil retention blankets, concrete traffic barrier (modified RFD2) and inlet protection facilities.

Oak Hill Parkway project traverses both the Edwards Aquifer Recharge Zone and Edwards Aquifer Contributing Zone. Additionally, the project passes through three watersheds: Devil's Pen Creek Watershed, Williamson Creek Watershed and Barton Creek Watershed. From the design and construction standpoint, the project is divided into Segments 1 through 4 and Offsite Detention Pond is separated as a standalone work element from these segments. For the purpose of EAPP permits, Segment 2 is further divided into Segments 2A and 2B by the boundary line of Recharge and Contributing Zones.

Upon past meetings with TCEQ and TxDOT, and further refinement to project construction schedule and availability of ROW, Colorado River Constructors, OHP (CRC) proposes the following phasing structure with regard to EAPP permit applications for the project.

Training, Presentations, and Conferences (All Teams):

- Aquifer Science: N/A
- Regulatory Compliance: Cyber Security Training
- Administration: N/A
- Communications and Outreach: N/A
- General Manager: N/A
- All Staff: Annual Cybersecurity Training

New Maps, Publications, or Reports:

A list of recent publications can be found at: <https://bseacd.org/scientific-reports/>

The latest eNewsletter published in November 2021 can be found at:
<https://bseacd.org/publications/newsletters/>

LITIGATION AND LEGISLATION

Litigation and SOAH Activities (Kendall)

- **Electro Purification Production Permit:**

Current Activity: No further actions have been taken and no new updates are available as of December 2, 2021.

Recent Background: On April 14th the GM and counsel met with EP to discuss their desired requests relating to amending their permit application request. We discussed administrative processes and options relating to their permit request as well as the GM's current position statement.

On March 9th the GM issued a letter to EP returning the July 17, 2017 application of Electro Purification LLC and explaining that there is no further action that the GM intends to take in connection with the remand. On March 11th the applicant, EP, responded to the GM's 3/9 letter, stating that they interpret the EP application to still be active and necessitating Board Action.

The district submitted pre-filed testimony and a revised GM Position Statement in December 2020. Depositions were scheduled for Jan-Feb 2021. On Jan 11, 2021 EP filed a Notice of Nonsuit and request to remand the application back to the District. On Jan 15, 2021, the District filed a response to the applicant's Notice of Nonsuit and requested that the ALJs find that with a nonsuit, that EP has withdrawn the application. On Jan 25, 2021 EP filed a response disagreeing with the District's request that the ALJs find the application withdrawn. On Feb 4, 2021, the ALJs dismissed the EP matter and remanded the matter back to the District. The original hearing on the merits will no longer be set for the dates of April 12-16 & 19-20, 2021.

RULEMAKING, PERMITTING, AND ENFORCEMENT

Rulemaking (Michael, Kendall)

There are no immediate plans for additional rule making at this time.

Enforcement and Compliance Matters (Michael, Erin)

<i>Compliance/Enforcement</i>			
<i>Permittee or Entity Name</i>	<i>Aquifer</i>	<i>Use Type</i>	<i>Notes</i>
Aqua Texas – Bliss Spillar	Edwards	PWS	Aqua Texas signed and completed the Bond as of March 24, 2022

Permitting Activity (Michael, Erin)

<i>In Review</i>				
<i>Application Type</i>	<i>Aquifer</i>	<i>Applicant Name</i>	<i>Use Type</i>	<i>Volume Request</i>
LPP	Middle Trinity	Smith, Mark and Staci	Domestic	500,000
LPP	Edwards/Upper Trinity	Whittington, Keith	Domestic	500,000
Exempt – Domestic Plugging	TBD	Zimitz, Diedre	Domestic	7GPM - Exempt
	? (Above Austin Chalk)	TX-DOT	Abandon/Plug	0 - Plugging
IPP – Class A	Edwards	17050 IH-3, LLC	Commercial	TBD during review
IPP	Middle Trinity	Collins, Phil	Commercial	Waiting on Engineer
<i>Recently Approved</i>				
<i>Application Type</i>	<i>Aquifer</i>	<i>Applicant Name</i>	<i>Use Type</i>	<i>Volume Request</i>
IPP – Class A	Edwards	Confido III, LLC	Commercial	300,000
LPP	Middle Trinity	Anderson, Derrek	Domestic	500,000
LPP	Upper Trinity	Romo, George	Domestic	500,000
Plugging (2 wells)	Austin Chalk	KCP Kohlers, LLC	Abandon/Plug	0 - Plugging
Plugging	Austin Chalk	Lennar Himes	Abandon/Plug	0 - Plugging

AQUIFER STUDIES **(Brian)**

Permitting Hydrogeologic Studies:

- Aqua Texas Inc- Aquifer Science staff were involved with Aqua Texas as they are tested a Lower Trinity well in Chaparral Park. The District recently issued a production permit for the well. Aquifer Science staff worked with the developers of the Gragg tract near the south end of Hwy. 45 as they installed the fourth well in their well field. These wells all tap into the Lower Trinity Aquifer.

Groundwater Studies: *Dye Tracing, Water Quality, Aquifer Characterizations*

- Colemans Canyon- As part of the Jacob's Well study, we are collecting data from domestic wells in the area. A dye-trace study will be conducted in 2022 with Hays County, EAA, and HTGCD.
- Drilling of the first of two monitor wells near Jacob's Well started on March 3 and completed on March 11. Drilling of the second monitor well began on April 7.

Field Activities:

- Antioch- Continuing to maintain the system and to collect data on flow into the vault.
- Well Monitoring- Continuing to maintain equipment in numerous monitor wells and to download and interpret data.

Trinity Aquifer Modeling Development:

- BRATWURST Modeling- Southwest Research Institute started work on this model in September 2021.
- In-house model- Working with GSI to transition the steady-state model into a transient model. We are now finalizing the model calibration process, after which we will start testing scenarios.

COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH
(David)
March 2022

Website: During the month of March, a number of items were added to the spotlights page, including: Multiport Monitor Well Installation, Barton Springs/Lovelady Level Check – March 20, 2022, Board of Directors Adopt New Director Precinct Boundaries, REMINDER: Aquatic Science Adventure Camp Scholarship Essay/Art Contest, Dye Tracing Video, Next Board Meeting: April 14, 2022, District Operations Update – Effective March 14, 2022, **BSEACD Newsroom** page was also updated with latest press releases, upcoming meetings, videos, etc. <https://bseacd.org/publications/bseacd-newsroom/>

Website Analytics 2021		Top Page Searches			
Month	Total Page Views	Unique Page Views	January	February	March
Dec.	1,959	1,798	Homepage 542 Views	Homepage 549 Views	Homepage 531 Views
Jan.	3,815	3,346	Education/Scholarships 306 Views	Education/Scholarships 149 Views	Education/Scholarships 101 Views
Feb.	4,482	4,183	About Us/Staff 137 Views	About Us/Staff 117 Views	Publication/Maps 95 Views
March	2,508	2,237	Publication/Maps 126 Views	Publications/Maps 108 Views	About Us/Staff 89 Views
			Regulatory/Forms 115 Views	Education/Well-Owners 101 Views	Regulatory/Permits 71 Views

Strategic Planning: Communications & Outreach, Regulatory & Policy Project Manager Kendall Bell-Enders, and General Manager Dr. Timothy L. Loftus are working on putting together a strategic planning document based on last year’s strategic planning workshops. We have met several times and are in the process of streamlining the information.

Well Water Check Up: The Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer Conservation District (District) teamed up with Texas A&M Agrilife Extension and Texas Well Owner Network to provide a Water Well Checkup for District well owners. We had a total of 26 samples submitted. No ecoli was detected in any of the samples. However, we had three samples with total coliform present. The samples were analyzed by Texas A&M Agrilife/Texas Well Owner Network during a Water Well Owners Educational Event in Luling. All results were mailed to well owners.

2022 Summer Aquatic Science Adventure Camp Scholarship Essay/Art Contest: The deadline to submit applications for the Aquatic Science Adventure Camp Scholarship was March 23, 2022. We received 10 essay/art submissions. Judges are in the process of finishing up the judging process. Communications and Outreach will notify winners after results are in.

Communications and Outreach is working with Kellie Donajkowski, Education Program Manager with Edwards Aquifer Research and Data Center. Thanks to the City of Austin conservation credit contribution, we were able to add more scholarship funding. We went from a total of \$3,360 to \$6,360. Judges for the camp scholarship are Ben Hutchins, Assistant Director of Research & Education at Edwards Aquifer Research & Data Center, Julia Stanford, Programs & Operations Manager for TAGD, and Dan Pickens, BSEACD Board Member. Winners have been chosen and contacted. We will publicly announce winners at the April 14 board meeting.

Aquatic Science Summer Camp Total Scholarship Funding - \$6,360

Kent S. Butler Scholarship Memorial Groundwater Stewardship Scholarship Essay Contest: Communications and Outreach is promoting the Kent Butler Scholarship opportunity. Essay submissions are due on April 20, 2022. Thanks to the City of Austin conservation credit contribution, we were able to add an additional 1,500 scholarship. These are the confirmed judges: Blake Neffendorf, Water Resource Coordinator; Sydney Beckner, Hill Country Alliance Water Program Manager; Justin Camp, BSEACD Hydrogeologist Technician; Lily Lucas, BSEACD Board Member; Natalie Ballew, TWDB (Groundwater Technical Assistance); and Katie Sternberg, City of Austin Conservation Programs Coordinator.

2,500 – 1 Winner

1,500 – 1 Winner

1,000 – 1 Winner

Total - \$4,500

TAGD Media Relations Cheat Sheet: Communications and Outreach Manager is on TAGD's Information & Education Committee. We are assisting TAGD in creating a communications toolkit for groundwater districts. This document will serve as a guide for employees in Texas groundwater districts and how to handle communications for a variety of platforms and it also addresses how to communicate during specific situations. Communications and Outreach Manager finished the Media Relations Cheat Sheet as part of the plan. It is now under review.

Meetings/Events:

Met with Julia Stanford with TAGD to discuss media relations cheat sheet for Information & Education Meeting Committee (Communications & Outreach Manager is on the committee).

Attended TCEQ Informational Meeting in Wimberley on March 29, 2022 regarding an Air Quality Standard Permit For Permanent Rock and Concrete Crushers on Needmore property.

Attended Creedmoor Maha Water Supply Corporation Building Grand Opening.

Water Week Owners Educational Event: Communications and Outreach Manager and Michael Redman, Regulatory Compliance Team Lead spoke at this event educating the audience on the District. This took place at Luling Foundation Headquarters in Luling on March 3, 2022.

Press Releases/Outreach:

Board of Directors Adopts New Director Precinct Boundaries

<https://bseacd.org/uploads/District-Board-of-Directors-Adopts-New-Director-Precinct-Boundaries.pdf>

District Operations Update – Effective March 14, 2022

<https://bseacd.org/2022/03/district-operations-update-effective-march-14-2022/>

Media Coverage:

Quarry May Be Built On Needmore Ranch – The Wimberley View – March 17, 2022

<https://www.wimberleyview.com/news/quarry-may-be-built-needmore-ranch>

Videos:

Dye Tracing Study

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TZ-S7kRT7oM>

Multiport Monitor Well Installation

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yDQw4HIZahY>

Social Media (Twitter, Facebook, Instagram): Latest TWDB Water Weekly Report, Applications for Kent S. Butler Memorial Stewardship Scholarship Due April 20, 2022, Hays County Multiport Monitor Well, Bluebonnet Photos, How Groundwater Districts Work Alongside the TWDB Video, Getting to Know Board Member Dan Pickens, Deadline Reminder for Aquatic Science Adventure Camp Art/Essay Contest, Rain Totals, World Water Day, Barton Springs and Lovelady Level Check – March 22, 2022, Severe Storm Threat, Reminder Aquatic Science Adventure Camp Deadline, Happy St. Patrick’s Day, Multiport Monitor Well Photos, Board of Directors Adopt New Director Precinct Boundaries, Dye Tracing Study Video, TWDB’s Water Weekly Report – March 15, 2022, Deadline Reminder for Aquatic Science Adventure Camp Art/Essay Contest, National Groundwater Awareness Video, District Operations Update, Next Regular Board Meeting – March 10, 2022, Deadline Reminder for Aquatic Science Adventure Camp Art/Essay Contest, Groundwater Awareness Week Tip: Test, Tend, Treat, Groundwater Awareness Week: 41 Percent of the U.S. population depends on groundwater, Getting to Know Board President Blayne Stansberry, Board Meeting Reminder: March 10, 2022, Dye Tracing Study Photos, Tortoise Photo, Reminder Aquatic Science Adventure Camp Deadline, Reminder: Well Water Checkup Information Due.

BSEACD Monthly Social Media Roundup/Groundwater News

Social Media Roundup (March 2022):

<https://bseacd.org/uploads/BSEACD-Social-Media-Roundup-March-2022.pdf>

Monthly Groundwater News/Dates of Interest (March 2022):

<https://bseacd.org/uploads/BSEACD-Monthly-Groundwater-News-Dates-of-Interest-March-2022.pdf>

The top performing post on Facebook for the month of March was the “During a routine visit to our Gluesenkamp (Driftwood) monitor well we go a welcomed visitor (tortoise)”. It reached 380 people. The top tweet on Twitter for the month of March was the dye tracing study we assisted the City of Austin on. It reached 244 people and had 12 engagements. The top performing video on YouTube for March was the Dye Tracing Study with 19 views.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION
(March 4, 2022 – April 7, 2022)

Accounts Receivable/Permittee Cycle Billings

On April 16, May monthly billings will be mailed out for a total of \$ 20,026.21.

Budget FY 2023 – Preliminary Version, and Pumpage Analysis

The draft is still in the beginning stages. Preliminary version to be brought before the Board at the June Board Meeting, and the Final Proposed Version along with the Fee Schedule to be brought before the Board for final approval at the July Board Meeting. (Statutory deadline for approval is July 31.)

FY 2022 Budget Revision 2 – need to wait until closer to the end of the fiscal year to know if any changes will be requested/needed. One change will be the \$4500 increase to the scholarship budget due to a conservation credit donation for this purpose.

TWC Tax Rate

Annual Texas Workforce Commission Rates for quarterly C-3 tax reporting. New rate assessed every March 1 to be retroactive to January 1. This year reduced from 2.8% (\$252 per employee per year) to 0.1% (\$9 per employee per year).

The District's annual contribution rate is computed in accordance with Chapter 204, Subchapter F of the Texas Unemployment Compensation Act and is a percentage computed by dividing the adjusted amount of all unemployment benefits attributable to employers in the group by the amount of the total wages paid by those employers.

The adjusted amount of benefits paid to all claimants of taxed political subdivisions for the year ended December 31 is \$ -7,804,827.38.

The amount of total wages paid to all taxed political subdivisions for the year ended December 31 is \$1,001,534,104.43.

More simply stated, we pay the TWC quarterly 0.1% of each employee's gross salary up to the first \$9,000 the employee earns.

Financial Reporting – Website Transparency Section (Texas Comptroller's Office)

These are four separate reports (monthly) and in different format (data over formatting, and collapes view vs expanded view) than the four monthly financial reports that are included in the monthly Board backups, that are fiscal year-to-date.

Transparency Star-related: Most current, available financial reports are to be posted on our website and accessible within three clicks, as required by the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts

Transparency Star Program. Balance Sheets, Profit and Loss Statements, and Check Registers (Operating and Payroll) through March 2022 have been posted on the District website.

Transparency Star Program, Annual Income and Expense Graphs (2) on the website have been updated as required to maintain certification.

Special Purpose District Report (Texas Comptroller's Office)

Special Purpose District Public Information Database – Annual Reporting as required by reporting procedures and requirements prescribed by Government Code, §403.0241.

Although much of the information is consistent from year to year, we must resubmit a report every year.

Tax Reporting

1st Quarter 2022 Payroll Taxes (941 and C-3) filed.

The Administration Team typically has repetitive monthly tasks e.g. monthly bank reconciliations, monthly adjusting journal entries, accounts payable, payroll, contract/grant/project tracking, office maintenance and repairs, budget monitoring, bi-weekly payroll journal updates, directors' compensation, pre-paids, DMFs, posting public meetings, preparing meeting backups, etc. These types of tasks are not listed in this report because they are repetitive. Administration status reports are generally more summarized than the other teams, as we list our extra-ordinary tasks outside of our routine tasks, while supporting all other teams.

Item 5

Board Discussions and Possible Action

- a. Discussion and possible action related to proposed modifications to the Employee Policy Manual.**

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1. INTRODUCTION

This Employee Policy Manual contains important information and should therefore be read in its entirety upon receipt. While this manual has a lot of information, it cannot cover all subjects completely. Therefore, if there are any questions about the policies of the Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer Conservation District (District), the employee should ask their Team Leader or the General Manager. The term “employees” as used throughout this document excludes all members of the Board of Directors (Board).

Employment with the District is on an at-will basis. This means that the employment relationship is not an entitlement but rather a privilege that may be terminated at any time by either the employee or the District for no reason at all or for any reason not expressly prohibited by law. The contents of this manual do not constitute a contract of employment. Nothing contained in this manual should be construed as a guarantee of continued employment or of any particular policy or benefit. The policies, programs, and benefits described in this manual may be eliminated, added to, subtracted from, or otherwise amended at any time without advance notice or cause. Interpretations of this policy are reserved to the General Manager or his/her designee under guidance of the Board. Any agreement with regard to this or any other policy is invalid unless it is in writing and signed by the General Manager.

1.1. Equal Employment Opportunity

The District is committed to the principles of equal employment. We are committed to complying with all federal, state, and local laws providing equal employment opportunities (EEO), and all other employment laws and regulations. ~~The District is committed to fair and equal treatment of all employees, and fair and equal consideration of all prospective employees, without regard to race, color, age, religion, sex, ancestry, Vietnam or disabled veteran status, national origin, genetic make-up, or disability.~~

The District commits to administering all personnel actions fairly, including such matters as employment, promotions, demotions, transfers, compensation, benefits, training, education, and social and recreational programs.

1.2. Discrimination and Harassment Prohibited

The District intends to maintain a work environment that is free of harassment, discrimination, or retaliation because of sex (including pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical conditions), gender identity or expression, race, religion, color, national origin, physical or mental disability, protected genetic information, marital status, age ~~(40 and older)~~, sexual orientation, AIDS/HIV status, military service, veteran status, or any other status protected by federal, state, or local laws. The District is dedicated to the fulfillment of this policy in regard to all aspects of employment, including but not limited to recruiting, hiring, placement, transfer, training, promotion, rates of pay, and other compensation, termination, and all other terms, conditions, and privileges of employment.

The District will conduct a prompt and thorough investigation of all allegations of discrimination, harassment, retaliation, or any violation of the EEO Policy in a confidential manner. The District will take appropriate corrective action, if and where warranted. The District prohibits retaliation

against employees who provide information about, complain about, or assist in the investigation of any complaint of discrimination or violation of the EEO Policy.

Employees are all responsible for upholding this policy. An employee may discuss questions regarding equal employment opportunity with the General Manager or any other designated member of management.

1.2.1. Policy Against Workplace Harassment

The District has a strict policy against all types of workplace harassment, including sexual harassment and other forms of workplace harassment based upon an individual's sex (including pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical conditions), gender, race, religion, color, national origin, physical or mental disability, genetic information, marital status, age (40 and older), sexual orientation, AIDS/HIV status, military service, veteran status, or any other status protected by federal, state, or local laws. All forms of harassment of, or by, employees, vendors, visitors, customers, and clients are strictly prohibited and will not be tolerated.

1.2.2. Sexual Harassment

Sexual harassment is defined as unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature when (1) submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly as a term or condition of an individual's employment; (2) submission to, or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for employment decisions affecting such individual; or (3) such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's work performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive work environment.

1.2.3. Other Harassment

Other workplace harassment is verbal or physical conduct that insults or shows hostility or aversion towards an individual because of the individual's sex (including pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical conditions), gender, race, religion, color, national origin, physical or mental disability, genetic information, marital status, age (40 and older), sexual orientation, AIDS/HIV status, military service, veteran status, or any other status protected by federal, state, or local laws.

Again, while it is not possible to list all the circumstances that may constitute other forms of workplace harassment, the following are some examples of conduct that may constitute workplace harassment:

- The use of disparaging or abusive words or phrases, slurs, negative stereotyping, or threatening, intimidating, or hostile acts that relate to the above protected categories;
- Written or graphic material that insults, stereotypes, or shows aversion or hostility towards an individual or group because of one of the above protected categories and that is placed on walls, bulletin boards, email, voicemail, or elsewhere on our premises, or circulated in the workplace; and
- A display of symbols, slogans, or items that are associated with hate or intolerance towards any select group.

1.2.4. Reporting Discrimination and Harassment

If an employee feels that they have witnessed or have been subjected to any form of discrimination or harassment, immediately notify the General Manager. Refer to Section 12 of this manual for further details on reporting.

The District prohibits retaliation against employees who, based on a reasonable belief, provide information about, complain, or assist in the investigation of any complaint of harassment or discrimination.

The District will promptly and thoroughly investigate any claim and take appropriate action where the District finds a claim has merit. To the extent possible, we will retain the confidentiality of those who report suspected or alleged violations of the harassment policy. Each investigation depends on the facts and circumstances of that case.

Discipline for violation of this policy may include, but is not limited to, reprimand, suspension, demotion, transfer, and discharge. If the District determines that harassment or discrimination occurred, corrective action will be taken to effectively end the harassment. As necessary, the District may monitor any incident of harassment or discrimination to assure the inappropriate behavior has stopped. In all cases, the District will follow up as necessary to ensure that no individual is retaliated against for making a complaint or cooperating with an investigation.

Texas law may impose personal liability on supervisors and employees who fail to report sexual harassment and /or fail to take prompt remedial action to prevent harassment from occurring.

1.2.5. Harassment Training

Harassment Training will be required for all employees every two years.

1.3. **Business Ethics**

The District is a political subdivision of the State of Texas, and its employees are public servants. The District strives to maintain the highest standards of business conduct and ethics and will comply with all state laws governing ethics and conflicts of interest. The employee's adherence to these standards while carrying out the job is vital.

The District respects the employee's rights to engage in activities outside the District that are private in nature and which in no way conflict with or reflect upon the integrity or good name of the employee or the District. Because of potential conflicts of interest, ethical considerations and liability matters, an employee must advise and discuss the matter with the General Manager before acceptance of any outside employment or engaging in any activities which may result in conflicts of interest or possibly compromising the District's ethical or professional standards.

- District employees may not use their official position to secure special privileges or exemptions for themselves or others;
- Employees may not grant any special consideration, treatment or advantage to any citizen, individual or group beyond those that are available to every other citizen, individual or group;

- Employees may not disclose, without proper authorization, confidential information that could adversely affect the property, management, or affairs of the District, nor directly or indirectly use any information for their own personal gain or benefit, or for the private interest of others; and
- District employees should not represent, directly or indirectly, or appear on behalf of private interests before the Board, nor shall they represent any private interest in any action or proceeding involving the District, nor shall they accept a retainer or compensation that is contingent upon a specific action taken by the District.

The above list is not all-inclusive. Violation of the public trust in any way is a violation of the District's Ethics Policy and may result in disciplinary actions or termination. The public can retrieve information through the Public Information Act procedures and all requests for information should be directed to the Public Information Officer. The Board has established an Ethics Policy for all elected or appointed officials, agents, and employees of the District. Please refer to, review, and sign the Statement of Affirmation in Appendix A, the District's Ethics Policy, found at the end of this document.

1.4. Conflicts of Interest

The District is concerned with conflicts of interest that create actual or potential job-related concerns, especially in the areas of confidentiality, customer relations, safety, security, and morale. If there is any actual or potential conflict of interest between an employee and a competitor, supplier, distributor, or contractor to the District, the employee must disclose it to their Team Leader. If an actual or potential conflict of interest is determined to exist, the District will take such steps as it deems necessary to reduce or eliminate this conflict.

1.5. Employment of Relatives and Friends

The District will not employ relatives in positions where actual conflicts may arise that could compromise supervision, safety, confidentiality, security, and morale at the District.

1.6. Accommodations

The District will make reasonable accommodations as required by applicable federal, state, local laws and regulations.

~~No provision of this policy (Section 1.6) applies, or will be enforced, if it conflicts with or is superseded by any requirement or prohibition contained in a federal, state, local law, or regulation.~~

1.6.1. Disability Accommodation

~~The District complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the Pregnancy Discrimination Act, and all applicable state and local fair employment practices laws, and is committed to providing equal employment opportunities to qualified individuals with disabilities, including disabilities related to pregnancy, childbirth, and related conditions. Consistent with this commitment, the District will provide reasonable accommodations to otherwise qualified individuals with a disability where appropriate to allow the individual to perform the essential functions of the job, unless doing so would create an undue hardship on the business.~~

If accommodation is required because of a disability, it is the employee's responsibility to notify their Team Leader. The employee may be asked to include relevant information such as:

- A description of the proposed accommodation.
- The reason for the accommodation.
- How the accommodation will help the employee perform the essential functions of their job.

After receiving the request, the District will engage in an interactive dialogue with the employee to determine the precise limitations of the disability and explore potential reasonable accommodations that could overcome those limitations. Where appropriate, the District may need the employee's permission to obtain additional information from the employee's medical provider. All information received by the District in connection with a request for accommodation will be treated as confidential and maintained in a file separate from the personnel files.

The District encourages the employee to suggest specific reasonable accommodations that they believe would allow them to perform their job. However, the District is not required to make the specific accommodation requested by the employee and may provide an alternative accommodation, to the extent any reasonable accommodation can be made without imposing an undue hardship on the District.

If leave is provided as a reasonable accommodation, such leave may run concurrently with leave under the federal Family and Medical Leave Act and/or any other leave where permitted by state and federal law.

The District will not discriminate or retaliate against employees for requesting an accommodation.

1.6.2. Religious Accommodation

The District is dedicated to treating its employees equally and with respect, and recognizes the diversity of their religious beliefs. All employees may request an accommodation when their religious beliefs cause a deviation from the District dress code or the individual's schedule, basic job duties, or other aspects of employment. The District will consider the request¹, but reserves the right to offer its own accommodation to the extent permitted by law. Some, but not all, of the factors that will be considered are cost, the effect that an accommodation will have on current established policies, and the burden on operations, including other employees, when determining a reasonable accommodation. At no time will the District question the validity of a person's belief.

If an employee requires a religious accommodation, the employee shall speak with their Team Leader.

1.6.3.1.6.1. Accommodation for Nursing Mothers

The District will provide nursing mothers reasonable paid break time to express milk for their infant child(ren) as needed without significant interruption to District operations for up to one year following the child's birth.

If an employee is nursing, the employee will be provided with a space, other than a restroom, that is shielded from view and free from intrusion from co-workers and the public. Expressed milk can be stored in a personal cooler.

An employee who exercises rights under this policy will not be discriminated or retaliated against.

The employee is encouraged to discuss the length and frequency of these breaks with their Team Leader.

2. PERSONNEL RECORDS

The District maintains a personnel file for each employee that includes the employment application and resume; indicates educational experience; and contains experience records, evaluations, and other pertinent information.

All information is kept confidential to the extent allowed by law, with only authorized personnel (as determined by the General Manager) having access to it. The employee's individual records are available for review upon request, and employees may review their personnel records during work time, and may make copies of those records.

Maintenance to keep data up-to-date in the file is important to the employee and the District. The Administration staff should be notified in writing promptly of changes in the following:

- Name
- Address
- Telephone number
- Marital status
- Beneficiaries to be named on insurance policies
- Person(s) to be notified in event of emergency
- Military status (if applicable)

This information will be maintained as part of the employee's personnel record. As stated in Section 552.024 of the Texas Government Code (the Public Information Act), the employee may request that his/her home address, home telephone number, emergency contact information, social security number, or information that reveals whether the employee has family members be kept confidential. This election must be made in writing within the first 14 days of employment or within 14 days of termination of employment with the District. If the election is not timely made, all or part of this information will be subject to disclosure in response to a request for public information.

The District will confirm employment information to authorized credit bureaus over the telephone, with the exception of salary information, which will be confirmed only upon the employee's specific written approval. No other information will be provided to services outside of the District without the employee's written permission, unless required by law.

3. EMPLOYMENT ~~AND BENEFITS~~

3.1. Recruitment and Selection of Employees

The District hires employees based on knowledge, skills and abilities, experience, and other qualifications that relate to the duties of a position without regard to race, national origin, religion, color, sex, age, citizenship, political affiliation, disability, or any other characteristic protected by law.

Job openings for Regular positions are posted in a manner designed to be available to a wide range of applicants, both internal and external. The posting will include the job title, any required qualifications, the method for applying, and any applicable application deadlines.

All applications must be submitted to the General Manager within any specified application period and must be on a form provided by the District. The District does not consider or retain any application that is posted outside of any application deadline or any applications submitted for “any position” or for a position that is not vacant and posted.

Depending upon the position sought, an applicant may be required to consent to a criminal background check and/or a credit check. Some job offers are made contingent upon the successful applicant passing a medical examination that is job-related and consistent with business necessity.

3.2. Work Week

The District’s work week begins at 12:01 a.m. Monday morning and ends at 12:00 midnight Sunday night. Normal business hours are from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

3.3. Flex-Time

The District offers the individual employee the option of working the traditional five-day, eight hours per day work week; or to opt for a flex-time schedule. A flex-time schedule may consist of a compressed four-day, ten hours per day work week and/or an alternate schedule allowing for a start or finish time that is within two hours of normal business hours. All flex-time schedules must be approved by the General Manager. In making a decision about whether to approve a flex-time schedule, the General Manager will take into consideration the employee’s position, the needs of the District, and the needs of the public citizens.

For scheduling and administrative purposes, all District employees may change their flex-time schedule twice per fiscal year. New employees are not eligible for a flex-time schedule within their first six months of employment.

It is the Board’s policy that District business is conducted in a timely and professional manner and that disruption of normal operations is held to a minimum when employees are off. The first concern is that an adequate number of technical and administrative staff are on duty on each day of the work week, meaning that public citizens who request service should expect to be served when they make the effort to visit the District office, and not be asked to return on another date.

Occasionally, employees may need to work on their normal days off in order to meet pending project deadlines or to conduct other District business as required. In cases of conflict, the General Manager will make the final determination.

3.4. Employee Classifications

The General Manager shall make the determination of an employee's classification. All employees are at will employees whose employment may be terminated at any time with or without cause and with or without notice.

3.4.1. Regular Employee

A Regular Employee is an employee who is hired into a non-temporary position without a predetermined end date, and works regularly scheduled hours per week and not on a time, special job completion or call-when-needed basis.

3.4.2. Exempt Employee

Exempt employees are Regular employees who are not subject to the ~~minimum wage and~~ overtime provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) and are therefore not entitled to overtime pay. The District provides comp time as a benefit to exempt employees as set out in this manual.

3.4.3. Nonexempt Employee

Nonexempt employees are Regular employees and subject to the ~~minimum wage and~~ overtime provisions of the FLSA. Nonexempt employees must be compensated for each hour worked and at one and a half times their regular rate of pay for any hours worked over 40 hours in a single work week. The District provides compensatory time ("comp time") in lieu of overtime under the conditions authorized by the FLSA and as set out in this manual.

3.4.4. Full-Time Employee

A full-time employee is a Regular employee expected to work a minimum of 30 hours each week. Full-time employees are entitled to receive all of the benefits offered by the District including but not limited to Paid Time Off, Compensatory Time, Group Insurance, Retirement, Sick Leave, and Paid Leave of Absence programs. A full-time employee working less than 40 hours in a week, receives leave benefits adjusted on a prorated basis.

The full-time employee can either be exempt or nonexempt. Nonexempt employees earn comp time in accordance with FLSA regulations. Exempt employees will also earn comp time under the circumstances and terms established in this manual.

A full-time employee will take a 30-minute meal break each workday and establish their 8- or 10-hour daily work schedule around the meal break accordingly. During the meal break, employees are completely relieved from duty for the purpose of eating a regular meal or

pursuing an alternate activity. Meal breaks are not compensable and non-exempt employees should not work during their meal-time break. Employees have the option of taking a 60-minute meal break and adjusting their work schedule accordingly. The receptionist position, an exception to this rule, will be paid for all hours at the office and no meal break greater than 20 minutes should be taken. All breaks by the receptionist for less than 20 minutes are compensated breaks. Employees are to notify their Team Leader or General Manager of their expected daily-work schedule (i.e., start and finish times, Monday through Friday).

3.4.5. Part-Time Employee

A part-time employee is a Regular employee expected to work a minimum of 20 hours but less than 30 hours per week. Part-time employees may or may not be specifically limited in the number of hours worked per week or pay period, at the General Manager's discretion, but they must be paid for each hour worked.

Part-time employees are entitled to participate in the District's holiday and vacation portions of the Paid Time Off program, and Sick Leave with these benefits adjusted on a prorated basis. Part-time employees are not eligible for the District's other benefit or comp time earnings programs in accordance with applicable state and federal labor law.

Part-time employees are paid overtime at a rate of time-and-one-half their hourly pay rate for hours they work in excess of 40 hours per work week.

3.4.6. Temporary Employee

A temporary employee is defined as an employee who is hired for a specific period of time or for the completion of a specific task or project. Temporary employees are not limited in the number of hours they can work by week, pay period, or annually. Temporary employees are not eligible for the District's benefit or comp time earnings programs, holiday or other Paid Time Off in accordance with applicable state and federal labor law. Temporary employees are paid overtime at a rate of time-and-one-half their hourly pay rate for hours they work in excess of 40 hours per work week. Temporary employees are not Regular employees.

3.4.7. Intern

An intern is typically a student employee ~~or volunteer~~ for the District who is working to obtain experience and knowledge in furtherance of career goals. An intern may or may not receive monetary compensation. If compensated, the intern is classified as a nonexempt temporary employee. Interns are not eligible for the District's benefit or comp time earnings programs, holiday or other Paid Time Off in accordance with applicable state and federal labor law. If compensated, interns are paid overtime at a rate of time-and-one-half their hourly pay rate for hours they work in excess of 40 hours per work week. Interns are not Regular employees.

3.4.8. Volunteer

A volunteer is typically a student offering their time to the District to obtain experience and knowledge in furtherance of career goals. A volunteer does not receive monetary compensation.

4. PAID TIME OFF

The District recognizes the importance of paid time off for rest, relaxation, and recreation. This includes earned vacation, personal days, and holidays.

4.1. Vacation

The amount of vacation time earned is based on the length of employment with the District. All full-time employees and part-time employees earn vacation time in accordance with the following schedule. Employees earn vacation using the same schedule basis as 40-hour week employees, but the accrual rates and maximum accruals are prorated by the number of hours worked in a regular work week relative to a 40-hour week.

Table 1. Vacation Accrual Schedule

Length of Service Employment	Maximum Per Year	Accrual Rate (in hours)			
		Monthly	Biweekly	Weekly	Hourly
0 - end of 4 th year	80	6.67	3.077	1.538	0.0385
5 - end of 9 th year	120	10.00	4.615	2.308	0.0577
10+ years	160	13.33	6.154	3.077	0.0769

All eligible employees will begin to accrue vacation benefits on their first day of employment, and are eligible to take vacation after completion of six months of employment unless otherwise approved by the General Manager. For calculating vacation eligibility, an employee's length of service is the continuous time spent in regular employment by the District, including time spent on military leave of absence but excluding leaves of absence for any other purpose, unless otherwise waived by the Board. Vacation does not accumulate during the time an employee is on a non-military related unpaid leave of absence.

All vacation requests must be submitted with reasonable advance notice for approval by the employee's Team Leader in consultation with the General Manager. The Team Leader will evaluate the impact of the proposed vacation on operations, and advise the employee as soon as possible of approval or disapproval of the request. Team Leaders shall submit vacation requests to the General Manager. With reasonable advance notice, the General Manager shall notify the Board Personnel Committee of his/her vacation plans.

If the Team Leader is unavailable to act on the request, the employee may forward the request to the General Manager for action. Failure of the Team Leader or General Manager to act does not result in automatic approval of the request for vacation leave. Every effort will be made to schedule employee vacations at the time they are requested. However, operating conditions will determine whether the employee's vacation can be scheduled at the exact time requested.

Authorized vacation will not count towards overtime or accrual of comp time. Employees may only use accrued vacation leave and may not carry a negative leave balance.

It is the District's opinion that vacations are beneficial to employees. Employees are encouraged to take vacations each year and are limited in the amount of unused vacation that may be accrued. The maximum amount of vacation time an employee may hold at any one time cannot exceed two times the annual rate for the year. For example, a six-year employee may accrue up to 120 hours of vacation time per year. That employee may hold a maximum of 240 hours of vacation leave at any one time. If an employee accrues up to two years vacation time, the employee will not be allowed to accrue further vacation time until the maximum accrued time is reduced by taking time off or it is sold back to the District. Any accrued vacation time can be sold back to the District once a year only, during the first pay period in December. Refer to Section 9.7 for further information on the Sale of Accrued Benefits.

If an employee voluntarily leaves the employment of the District and a minimum of two weeks notice is given or the employee is terminated, the employee will be paid for any unused vacation to which they are entitled at the time of the separation.

4.2. Personal Days

In addition to vacation days, full-time employees receive “personal days” as a District perquisite in accordance with this policy as outlined below. The number of personal days available is dependent upon the Achievement Level of the employee:

- Entry-level employee - no personal day available;
- Staff-level employee - one personal day per fiscal year;
- Senior-level employee – two personal days per fiscal year; and
- Principal-level employee – three personal days per fiscal year.

Employees are eligible for personal days after six months of continuous employment at the District. Personal days may be taken at the employee’s discretion like vacation days but require explicit notice to and approval by the Team Leader.

A personal day is credited at ten hours for full-time employees working 40 hours per week and prorated by the number of hours expected to be worked in a regular work week relative to a 40-hour week for employees working less than 40 hours per week.

Personal days are required to be taken in full day increments based on the employee’s flex schedule. Employees working a ten-hour, four-day work week will use the ten hour credit on one work day. Employees working an eight-hour, five-day work week will use eight hours on one work day and must use the remaining two hours within the same fiscal year.

Employees become ineligible for using personal days upon giving notice of resignation. There is no carry-over of unused personal days from fiscal year to fiscal year, and unused personal days are not compensated to the employee at any time including termination of employment.

4.3. Holidays

For eligible employees, the District recognizes 12 annual paid holidays as listed below in Section 4.3.1. Holidays which fall on Saturday will be observed on Friday, and those which fall on Sunday

will be observed on Monday. Employees participating in the ten-hour, four-day work week program who are scheduled to be off on Mondays will observe a Monday holiday on Tuesday, and employees scheduled to be off on Friday will observe a Friday holiday on Thursday.

Holidays will be credited at ten hours each for all full-time employees working 40 hours per week. Full time employees working less than 40 hours per week will be paid a prorated amount for the District holiday. Part time employees will be paid a prorated amount for any District holiday for which the employee was regularly scheduled to work.

Employees working a ten-hour, four-day work week will be credited ten hours on the observed holiday. Employees working an eight-hour, five-day work week will use eight hours on the observed holiday and must use the remaining two hours after the observed holiday and within the same fiscal year. There is no carry-over of this additional holiday leave from fiscal year to fiscal year.

If circumstances warrant, an employee may be required to work on a scheduled holiday or may request to work on a scheduled holiday when extraordinary circumstances or responsibility demand it. If an employee requests to work on a holiday, the employee must have prior approval from their Team Leader or the General Manager. If an employee is authorized to work on a scheduled holiday with prior approval, the holiday hours will be added to the regular work hours actually worked for that work week and for the timekeeping period.

Exempt and nonexempt employees could potentially earn comp time off for such work if regular hours plus holiday hours exceeds 40 hour for the work week.

4.3.1. Observed District Holidays

1. New Year's Day
2. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
3. Presidents' Day
4. Memorial Day
5. Independence Day
6. Labor Day
7. Veterans Day
8. Thanksgiving Day
9. Day after Thanksgiving
10. Christmas Eve
11. Christmas Day
12. Day after Christmas

If a holiday occurs during an employee's vacation, the employee will be paid for that holiday and will not be charged with a vacation day for the day the holiday is observed.

4.3.2 Benefits available to employees, including but not limited to health insurance, retirement benefits and severance, if any, will be listed in a separate Appendix to this policy manual and are subject to change and approval by the Board from year to year.

5. GROUP INSURANCE PROGRAM

Full time employees are eligible for the District's group insurance program on the first day of the month following the completion of 60 days of employment.

The District will pay the cost of the employee's premium of the District's current health insurance provider. The District will pay 25% of the dependent care coverage premium of the District's current health insurance provider. The District will pay the full premium of the employee and employee dependents for dental insurance. The District will pay the full premium for basic employee life insurance coverage at two times the employee's annual salary up to \$100,000 of coverage (the District's life insurance coverage includes short term disability coverage, long term disability coverage, and basic employee accidental death and dismemberment coverage). The District will pay the full premium of the employee for vision insurance. Group insurance benefits are subject to change at any time. The District may alter the types of insurance offered, vary or eliminate the amount of premium that the District will pay, or eliminate group insurance benefits entirely.

5.1. Current District-Paid Coverage

- Employee Health Insurance
- 25% Dependent Coverage Health Insurance
- Employee and Dependent Dental Insurance
- Employee Vision Insurance
- Basic Employee Life Insurance (including short term disability, long term disability and basic employee accidental death and dismemberment)

5.2. Current Employee-Paid Coverage

- 75% Dependent Coverage Health Insurance
- Various supplemental packages

5.3. Other Insurance

5.3.1. Unemployment Compensation Insurance Policy

Unemployment compensation insurance is paid for by the District and provides temporary income for employees who have lost their job under certain circumstances. The employee's eligibility for unemployment compensation will, in part, be determined by the reasons for the employee's separation from the District.

5.3.2. Workers' Compensation Insurance Policy

Workers' compensation is a no-fault system designed to provide benefits to all employees for work-related injuries. Workers' compensation insurance coverage is paid for by employers and governed by state law. The workers' compensation system provides for coverage of medical treatment and expenses, occupational disability leave, and rehabilitation services, as well as

~~payment for lost wages due to work-related injuries. If an employee is injured on the job while working at the District, no matter how slightly, the employee shall report the incident immediately to their Team Leader. Consistent with applicable state law, failure to report an injury within a reasonable period of time could jeopardize the employee's claim for benefits.~~

~~To receive workers' compensation benefits, the employee will notify their Team Leader immediately of the claim. If the injury is the result of an on-the-job accident, the employee must fill out an accident report. The employee will be required to submit a medical release before they can return to work.~~

6. RETIREMENT PLAN

The District maintains a mandatory participation retirement program for its eligible employees after the first year of employment (see Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer Retirement Plan and Trust, Summary of Plan Provisions, for eligibility requirements). The District will deduct 7.5% of the employee's salary from the employee's paycheck each pay period and then match that 7.5% with a District contribution. The employee portion and the District's portion of the retirement funds are then invested under the employee's name in a retirement plan approved by the Board. An employee may choose from among several different funds for the retirement plan. Upon entry into the program, eligible employees are 50% vested with the District's contribution. After two years of service with the District, eligible employees will become 100% vested. Employee contributions to the account are always 100% vested. Note that this is a federal income tax deferred program. In other words, 7.5% of gross wages will be tax deferred for federal income taxes only; not for Social Security or Medicare taxes. The District may alter the terms of its retirement plan or eliminate the plan at its discretion.

7.5. ABSENCE DUE TO ILLNESS OR EMERGENCY

7.1.5.1.Sick Leave

An employee's value to the District depends upon reporting to work daily and on time. It is important to maintain a good attendance record. The District recognizes that there will be times when an employee will be unable to work because of personal illness or injury, regular medical or dental appointments, or because of an emergency or illness involving their immediate family. In this context, immediate family is defined as spouse, children, spouses of children, parents, brother, sister, father-in-law, mother-in-law, grandparents and grandchildren, step-children, step-parents, step-brother, step-sister, step-grandparents and step-grandchildren. In these instances, the District does not want employees to suffer financially as a result of their absence from work.

All full-time 40-hour week employees will receive sick leave credit of ten hours per month (120 hours per calendar year) beginning the first day of employment with the District. All full-time and part-time employees working less than 40 hours per week will receive sick leave credit on a prorated basis by the number of hours worked in a regular work week relative to a 40-hour week.

Sick leave credits are granted by the District for the sole purpose of giving employees income protection when they are absent from work for the reasons described in this policy. They do not entitle the employee to be paid for the time they are absent from work for other reasons. Unused sick leave will be banked in the employee's name and may be drawn on for extended periods of illness or injury.

The maximum amount of sick time an employee may hold at any one time cannot exceed 600 hours. If an employee accrues 600 hours of sick time, the employee will not be allowed to accrue further sick time until the maximum accrued time is reduced by taking sick time off.

If an employee has a sick leave balance that exceeds 600 hours at the time of the adoption of this policy (May 23, 2019), that employee will not lose those extra hours, but will not be able to accrue any further hours until their balance falls below the 600-hour maximum.

Sick leave cannot be sold back to the District at any time, including upon separation from the District. Sick leave is not considered hours worked for purposes of calculating overtime. Employees may only use accrued sick leave and may not carry a negative leave balance.

7.2.5.2.Inclement Weather

A major concern of the District is the safety of District employees. Inclement weather is defined as any weather emergency that precludes an employee from performing their normally scheduled duties. These conditions can include, but are not limited to, immediate or residual effects from dangerous driving conditions due to snow, sleet or ice, flooding, or the threat of other severe weather that could threaten or harm the lives of employees at home, work, or while traveling to and from work. When the main threat from inclement weather concerns travel, employees are encouraged to work from home until safer travel conditions return.

The District offices will officially delay opening or be closed, and inclement weather administrative leave will be authorized when either the Austin Independent School District or the San Marcos Independent School District are also closed for inclement weather, if the schools would otherwise be open. If both of the schools would have been closed anyway (e.g. winter holiday or summer break), the District will officially delay opening or be closed if the offices of non-essential staff for Hays County, Travis County, or the City of Austin are closed. When the office is closed or opening is delayed, employees are not prohibited from coming to work if they think they safely can but are not expected to do so. Under these circumstances, there is no need to notify the General Manager or the other staff of absence from work. Regular employees shall record "Inclement Weather" leave for hours taken off during the delayed office opening or office closure. Employees shall record any hours actually worked on an inclement weather day as hours worked. Employees will be paid for the hours of closure if scheduled to work during the closure.

The District will change the outgoing phone message to announce the office closure.

The office closure notwithstanding, employees should use their own good judgment about whether it is safe for them to commute from their homes to work and back, including taking and picking children up at school before and/or after work as needed. Employees concerned about their own or their family's safety during inclement weather conditions in which the office remains open should notify the General Manager so that administrative leave might be authorized on an individual basis, at the General Manager's discretion.

8.6. LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Use of an approved leave of absence (LOA) by Regular employees of any duration requires, at a minimum, advance notice of the request for a LOA provided by the employee to the Team Leader and to the General Manager. For a requested leave of absence of two weeks duration or less, the Team Leader may approve the leave. When an employee requests a LOA in excess of two weeks, the employee must request and obtain prior approval for the leave from the General Manager. In excess of two weeks, the General Manager will request and obtain prior approval for the leave from the Board. Generally, an LOA will not be approved for more than 12 weeks. A longer period LOA, up to a maximum of six months, may be approved if the need is substantiated to and approved by the Board. The employee may also seek extensions of leave. Leave extensions must also be approved by the Board.

All requests for LOA and extensions must be submitted on a Leave Request form and must be supported by documentation that will enable the General Manager or the Board to make a decision to grant or deny the request. No LOA including any extension may exceed six months unless otherwise required by law. This policy will be administered consistently with the District's obligations under the ADA, if applicable, and state and federal military leave laws. A LOA will not be authorized unless there is a reasonable expectation that the employee will return to employment with the District at the end of the approved leave period. Extended LOA may reduce an employee's participation in the group insurance program.

8.1.6.1. Use of All Other Available Leave

All accrued paid leave (unused vacation, personal days, and comp time) must be exhausted before the employee will be authorized unpaid LOA, and runs concurrently with an authorized LOA, including parental leave. Accrued sick leave may be used only in connection with an LOA based on medical necessity, as described below. After exhaustion of all paid leave, the remaining LOA, if any, is unpaid and no paid leave benefits accrue during an unpaid LOA. The six-month maximum absence includes all paid and unpaid days of leave.

8.2.6.2. Eligibility/Criteria

To be eligible for an LOA that exceeds an employee's accrued paid leave, a regular full-time employee of the District must have worked at least 1,250 hours during the immediately preceding 12-month period or a regular part-time employee must have worked at least 625 hours during the immediately preceding 12-month period. In calculating such eligibility, hours worked do not include time off for holidays, paid sick leave, personal days or vacation time, or any period of paid or unpaid leave.

Factors considered by the District in granting an LOA include:

- the reason for the leave
- the anticipated duration of the leave
- the documents submitted to substantiate the need for the leave (*e.g.*, medical certification)
- the frequency with which the employee requests approval for leaves of absence
- the number of other District employees who are out on extended leave at the time of request
- the impact that granting the leave will have on District operations and the ability to satisfy essential obligations

While the District would strive to grant any meritorious request for an LOA, the District must ensure granting of the LOA will not create operational hardships, and that all essential obligations of the District are able to be met with the staff available for the duration of the LOA.

8.3.6.3.Reasons for LOA

A LOA may be considered in the following circumstances:

- Extended illness, injury, or temporary disability and recovery therefrom for the employee (medical necessity). Incapacitating pregnancy, the recovery from childbirth, and the neonatal and postnatal care of either a natural-born or a newly adopted infant child are treated the same as any other medical condition for which paid sick leave may be used.
- Extended care for incapacitated or otherwise dependent immediate family members requiring special attention (*i.e.*, spouse, children, parents, or other family member residing with the employee).
- Educational purposes, including professional development, when successful completion will contribute to the work of the District.
- Public service assignment.

Other circumstances may be considered on a case-by-case basis and at the sole discretion of the General Manager or, at the General Manager's request for a matter of policy, the Board.

8.4.6.4.Documentation

Requests for an LOA must be made in writing to the Team Leader and to the General Manager as far in advance as possible prior to the requested leave date. Requests for an extension of leave must also be in writing and submitted to the General Manager. The need for a medical LOA must be supported by documentation acceptable to the District, including but not limited to a doctor's explanation of why the employee cannot perform his/her duties, when he/she is expected to return to work, and periodic updates regarding the employee's ability or inability to return to work. No medical documentation is required in connection with an employee's own pregnancy unless the employee is seeking an LOA prior to childbirth for complications connected with her pregnancy. The General Manager may require that the employee on leave periodically contact a designated supervisor to report on his/her condition or status. Before returning to work from a medical LOA, the employee may be required to submit a letter from his or her doctor stating that the employee is able to perform the essential functions of his or her job. A job description will be provided by the District for the doctor's reference in submitting a fitness for duty statement.

8.5.6.5. Other Employment During Leave

Under no circumstances may an employee on an authorized LOA work another job, whether for pay, as a volunteer, or as self-employment, unless expressly authorized in writing by the General Manager.

8.6.6.6. Reinstatement

Employees returning from an LOA will be reinstated to their same position if the position is available. Reinstatement is not guaranteed unless required by state or federal law. If the employee's previous position is not available, the District will use its best efforts to place the employee in a position of similar pay and status. If the same job or one of similar pay and status is not available, reinstatement may, at the District's discretion, be deferred until a position is available. If an employee's same position or a position with similar pay and status is not available, the employee's job may be terminated with eligibility for rehire. An employee who fails to return to work at the conclusion of an approved LOA will be considered to have voluntarily resigned his or her employment with the District.

8.7.6.7. Benefits/Premium Payments

All LOAs are unpaid except for any period in which accrued, paid leave is used during the LOA. During the paid leave portion of any approved LOA, all benefits continue to accrue, and the District will continue to pay its portion of any employee and dependent insurance premiums that it normally pays on behalf of the employee. Vacation, sick leave, holiday pay, and other benefits do not accrue during any portion of an approved LOA that is unpaid. If an approved LOA contains any period of unpaid leave, the District will continue to pay its portion of any employee and dependent insurance premiums that it normally pays on behalf of the employee during the first 12 weeks of the LOA during a single 12-month period measured from the first day of the approved LOA. Employees who have group health or any other kind of insurance through the District continue to be responsible for paying their portion of the premiums while on a LOA. An employee's failure to pay his or her portion of insurance premiums during an LOA may result in cancellation of coverage, for which reinstatement after the LOA is not assured.

8.8.6.8. Revocation

The General Manager may revoke an authorized LOA at any time. Failure to return to work after the expiration of an authorized LOA or failure to provide required medical status reports, physician's statements, or to contact the District per the required schedule, will likely result in revocation of the LOA and/or disciplinary action up to and including dismissal of employment.

8.9.6.9. Military Leave

The District complies with state and federal laws governing an employee's absence from work for military training or duty. If an employee is called to active military duty or to Reserve or National Guard training, or if an employee volunteers for the same, the employee should notify the General Manager and submit copies of their military orders as soon as practicable. The District will pay Regular employees who are members of the state military forces or a reserve component of the

armed forces, or a member of a state or federally authorized urban search and rescue team for a period not to exceed the equivalent of 15 eight-hour days (120 hours) in a fiscal year for full time 40-hours per week employees regardless of flex schedule, and prorated for employees working less than 40 hours per week, their full salary when such employees are engaged in authorized training or duty ordered or authorized by proper authority. Paid time off for military leave need not be consecutive. An employee may use accrued Paid Time Off during the unpaid Military Leave. Otherwise, a military leave of absence is unpaid leave. An employee's eligibility for reinstatement after military duty or training is completed is determined in accordance with applicable federal and state law.

8-10.6.10. Parental (Maternity/Paternity/Adoption) Leave

8-10.4.6.10.1. Overview

Parental Leave under this policy is a paid leave associated with the birth of an employee's own child or a placement of a child with the employee in connection with a foster or adoption.

8-10.2.6.10.2. Eligibility

Eligible employees under this policy are those who have been employed by the District for at least 12 months. Eligible full-time employees must have performed at least 1,250 hours of service in the 12-month period immediately preceding the date leave is to begin. Eligible part-time employee must have worked at least 625 hours during the immediately preceding 12-month period. In calculating eligibility, hours worked do not include time off for holidays, paid sick leave or vacation time, or any period of paid or unpaid leave. Temporary employees and Interns are not eligible for paid parental leave under this policy.

8-10.3.6.10.3. Health Insurance

Health insurance coverage will be maintained by the District during Parental Leave on the same basis as if the employee were still working. The employee must continue to make timely payments of their share of the premiums for such coverage. Failure to pay premiums within 30 days of when they are due may result in a lapse of coverage. If this occurs, the employee will be notified 15 days before the date coverage will lapse that coverage will terminate unless payments are promptly made.

8-10.4.6.10.4. Compensation

Eligible employees will receive six weeks of paid leave in the amount of 60% of their salary up to a maximum amount of \$1,000.00 per week to be provided either by the District's short-term disability insurance coverage, or funded by the District. Short term disability benefits are provided for Parental maternity Leave per the District's paid coverage of the Group Insurance Program for the employee. The employee will receive compensation as outlined under the District's short term disability policy. To the extent that any part of the paid leave provided by this Parental Leave Policy is not covered as a short term disability benefit, the District will fund the remainder of the

paid leave authorized herein. For employees entitled to leave under this policy who are not subject to the District's short term disability policy, the District will fund the Parental leave.

Vacation and sick time will accrue at 60% of their regular rate while employee is on Parental leave. Vacation and sick time will not accrue during any time of unpaid leave.

8-10-5-6.10.5. Use and Duration of Leave

Leave for the birth or placement of a child must be taken in a single block and cannot be taken on an intermittent or reduced schedule basis. Parental leave must be completed within 12 months of the birth or placement of the child; however, the employee may use parental leave before the placement of an adopted or foster child to consult with attorneys, appear in court, attend counseling sessions, etc.

Use of Parental leave is subject to the District's standard LOA Policy. The standard LOA Policy for the district allows for 12 weeks of unpaid leave annually. All paid leave under this policy will count toward the 12-week period.

Employees can only utilize one paid parental leave benefit per fiscal year.

8-10-6-6.10.6. Return to Work

Upon returning to work at the end of leave, the employee will be placed in their original job or an equivalent job with equivalent pay and benefits. However, if the employee has allowed any part of their health insurance coverage to lapse, coverage will be reinstated based upon policy requirements. The employee will not lose any benefits that accrued before leave was taken.

8-11-6.11. Other Absences

8-11-1-6.11.1. Court Leave

The District recognizes all employees' civic responsibility to participate in the judicial system as a juror as well as the need to appear as a witness when compelled to do so by subpoena or court order. When an employee receives a summons for jury duty or a subpoena or court order compelling attendance as a witness, he or she should immediately notify their supervisor. Regular employees will receive his or her regular pay, provided adequate proof is furnished.

Time spent on jury duty will be counted as regular working time for all purposes except overtime. The employee must return to work for any reasonable time the court is closed during normal work hours.

No adverse employment action will be taken against employees or applicants due to their service as a juror in state or federal courts.

8-11-2-6.11.2. Bereavement Leave

Paid time off up to three eight-hour days (24 work hours) for employees working 40 hours per week, and prorated for employees working less than 40 hours per week, is available for Regular employees for a death in their immediate family. In this context, immediate family is defined as spouse, children, spouses of children, parents, brother, sister, father-in-law, mother-in-law, grandparents and grandchildren, step-children, step-parents, step-brother, step-sister, step-grandparents and step-grandchildren. Approval of the General Manager is required for time off for other relatives or associates. If approved, the employee may use any earned paid time off benefit.

6.11.3 Time off for Voting

Full time employees are encouraged to take advantage of early voting to avoid long lines on voting day. When employees are unable to take advantage of early voting and are not able to vote election day before or after regular working hours due to work schedules, managers are authorized to grant a reasonable period of time, up to two hours, during the work day to vote. This time off will be with pay. Time off for voting should be reported and coded appropriately on timekeeping records.

9.7. PAY POLICY ADMINISTRATION

9.1.7.1. Pay Periods

Paydays will be every other Thursday, with time credited through the previous Sunday. If a payday falls on a holiday, employees will be paid on the last working day prior to the holiday. If an employee has questions or concerns about any payroll issue, this should be brought to the attention of the General Manager.

9.2.7.2. Definitions

“Regular Work Hours” are all hours actually worked for the District at a regular duty station during and at assigned venues other than the regular duty station whether or not such work is performed during the employee’s regularly scheduled work days.

“Telecommuting Hours” are all hours actually worked for the District at the employee’s home.

These terms are subject to the “Regular Work Hours” and “Telecommuting Hours” provisions of this manual.

9.3.7.3. Wages and Overtime

All employees are expected to work overtime from time to time when necessary. By law, the rate of compensation for overtime is dependent upon whether an employee’s position is exempt or nonexempt, as reflected in their personnel file. Overtime hours require prior approval from the Team Leader and General Manager.

For **nonexempt staff**, all Regular Work and Telecommuting Hours actually worked in excess of the standard 40 hours per work week will be considered overtime and will be eligible for earning comp time for such time, as described in the Earning Comp Time section below. Overtime work for nonexempt staff should be reserved for those times when a specific project, event, or responsibility demands it, and the excess time should be notated on timesheets (as articulated under Timesheet Notation in Timekeeping, Section 9.8 below). A nonexempt employee who works overtime without making the required explanatory notation on the timesheet, including documenting any approvals required by the circumstances will, by law, earn comp time but may be subject to disciplinary action for violation of this policy.

All **exempt staff** are designated as such in their personnel file if they conform to statutory guidelines and are exempt from the minimum wage and overtime provisions of the FSLA. Overtime work by exempt staff should be reserved for those times when a specific project, event, or responsibility demands it, and the excess time should be notated on timesheets (as articulated under Timesheet Notation in Timekeeping, Section 9.8 below). An exempt employee who works overtime without making the required explanatory notation on the timesheet, including documenting any approvals required by the circumstances, may be subject to disciplinary action for violation of this policy. Exempt staff members are compensated for overtime on an hour-for-hour basis as described in Section 9.4.

9.4.7.4. Compensatory Time

9.4.1.7.4.1. Earning Comp Time

As the name implies, comp time is used by the District to compensate, in a limited fashion, staff members for performing actual work that is over and above 40 hours in the work week but that may be required from time to time.

For Regular employees, all Regular Work Hours at any duty station, Telecommuting Hours, and Holiday hours, if applicable, that in aggregate are in excess of 40 hours in a work week are eligible for comp time. Vacation, sick leave, used comp time, personal days, or any other paid or unpaid time off is not included. Comp Time Used Hours are not counted in determining eligibility for additional comp time.

Regular nonexempt employees will earn comp time for the overtime in excess of 40 hours in a work week, and will be compensated with comp time at a rate of time-and-one-half for overtime hours.

Regular exempt employees will earn comp time for the overtime in excess of 40 hours in a work week, and will be compensated with comp time at a rate of one hour of comp time for each overtime hour.

9.4.2.7.4.2. Maximum Comp Time Accruals

The maximum accumulated comp time for any employee shall not exceed 80 hours for nonexempt employees and 240 hours for exempt employees.

9.4.3.7.4.3. Using Comp Time

Comp time is taken by an employee at the discretion of the employee's Team Leader. If an employee wants to use comp time, the employee must provide notice, including the dates and times to be taken off, to the employee's Team Leader as far in advance as possible. The Team Leader will evaluate the impact of the proposed time off on operations and advise the employee promptly of the Team Leader's approval or disapproval of the request. Failure of the Team Leader to act does not result in automatic approval of the request for time off. If the Team Leader is unavailable to act on the request, the employee may forward the request to the General Manager for action. The use of the comp time must not unduly disrupt the operations of the District. No more than 20 hours of comp time may be used in any 40-hour work period except during an approved Leave of Absence. The Team Leader or General Manager may, at his/her discretion, ask the employee to take available comp time off in times of light workload.

Comp time cannot be sold back to the District at any time while employed with the District. Upon separation from the District, nonexempt employees are entitled to compensation for any accumulated comp time; exempt employees are not entitled to such compensation. At the discretion of the General Manager, a nonexempt employee may be required to take unused comp time during the termination notice period. Exempt employees become ineligible for using comp time upon giving notice of resignation to the District.

Employees may only use previously earned and accrued comp time and may not carry a negative comp time balance.

9.5.7.5.Deductions

Certain deductions are made from employees' gross earnings. These deductions are of two types; those required by law and those authorized by the employee.

The law requires that regular amounts be deducted from an employee's pay and to be applied toward payment of the employee's federal income taxes, Social Security, and Medicare. In addition, the District, in accordance with federal and applicable local and state laws, pays to various government agencies the employer's contributions for Social Security, Medicare, and unemployment taxes, and contributes 7.5% to the Board-approved Employee Retirement Plan and Trust for qualified employees.

If an employee wishes, they may have additional deductions taken for the employee optional insurance programs and/or other miscellaneous deductions upon written request to the General Manager and Administration provided that the deductions are regularly scheduled.

Improper deductions from the pay of exempt employees is prohibited. If an exempt employee believes that an improper deduction from his/her salary has been made, a complaint should be made to the General Manager. The General Manager will investigate the complaint. Upon a finding by the General Manager that an improper deduction was made, the exempt employee will be reimbursed in the amount of the improper deduction, and the District will make a good faith effort not to make future improper deductions.

9.6.7.6.Direct Deposit Option

The District offers the option of having paychecks directly deposited into an employee's credit union or bank account with employee authorization.

9.7.7.7.Compensation Policy

It is the District's policy to provide a compensation program of salaries and wages and a benefits package that rewards and retains competent employees and is competitive, equitable, and commensurate with industry standards and the market.

9.7.1.7.7.1. Promotions and Salary Adjustments

It is the District's policy to make every reasonable effort to promote from within and provide the appropriate salary adjustments and perquisites to retain competent employees and reward exemplary performance. Promotions and salary adjustments shall be awarded based on employee's contributions towards achieving the District's objectives, achievements of personal objectives established by the General Manager, career advancement, work performance, changes in responsibility, professional and educational achievements, market conditions, industry standards, and other pertinent factors as determined by the General Manager consistent with District policy. The budgeted amount for all salary adjustments and perquisites may be approved or amended at

the discretion of the Board. Salary adjustments may be given by the General Manager within the Board-approved budgeted amount at any time during the fiscal year. Salary adjustments are prospective in application only and become part of the regular pay for that employee.

9.7.2.7.7.2. Cost of Living Increases

Cost of living increases may be given based upon budgetary and other considerations. The budgeted amount for cost of living increases may be approved, at the discretion of the Board, during the budget cycle for the following fiscal year and will apply to all District full-time and part-time employees. Board approval of the budgeted amount shall serve as approval of the cost of living increases. Cost of living increases will be part of the regular pay in the future and will become effective on the first pay date after the start of each new fiscal year, even if part of the associated pay period is in the prior fiscal year. An employee is not eligible for a cost of living increase until after completion of one full year of employment with the District.

9.7.3.7.7.3. Merit-Based Increases

Merit-based increases may be given by the General Manager based upon budgetary and other considerations. Such increases will be awarded based upon staff performance, as determined by the General Manager, to recognize exemplary performance. The budgeted amount for a merit-based increase may be approved, at the discretion of the Board, during the budget cycle for the following fiscal year. A merit-based increase will become part of the employee's regular pay in the future and will become effective on the first pay date after the start of each new fiscal year even if part of the associated pay period is in the prior fiscal year.

9.7.4.7.7.4. Objectives-Based Incentive Compensation

The District sets individual performance objectives, representing special goals that are distinct from the normal work activities or that are priorities for individual employees, to help foster and align employee work performance with desired strategic and tactical objectives of the District. At its discretion, the Board may establish an incentive compensation pool during the approval of the budget for the following fiscal year. In compliance with the terms of the District's Employee Incentive Compensation Plan, achieving individual objectives in the fiscal year to which they apply earns that employee a pro-rata share of the potential incentive compensation pool as a one-time, non-recurring lump-sum annual payment; i.e., it is not added to the regular pay of the employee. (See Appendix E- Employee Incentive Compensation Plan.)

9.7.5.7.7.5. Sale of Accrued Benefits

Employees may sell any accrued vacation time back to the District each year during the first pay period in December only. Employees hired after April 25, 2019 will not be able to sell accrued vacation time.

Employees will be paid for all accrued vacation time upon separation from the District if proper notice is given; a minimum of two weeks. Nonexempt employees but not exempt employees will also be paid for all accrued comp time upon separation from the District. Employees cannot sell

sick time back to the District. Employees will not be paid for sick time upon separation from the District.

9.8.7.8. Timekeeping and Leave-Balances Administration

All employees must record all hours worked in 15-minute increments. Timesheets must account for and record the hours worked for each day of the expected work schedule, whether it is on a five-day, eight-hour work week, or a four-day, ten-hour work week, or on the previously agreed part-time schedule of work hours as well as any hours worked in excess of the scheduled time and all approved leave time. Hours worked in a given work week beyond those expected work hours may be eligible for comp time off, if certain other conditions are satisfied, as specified in the Comp Time section above. Comp time earned is credited at the end of each pay period and is not available for use until credited.

9.8.1.7.8.1. Daily Time Recording

Accurate time records are essential to ensure District compliance with Wage and Hour Regulations, correct allocation of labor effort among various direct and indirect accounts, and proper computation of overtime and comp time. Each employee will enter his or her time for each workday, distributed among appropriate accounts according to the benefit provided by that labor, as frequently as required to ensure accuracy of the timekeeping record and in no event later than the end of the timekeeping period, using his/her networked computer and the electronic timekeeping system ("Timesheet"). All hours worked must be reported including Regular Work Hours, Telecommuting Hours, and/or Time-Off Account hours, including comp time.

Each Team will have its own Regular Work Hours and Telecommuting Hours accounts.

Generally, on any given day, all full-time employees must record a minimum of either eight or ten hours depending on the approved flex-time option; comprising Regular Work Hours, Telecommuting Hours, and/or some Time-Off Account Hours. No partial days may be entered, except a nonexempt employee who has already worked an aggregate 40 hours for the work week and has not been authorized to work extra hours may enter a partial day for the balance of that week. If any employee does not beneficially work the applicable minimum number of hours in a work day week and does not utilize common paid time off accounts (e.g. vacation/holiday/sick leave), the employee must use previously earned comp time from the employee's existing comp time balance to make up for that day's shortfall by entering it in Timesheet for that day, even if the employee anticipates working excess hours later in the workweek and earning such comp time. Accounting staff will adjust paid time off accounts accordingly.

9.8.2.7.8.2. Timesheet Notation

Employees will be required to append a Timesheet Note in the electronic timekeeping system to the relevant time account(s) whenever:

- The total of Regular Work Hours and/or Telecommuting Hours worked and charged on a normal work day exceed the standard eight or ten hours,

- Telecommuting Hours are worked in the employee's regular work hours,
- Regular Work Hours and/or Telecommuting Hours are worked and charged on normal non-work days (weekends, one's usual weekday off), or
- Telecommuting Hours are worked and charged in excess of the weekly limit, which requires prior approval by the General Manager, as described above.

The note should explain concisely for that day and that time account both where the work was performed and what beneficial work was being accomplished by virtue of those hours and, as applicable, how and when the prior approvals were obtained.

Failure to append an adequate explanatory note to such accounts will result in forfeiture of those excess hours in determining comp time eligibility and the calculation of Comp Time Earned for exempt staff, and possible sanctions by the General Manager for nonexempt staff.

9.8.3.7.8.3. Approvals

The General Manager will electronically approve all time sheets by 8:30 a.m. Monday after each pay period, which initiates the payroll posting process. For employees taking off Mondays in the flex-time arrangement, those employees must have completed their time entry and "submit for approval" through the electronic timekeeping system on their last working day of the bi-weekly pay period (generally the close of business Friday). For employees taking off Fridays in flex-time and for employees working five-day weeks, those employees must have completed their time entry and "submit for approval" no later than 12:01 a.m. Monday following a bi-weekly pay period. If an exempt employee fails to submit his or her time sheet by the deadline listed above, the employee will be subject to discipline for violation of this policy.

For a nonexempt employee who has not timely submitted the time sheet, the employee will not receive a pay check for that pay period on that pay date. The employee must submit their time sheet for that time period for General Manager approval as soon as possible after the missed deadline but will not receive payment until the next regular pay date. If the missing time is not recorded in Timesheet and submitted for General Manager approval by the deadline for that next following timekeeping and pay period, then the nonexempt employee will be subject to management sanctions up to and including termination of employment.

Employees must apprise the General Manager or the Administrative Team Leader if there is an error in their timekeeping record that was already electronically authorized for approval; only the General Manager, Administrative Team Leader, or previously approved designee, may make changes to timekeeping records after they have been approved. Generally, such changes can only be made before payroll processing for that time period occurs.

9.8.4.7.8.4. Regular Work Hours

The District has established a labor account type called "Regular Work Hours," which comprises the time actually spent on work for the District at regular duty station(s). This work could be:

- the eight or ten hours on a normal work day,

- additional hours worked in the office on those days,
- hours worked at venues other than normal duty stations, or
- hours worked at such locations but not on a regular work day.

Regular Work Hours must be recorded as such regardless of where the work is conducted (in the District office, in the field, at conferences, in off-site meetings, etc.). The District expects an honest work day (depending on the agreed work schedule) of beneficial work from each employee on each regular work day, with any shortfall to be made up from some appropriate, available Time-off account, or, for nonexempt staff, by having recorded 40 hours of authorized work for the week.

9.8.5.7.8.5. Travel Work Hours

Exempt employees traveling on business may include travel time as Regular Work Hours but the inclusion of travel time generally may not exceed their normal eight- or ten- hour daily total, depending on the employee's flex-time work schedule. Any travel exceeding the number of hours in the exempt employee's normal work day is not chargeable time. Hours in normal commuting between the employee's residence and local duty station are not chargeable time under any circumstance.

Nonexempt employees are not allowed to travel such that recorded time would be in excess of their normal eight- or ten- hour work days without prior approval by the General Manager. For purposes of computing the total number of hours worked by nonexempt employees during a single work week:

- Time spent commuting to and from work are not "hours worked."
- Any time spent traveling on District business during an employee's normal work day is "hours worked."
- When a nonexempt employee is requested to travel from the normal workplace during a single business day, all of the time spent in travel and work on that day is counted as "hours worked" except for the lunch hour (unless work is actually performed at that time) and time spent in commuting to and from the normal workplace if the employee is required to begin and/or end the day trip at the normal workplace.
- When a nonexempt employee makes an overnight trip for the District, time spent traveling to and from the airport or other means of public transportation as well as time spent as a **passenger** in traveling on an airplane, train, boat, bus, or automobile will not count as "hours worked" unless the time spent is during the employee's normal work day.
- If an overnight trip requires a nonexempt employee to travel on a Saturday or Sunday, hours spent in travel during what would be the employee's normal working hours will be considered "hours worked."
- If a nonexempt employee requests to be able to drive a personal vehicle instead of taking public transportation when requested to travel away from home, the District will count as "hours

worked” the same amount of time that would have been counted as “hours worked” if the employee had taken the public transportation.

- If a nonexempt employee makes an overnight trip to a destination for which there is no public transportation available, time spent driving to and from the destination that is outside the employee’s normal work day will be counted as “hours worked.” Time spent traveling as a **passenger** in a personal automobile is not counted as “hours worked” unless the hours are within the normal work day.

9.8.6.7.8.6. Telecommuting

Telecommuting is a privilege and defined as regularly working a full or partial workday from home or some other alternate work site that has been approved by the General Manager.

The District will make telecommuting available to employees when it benefits organizational and departmental needs. This option may not be available in some job classifications due to business needs as determined by the General Manager. The General Manager, in consultation with each Team Leader, will determine, at his or her discretion, the positions within the department that may be suitable for telecommuting. The business goal related to telecommuting is to have all staff employees in the office and available for collaboration with other staff, three days per week. An employee may be pre-approved to record telecommuting hours at his/her discretion, therefore, in amounts up to two days per week for full-time employees depending on the work schedule chosen by the employee (i.e., 5-day/8-hour versus 4-day/10-hour.)

If the employee meets eligibility requirements for telecommuting, the employee must submit a Telecommuting Agreement form to their Team Leader for approval. If the employee is granted a telecommuting arrangement, the employee will be subject to the same performance standards as prior to telecommuting. The telecommuting agreement will establish the day(s) during the week when the employee will be telecommuting.

Telecommuting work areas may be evaluated to ensure that appropriate safety standards are met. (See Appendix F- Telecommuting Policy and General Elements of Telecommuting Agreements.)

10.8. REIMBURSEMENT POLICIES

10.1.8.1. Professional Memberships, Certifications, and Education

10.1.1.8.1.1. Professional Registration Fees

Professional employees may be reimbursed for one professional registration/certification at District expense so long as such registration or certification is a qualification for the employee's job with the District or otherwise directly related to the services performed by the employee on behalf of the District. Professional registration/certification may be a condition for assuming greater responsibility. Reimbursement of expenses for registration and/or course materials will be considered for necessary preparatory study courses and professional examinations. To be eligible for reimbursement, the employee must have received approval in writing from the General Manager prior to seeking professional registration/certification. Additional registrations/certifications must be recommended by the General Manager, and approved by the Board for payment.

10.1.2.8.1.2. Professional Societies

For professional employees, the District will pay for membership fees and dues in professional societies in which the employee actively participates, as long as it is directly related to the services performed by the employee on behalf of the District. Prior approval for payment of such fees or dues must be obtained from the General Manager. The Board will review from time to time to ascertain the number of professional organizations to which an employee belongs, and may set limits or reduce the number of organizations for which the District will pay fees or dues.

10.1.3.8.1.3. Continuing Education

The District encourages employees to pursue training and development courses which would be of direct benefit to both the District and the employee in terms of improved performance in the employee's present position or in preparation for future assignments. Request for reimbursement of educational expenses should be submitted in writing to the General Manager in advance of registration. The General Manager will determine which educational expenses will be reimbursed, and will provide written approval. The District will reimburse these expenses upon completion of the approved training or development course. This policy is not a college tuition reimbursement program. To be eligible for reimbursement, the following requirements must be met:

- The employee must be employed with the District for a minimum of one year to be eligible for Continuing Education expense reimbursement;
- Upon completion of the class, the employee must make at least a C or better;
- The employee must maintain full-time employment status with the District throughout the duration of the class; and
- The employee must submit proof of successful completion of the training or development course.

If the employee does not comply completely with the above-mentioned criteria, no expense reimbursement will be made.

An employee who has received a Continuing Education expense reimbursement must remain employed with the District for a minimum of one year after completion of the Continuing Education. A failure to do so will require the employee to repay the District for such expenses.

10.2.8.2. Meals

To clarify how the District will reimburse business meals paid by employees in the course of a work day, this policy pertains to expenses for meals that are not eligible for, or reimbursed by, an overnight Travel Expense Report.

The District will not reimburse meals for which only the employee or a group of employees-only is present, even if District business is discussed during the meal, unless on overnight travel status. Distance from the office or home during a day trip is not a criterion for reimbursement eligibility. A meal with either a District Board member or a relevant external party in attendance and in which District business is discussed is eligible for limited reimbursement of the employee's meal expenses. Actual costs of the employee's meal will be reimbursed up to the following daily limits: Breakfast - \$8.00, Lunch - \$12.00, and Dinner - \$25.00. Expense associated with any alcoholic beverage will not be reimbursed, even if the total bill is below these limits. Reimbursement requires submittal of a Team Leader- or General Manager-approved Employee Expense Reimbursement Form, with an attached receipt for the meal(s) being claimed unless the cost of a meal is less than \$10.00. Disbursements from petty cash for reimbursing meal expenses shall not be made.

It is policy of the District that employees will not entertain either themselves and/or external parties, and will purchase meals for such parties only from time to time and in the course of some District function or activity in which the external party is an integral, necessary participant. Reimbursement of business-related meals under these circumstances should conform to the daily per-person limits and procedure established above, and must be submitted by the Team Leader whose program area is receiving the benefit of the external party's participation.

10.3.8.3. Smartphone Use

Regular employees will receive a recurring quarterly salary supplement, which is intended to offset the cost of acquiring and keeping updated personal communication devices since those personal devices are beneficially used for business purposes. The acquisition and use of these devices are discretionary with the individual employee, but it is recognized that there are additional operating costs, especially data plans for bandwidth usage, that are incurred as part of the business use of some of these personal communication devices, and to the extent the employee uses more than an incidental amount of that capability for business purposes, that use should be reimbursable to the employee. However, currently there is no independently verifiable means to distinguish the proportion of data plans used for personal and for business purposes on an ongoing basis, since that cannot be determined from carrier documentation. Whether an employee chooses to utilize such devices and if so, which device is selected, are personal choices of the employee. The District

will not be responsible for reimbursing any costs associated with acquiring, maintaining, repairing, and replacing the smartphones.

- To be eligible for reimbursement of recurring expenses under this policy, the smartphone must be set up by the District's IT support staff to connect to the District's server to ensure that email, calendars, and contacts are shared in a secure environment. It is the employee's responsibility to maintain that condition.
- The supplement amount is \$150 quarterly for employees working 40 hours per week and prorated for employees working less than 40 hours per week. Eligibility begins on the day of employment and is reimbursed quarterly. A supplement for the first quarter of employment less than a full quarter, will be prorated. Regular eligible employees seeking to be reimbursed for the business use of their personal phone must file a District-provided Smartphone Business Use Reimbursement Form.
- ~~• Since the Discretionary funds for Senior/Principal staff are intended to benefit the District and not just individual employees, such discretionary funds are not able to be used to pay for the unreimbursed, non-business-use part of, smartphones.~~

11.9. OTHER GENERAL POLICIES

11.1.9.1. Length of Service Awards

The District appreciates and recognizes the importance of employees' continued service with the District. Employees will be presented a service award commemorating continued service after the 5th, 10th, 15th, 20th, 25th and 30th years.

11.2.9.2. Personal Appearance

All employees are representatives of the District. Employees are expected to maintain a neat appearance and wear appropriate attire to create a business-like atmosphere and reflect a good image of the District and the employee.

11.3.9.3. Safety

The District makes every effort to keep the work area safe and free from hazard. The employee's Team Leader will assist with safety and health requirements. Employees are expected to observe all applicable safety requirements and report immediately any unsafe or hazardous condition to the Team Leader or the General Manager.

Upon leaving work, the employee shall lock all doors protecting valuable or sensitive material in their work area and report any lost or stolen keys, passes, or similar devices to their Team Leader immediately.

Refrain from discussing specifics regarding District security systems, alarms, passwords, etc. with those outside of the District.

An employee shall immediately advise a Team Leader of any known or potential security risks and/or suspicious conduct of employees, customers, or guests of the District. Safety and security is the responsibility of all employees and the Districts relies on its employees to help us keep the premises secure.

If an employee is injured on the job while working at the District, no matter how slightly, the employee shall report the incident immediately to their Team Leader.

If, in spite of precautions, an employee is injured on the job, the employee should immediately notify the Team Leader. The supervisor is responsible for notifying the District's insurance department. All on-the-job injuries, no matter how small, must be reported by the employee immediately to the supervisor. Job-related injuries may be covered by the District's workers compensation insurance carrier; refer to Section 5. If an employee is involved in a business-related automobile accident, the employee should notify the supervisor immediately.

11.4.9.4. Office Telephone Use

The District phones are principally for work-related communications. Unless there is an emergency, limit long distance telephone calls to business purposes only. Limit personal use of

District telephones to brief communications during rest periods where possible. Casual conversation with friends and relatives during working hours is strongly discouraged.

44.5.9.5. District Property and Equipment

The District attempts to provide employees with adequate tools, equipment, vehicles, and facilities to enable them to properly perform their duties. All employees are required to observe safe work practices and lawful, careful, and courteous operation of vehicles and equipment.

From time to time, the District may issue or authorize the use of various pieces of equipment or other property to employees, e.g., credit cards, keys, tools, written materials, computers, and computer-related equipment. Employees are responsible for items they are authorized to use or which are formally issued to them by the District, as well as for items otherwise in their possession or control or used by them in the performance of their duties. The improper, careless, negligent, destructive, or unsafe use or operation of equipment will likely result in disciplinary action, up to and including termination of employment. Employees will be held financially responsible for any loss of or damage to District property resulting from an employee's negligence, lack of care in securing the property, or deliberate act of sabotage or destruction.

Employees must notify their supervisors immediately if any vehicle, equipment, machine, tool, etc. appears to be damaged or defective, or is in need of maintenance or repair.

District property, materials, supplies, tools, equipment or vehicles may not be used for personal business.

There should be no expectation of privacy for any use of District property including materials, supplies, tools, equipment, vehicles, phones, computers, lockers, desks, or storage areas. See section 44.9.11 below.

All employees are solely responsible for their personal property at all times.

District vehicles are to be used for District business only. Unless the use of the vehicle has been approved for personal use, personal or outside business use is strictly prohibited.

The employee is responsible for all infractions or violations while driving a District vehicle. All restrictions, suspensions, or revocations against the employee's driver's license must be immediately reported by the employee to a Team Leader.

When a District vehicle cannot be operated, is unsafe for use, or has been damaged, the employee shall notify the Team Leader immediately.

As the driver of a District vehicle, the employee is responsible for the vehicle while in their charge, and must not permit unauthorized persons to drive it. The employee is also responsible for the daily housekeeping of the vehicle; it is to remain clean and uncluttered.

The employee will not operate a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol or a chemical substance or other substance that can impair judgment. The employee will not operate a motor

vehicle while texting, emailing, or otherwise using a cell phone or other handheld device. A hands-free device, allowing for use without distraction from driving, is permitted.

Multiple driving moving violations that appear on the annual state department of motor vehicle check will result in suspension of rights to drive a District vehicle or drive a personal vehicle on District business. Suspension of rights will continue until one year has passed with no infractions. If there are persistent and ongoing problems with driving infractions, and driving a vehicle is a part of successful execution of job responsibilities, the employee may be terminated.

41.6.9.6. Alcohol and Drug Use

The consumption of alcohol during regular work hours and the use or distribution of illegal drugs is prohibited. Please refer to and sign the Drug-Free Workplace Policy Employee Acknowledgement form found in Appendix B, the District's Policy for a Drug-Free Workplace.

41.7.9.7. Workplace Violence

The District strives to provide a safe and secure working environment for its employees. Violence of any type is absolutely prohibited and will not be tolerated by the District. All types of threatening behavior, threats or acts of violence, and physical intimidation are prohibited under this policy. All such conduct should be reported immediately to a Team Leader and to the General Manager. An immediate investigation will be conducted and appropriate disciplinary action up to and including termination of employment will be taken if there is a finding of violent conduct.

41.8.9.8. Weapons Control

No employee may carry or possess a firearm in a District facility or on District property. Employees are also prohibited from carrying a weapon while on duty or at any time while engaging in District business. Employees licensed by the State of Texas to carry a weapon may have a permitted weapon only in the District's parking lot and only if the weapon is locked in the employee's vehicle.

41.9.9.9. Smoking

The District provides a smoke-free work environment. No smoking is permitted in the District buildings or vehicles. Smoking is only permitted in a designated area outside of the District office and vehicles.

41.10.9.10. Board and Staff Communication

The Board hires a General Manager to be the Chief Operating Officer of the District. The Board sets policy for the District, and the General Manager is charged with implementing such policy. Among other duties, the General Manager is responsible for the proper functioning of District operations on a day-to-day basis and for hiring, firing, and disciplining the District's employees. As the liaison between the staff and the Board, the General Manager is the proper person for all communications between individual employees and Board members. The General Manager is the proper person for employees to approach with concerns about their duties, recommendations for improvement of District operations, and needs for new equipment necessary to enhance operations.

Board members who desire or need staff to perform or modify significant work tasks should arrange for such work assignments through the General Manager rather than assign tasks directly to the employee.

44.11.9.11. Searches

All furniture, fixtures, equipment, lockers, and storage facilities of any type provided for employee use by the District are District property, and employees have no reasonable expectation of privacy connected to the use of District property. The District may conduct unannounced searches or inspections of the work site, including but not limited to District property used by employees such as lockers, file cabinets, desks and offices, computer and electronic files, whether secured, unsecured or secured by a lock provided by the employee. The District may also conduct searches or inspections of the employee's personal property located on District premises, including vehicles parked on District parking lots if there is a reasonable basis to conclude that the search is necessary.

All searches must be authorized and conducted under the direction of the General Manager.

44.12.9.12. Professional Conduct

Employees and Board members are representatives of the District and are subject to public scrutiny at all times. Therefore, all employees and Directors are expected to conduct themselves in an exemplary and professional manner. The District expects courteous and respectful interpersonal communications at all times, both internally and with the public at large. This includes all interaction between individuals including, but not limited to verbal, written, email, and attitudinal. Professional disagreements and personality conflicts are expected to occur from time to time but should not escalate into unnecessary, antagonistic, aggressive, or argumentative behavior. The District views such actions as undesirable, counterproductive, and contrary to workplace harmony. Such situations are embarrassing, not only to the individuals involved but to the District as well, and should be avoided or addressed through the Formal Complaint Policy.

44.13.9.13. Felonies and Misdemeanors

Employees are required to immediately notify their Team Leaders or the General Manager if the employee is arrested, charged, indicted, or convicted of any felony or misdemeanor or receives deferred adjudication or pleads nolo contendere to any felony or misdemeanor. If an employee is imprisoned or otherwise unable to report for duty at the District as a result of a felony or misdemeanor arrest or charge, such absence will be an unexcused absence, and paid time off may not be used by the employee.

If an employee is arrested, charged, or indicted for a felony or misdemeanor involving a crime of moral turpitude or is accused by information of official misconduct or other serious criminal violation, the employee will be placed on administrative leave without pay until the matter is resolved. At the conclusion of the matter, the General Manager will decide whether the employee should be reinstated.

44.14.9.14. Outside Employment

Outside employment that creates a conflict of interest or that affects the quality or value of the employee's work performance or availability at the District is prohibited. The District recognizes that the employee may seek additional employment during off hours, but in all cases expects that any outside employment will not affect job performance, work hours, or scheduling, or otherwise adversely affect the employee's ability to effectively perform their duties. Any conflicts should be reported to the ~~Team Leader~~General Manager. Failure to adhere to this policy may result in discipline up to and including termination of employment.

44.15.9.15. Authorization for Use of Personal Vehicle

All employees required to operate a motor vehicle as part of their employment duties must maintain a valid driver's license, acceptable driving record, and appropriate insurance coverage. The District may run a motor vehicle department check to determine the employee's driving record. It is the employee's responsibility to provide a copy of their current driver's license and insurance coverage for their personnel file. Any changes in the employee's driving record, including, but not limited to, driving infractions or changes to their insurance policy, must be reported to the District.

If the employee uses their personal vehicle in the course and scope of employment, the employee shall not operate such vehicle while:

- Under the influence of drugs, alcohol, or any other substance that might impair judgment or ability to drive; or
- Texting, emailing, or otherwise using a cell phone or other handheld device without utilizing a hands-free device.

State law requires all motorists to carry auto liability insurance. It is against the law to drive without insurance. If the employee uses their own vehicle as a part of their employment duties, the employee must provide their ~~Team Leader~~Administrative Manager with a current proof of insurance statement or card. New proof of insurance is required every time the employee's policy expires and renews.

44.16.9.16. Bulletin Boards

The District maintains an official bulletin board located at the District office for providing employees with official District notices, including wage and hour laws, changes in policies, and other employment-related notices. At times the District may also post information of general interest to employees on the bulletin board. The employee is responsible for being informed about this material by periodically reviewing the bulletin board. Only authorized personnel may add and remove notices from the bulletin board.

44.17.9.17. Computer Security and Copying of Software

Software programs purchased and provided by the District are to be used only for creating, researching, and processing materials for District use. By using District hardware, software, and networking systems, the employee assumes personal responsibility for their use and agrees to comply with this policy and other applicable District policies, as well as city, state, and federal laws and regulations.

All software acquired for or on behalf of the District or developed by District employees or contract personnel on behalf of the District, is and will be deemed District property. It is the policy of the District to respect all computer software rights and to adhere to the terms of all software licenses to which the District is a party. The General Manager is responsible for enforcing these guidelines.

The employee shall not illegally duplicate any licensed software or related documentation. Unauthorized duplication of software may subject the employee and/or the District to both civil and criminal penalties under the United States Copyright Act.

The employee shall not duplicate, copy, or give software to any outsiders. The employee shall use software on local area networks or on multiple machines only in accordance with applicable license agreements entered into by the District.

44.18.9.18. Employer Sponsored Social Events

The District holds periodic social events. Be advised that an employee's attendance at these events is voluntary and does not constitute part of their work-related duties. Any exceptions to this policy must be in writing and signed by a Team Leader prior to the event.

44.19.9.19. Nonsolicitation/Nondistribution Policy

To avoid disruption of business operations or disturbance of employees, visitors, and others, the District has implemented a Nonsolicitation/Nondistribution Policy. For purposes of this policy, "solicitation" includes, but is not limited to, selling items or services, requesting contributions, and soliciting or seeking to obtain membership in or support for any organization. Solicitation performed through verbal, written, or electronic means is covered by the Nonsolicitation/Nondistribution Policy.

The employee is prohibited from soliciting other employees during assigned working time. For this purpose, working time means time during which either the employee engaging in solicitation or the employees who are the object of the solicitation are expected to be actively engaged with assigned work. An employee may conduct solicitations during their lunch period, coffee breaks, or other authorized nonworking time, so long as the employees does so when the other employees are also on nonworking time.

To avoid inappropriate litter, clutter, and safety risks, an employee may not distribute literature or other items that are not work-related in working areas at any time. Working areas do not include break/rest areas, lunch rooms, or parking lots. Electronic distribution of materials is prohibited during work time. Literature that violates the District's EEO and non-harassment policies

(including threats of violence), or is knowingly and recklessly false, is never permitted. Non-employees are not permitted to distribute materials on District premises at any time.

This policy is not intended to restrict the ~~statutory~~ rights of employees, including the right to discuss terms and conditions of employment.

Violations of this policy should be reported to Team Leader.

11.20.9.20. Social Media Policy

At the District, we recognize the Internet provides unique opportunities to participate in interactive discussions and share information using a wide variety of social media. However, use of social media also presents certain risks and carries with it certain responsibilities. To minimize risks to the District, employees are expected to follow District guidelines for appropriate use of social media.

This policy applies to all employees who work for the District.

11.20.1.9.20.1. Guidelines

For purposes of this policy, **social media** includes all means of communicating or posting information or content of any sort on the Internet, including to the employee's own or someone else's web log or blog, journal or diary, personal website, social networking or affinity website, web bulletin board or a chat room, whether associated or affiliated with the District, as well as any other form of electronic communication.

District principles, guidelines, and policies apply to online activities just as they apply to other areas of work. Ultimately, the employee is solely responsible for what they communicate in social media. The employee is subject to discipline, up to and including termination of employment, for any violation of District policy resulting from the employee's use of social media.

11.20.2.9.20.2. Know and Follow the Rules

Ensure postings are consistent with these guidelines. Postings that include unlawful discriminatory remarks, harassment, and threats of violence or other unlawful conduct, will not be tolerated and may subject the employee to disciplinary action up to and including termination.

11.20.3.9.20.3. Be Respectful

The District cannot force or mandate respectful and courteous activity by employees on social media during nonworking time. If the employee decides to post complaints or criticism, s/he should avoid using statements, photographs, video, or audio that reasonably could be viewed as unlawful, slanderous, threatening, or that might constitute unlawful harassment. Examples of such conduct might include defamatory or slanderous posts meant to harm someone's reputation or posts that could contribute to a hostile work environment on the basis of race, sex, disability, age, national origin, religion, veteran status, or any other status or class protected by law or District

policy. An employee's personal posts and social media activity should not reflect upon or refer to the District.

~~41.20.4.9.20.4.~~ Maintain Accuracy and Confidentiality

When posting information:

- Maintain the confidentiality of trade secrets, intellectual property, and confidential commercially-sensitive information (i.e. financial or sales records/reports, marketing or business strategies/plans, product development, customer lists, patents, trademarks, etc.) related to the District.
- Do not create a link from your personal blog, website, or other social networking site to a District website that identifies you as speaking on behalf of the District.
- Never represent yourself as a spokesperson for the District. If the District is a subject of the content you are creating, do not represent yourself as speaking on behalf of the District. Make it clear in your social media activity that you are speaking on your own behalf.
- Respect copyright, trademark, third-party rights, and similar laws and use such protected information in compliance with applicable legal standards.

~~41.20.5.9.20.5.~~ Using Social Media at Work

An employee will not use social media while on work time, unless it is work related as authorized by a Team Leader or consistent with policies that cover equipment owned by the District.

~~41.20.6.9.20.6.~~ Media Contacts

Do not speak to the media on behalf of the District unless authorized to do so. Direct all media inquiries for official District responses to the General Manager.

~~41.20.7.9.20.7.~~ Retaliation and Your Rights

Retaliation or any other negative action is prohibited against anyone who, based on a reasonable belief, reports a possible deviation from this policy or cooperates in an investigation. Those who retaliate against others for reporting a possible deviation from this policy or for cooperating in an investigation will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination of employment.

Nothing in this policy is designed to interfere with, restrain, or prevent employees from communications regarding wages, hours, or other terms and conditions of employment, or to restrain employees in exercising any other rights protected by law. All employees have the right to engage in or refrain from such activities.

~~41.21.9.21.~~ Third Party Disclosures

From time to time, the District may become involved in news stories or potential or actual legal proceedings of various kinds. When that happens, lawyers, former employees, newspapers, law enforcement agencies, and other outside persons may contact our employees to obtain information about the incident or the actual or potential lawsuit.

If such a contact is received, the employee should not speak on behalf of the District and should refer any call requesting the position of the District to the General Manager. If the employee has any questions about this policy or is not certain what to do when such a contact is made, contact the General Manager.

11.22.9.22. Use of Employer Credit Cards

All employees in possession of the credit card issued by the District will adhere to the strictest guidelines of responsibility for the protection and proper use of that card. Approved purchase orders must be turned into the Administrative Team for any credit card charge.

Submit all sales receipts generated by use of the District credit card to the Administrative Team. The District credit card may not be used for personal reasons. Use of the District credit card is restricted to approved business-related expenses.

Immediately report lost or stolen District cards to a Team Leader. Failure to follow this policy may result in disciplinary action up to and including discharge.

11.23.9.23. Payroll Advances and Loans

The District does not offer payroll advances or loans.

12.10. RESOLVING PROBLEMS / THE FORMAL COMPLAINT POLICY

The District values harmonious working relationships and fair terms and conditions of employment. All employees are encouraged to attempt to resolve any complaints or concerns regarding their terms and conditions of employment with their coworkers and/or immediate Team Leaders and General Manager. If complaints or concerns cannot be resolved informally in this manner, the employee has not only a right but an obligation to seek redress. Such redress may result in either the resolution of the problem or the transmittal of information to the employee as to why the conditions leading to a concern exist/persist and cannot be resolved to the satisfaction of the employee. This process begins with preparing a written complaint, providing as many specifics about the issue as possible, which is transmitted to the General Manager within a reasonable amount of time after the event, or an example of the event, giving rise to the complaint. The time limitation is not intended to be proscriptive, rather it is provided solely to foster accurate and verifiable information. The General Manager will consider the complaint, conduct an investigation if appropriate, and provide a written decision to the complainant within 30 days of receipt of the complaint. The General Manager's decision is final, except as provided in the paragraph below.

In the event the complaint is about or against the General Manager, including failure by the General Manager to address previous written complaints filed in accordance with this policy, the written complaint may be filed with the Board's Personnel Committee which will consider the complaint, conduct an investigation if appropriate, and as warranted make a recommendation to the full Board for resolution of the complaint within 30 days of receipt of the complaint. The Board will make a decision on the complaint at its first meeting following receipt of the Personnel Committee's recommendation or at a later meeting if necessary.

Before filing a written complaint under this policy, the employee should consider the following:

- Is this matter significant enough to take the time necessary for the General Manager or Board to go through the process of resolving it?
- Have I given my best efforts to working this problem out informally?
- After putting my complaint in writing, am I still convinced that it is important enough or is appropriate to file a complaint?
- Does my written complaint state my complaint concisely, does it cover the essential facts, and does it stick to the point?
- Have I prepared documentation to provide any necessary copies?
- Have I followed applicable procedures or protocol such as discussing the issues with the appropriate administrative employee in the District staff structure prior to filing a complaint, and am I still within the time constraints set out in this policy?

- Have I utilized a “cooling off” period? Am I filing a reasonable complaint that is based on fact and is not driven by emotion?

If the complainant can honestly answer “yes” to each of these questions, then it is the right of the employee to pursue the formal complaint process in an effort to seek resolution to the issue in question and provide for a more productive working environment fostered by mutual trust and respect.

Examples of work-related matters about which a District employee may submit a formal written complaint include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Written reprimand
- Probation
- Suspension with or without pay
- Demotion
- Violation of District policies
- Verbal, emotional, or physical abuse including, but not limited to, assault
- Conflicts of personality and unprofessional conduct detrimental to the District and its mission
- Violation of state or federal law
- Unlawful discrimination or harassment including sexual harassment.

Complaints regarding discrimination or harassment are governed by the District’s EEO Policy above. Any employee who witnesses or is otherwise aware of a violation of the EEO policy is required to report it.

The District will keep all matters pertaining to formal complaints confidential to the extent possible without jeopardizing the effectiveness of any required investigation.

Retaliation is prohibited. No employee who has filed a formal complaint or who has cooperated in the investigation of a formal complaint may be retaliated against. All allegations of retaliation should be made in writing to the General Manager, or to the President of the Board if the allegation involves the actions of the General Manager.

13.11. TERMINATION

13.1.11.1. Resignation

Employees are requested to give at least two weeks notice in writing prior to voluntary termination. Two weeks notice is required for payment of accrued vacation time. At the option of the General Manager, the employee may be required to take unused vacation during the termination notice period. Vacation and sick time will continue to accrue during the two-week notification period.

All keys and District property must be returned before the last working day.

13.2.11.2. Disciplinary Action

The District, in its selection process, makes every effort to hire individuals who will be able to perform to District standards. There are times, however, when an employee does not conform to District standards and is subject to discipline. Violation of District policies may result in (but is not limited to) the following disciplinary action: oral reprimands, written reprimands, suspension with or without pay, probation, performance improvement plans, and/or employment termination. Generally, discussions with supervisors and attempts to remedy problems precede termination. However, immediate termination without prior discipline may result when the severity of the infraction or the best interest of the District requires such action.

13.3.11.3. Job Abandonment

If an employee fails to show up for work or call in with an acceptable reason for the absence for a period of three consecutive days, the employee will be considered to have abandoned their job and voluntarily resigned from the District unless the reason the employee fails to return is an unforeseeable serious health condition which prevents the employee from notifying the District about the absence, or other circumstances beyond the employee's control which prevent the absence notice to the District.

Employees who do not return to work after approved leave will be considered to have abandoned the position, and their employment will be terminated immediately. An employee who fails to return to work after the expiration of approved leave will be required to reimburse the District of the District's portion of health premiums paid during the leave, unless the reason the employee fails to return is a serious health condition which prevents the employee from performing his or her job, or if the circumstances are beyond the employee's control.

13.4.11.4. Workforce Reductions (Layoffs)

If necessary, based upon unexpected budget restrictions, the District management may decide to implement a reduction in force (RIF). We acknowledge that RIFs can be a trying experience for all involved, and the District will make its best effort to make sound business decisions while acknowledging the needs of its workforce.

13.5.11.5. Criminal Activity/Arrests

Involvement in criminal activity during employment, whether on or off the District property, may result in disciplinary action including suspension or termination of employment. Disciplinary action depends upon a review of all factors involved, including whether or not the action was work-related, the nature of the act, or circumstances that adversely affect attendance or performance. Any disciplinary action may not be dependent upon the disposition of any case in court.

Employees are expected to be on the job, ready to work, when scheduled. Inability to report to work as scheduled as a result of an arrest may lead to disciplinary action, up to and including termination of employment, for violation of an attendance policy or job abandonment.

Any disciplinary action taken will be based on information reasonably available. This information may come from witnesses, police, or any other source as long as management has reason to view the source as credible.

13.6.11.6. Exit Interview

An employee may be asked to participate in an exit interview when leaving the District. The purpose of the exit interview is to provide management with greater insight into the employee's decision to leave employment; identify any trends requiring attention or opportunities for improvement; and to assist the District in developing effective recruitment and retention strategies. An employee's cooperation in the exit interview process is appreciated.

13.7.11.7. Post-Employment Reference Policy

The District policy is to confirm dates of employment and job title only. With written authorization, the District will confirm compensation. Forward any requests for employment verification to the General Manager.

13.8.11.8. Severance Policy

A severance package is not legally required of employers. Severance packages are benefits, and with few exceptions, providing benefits is optional for employers in the United States. However, the District offers a severance package to full-time employees who have worked at the District for at least one full year and that are terminated without cause. Refer to Appendix G. Severance is equal to one week of salary for each full year that employee is employed full-time by the District, to be pro-rated for any time worked less than a full year, upon termination without cause. This amount will be payable to the terminated employee in one lump sum at the time the last paycheck is scheduled to be paid.

Additional matters which may result in disciplinary action and which may constitute "cause" for which a severance payment is denied include, but are not limited to, the following: unsatisfactory job performance; repeated tardiness or excessive absences; insubordination; illegal acts; dishonesty; falsification of District records; failing to follow health and safety rules; breaches of security; job abandonment; violation of District employment policies; conviction of a felony offense; conduct which brings discredit to the District or which

constitutes a conflict of interest with the employee's duties to the District, violations of the District Code of Ethics, or destruction of District property.

APPENDIX A

1. Ethics Policy

1.1. General Statement of Policy

It is the policy of the District that the Board of Directors, employees, and agents conduct themselves in a manner consistent with sound business and ethical practices; that the public interest is paramount in all District actions; and that even the appearance of impropriety be avoided to ensure and maintain public confidence in the District. District Directors and employees are public servants subject to state ethics laws.

1.2. The Purpose of the Policy

- A. To encourage high ethical standards in official conduct,
- B. To establish guidelines for ethical standards of conduct for all District officials and employees as public servants,
- C. To increase public confidence that the resources of their government are not used for unwarranted direct or indirect enrichment of governmental decision-makers or their close advisers, and
- D. To eliminate or at least diminish any incentive for private interests to conduct private financial transactions with governmental decision-makers or their close advisers for the purpose of securing a special advantage in competition for governmental contracts for services and goods.

1.3. Standards of Conduct

- A. No District official, employee, or agent shall be directly or indirectly interested in any contract for the purchase of any property or construction of any work by or for the District.
- B. No District official, employee, or agent shall use his/her office or position or any confidential information received through his/her holding of a District position to transact any business in his/her official capacity with any person or entity in which he/she, or a member of his/her immediate family, has an interest except in accordance with procedures provided for in Section 6.
- C. No District official or employee may solicit, accept, or agree to accept an honorarium in consideration for services that he or she would not have been requested to provide but for his or her official position or duties with the District.
- D. A District official, employee, or agent who exercises discretion in connection with contracts, purchases, payments, claims, or other pecuniary transactions of the District may not solicit, accept, or agree to accept any benefit from a person known to be or likely to be interested in a transaction involving the official's, employee's, or agent's discretion.

E. No District official, employee, or agent may solicit, accept, or agree to accept any benefit from a person the individual knows to be subject to regulation, inspection, or investigation by the individual or by the District.

A “benefit” under paragraphs D and E above, does not include any of the following:

- A gift or other benefit conferred on account of kinship or a personal, professional, or business relationship independent of the official status of the recipient.
- A political contribution.
- An item with a value of less than \$25.00 (excluding cash or a negotiable instrument).
- Transportation, lodging, and meals in connection with a conference or similar event in which the public servant renders services that are more than merely perfunctory such as addressing an audience or participating in a seminar.
- Food, lodging, transportation, or entertainment accepted as a guest if the employee or Board member is required by law to report those items and does so report.

A District employee may not provide to others gifts, entertainment, or services on behalf of the District that could not be accepted under this policy.

1.4. Communication of Ethics Policy

All Directors and employees shall be provided a copy of the District Ethics Policy. Employees shall sign a *Statement of Affirmation* upon employment. A copy of the signed *Statement of Affirmation* will be retained in the employee's personnel file.

The Ethics Policy shall be made available to District vendors, contractors, financial institutions, and professional consultants upon engagement of services. The Policy shall also be made available to prospective vendors and contractors submitting bids for services.

1.5. Financial Reporting of Directors

Each District Director must comply with the financial reporting requirements of the Texas Election Code, Title 15, Chapter 254.

A Director who becomes a candidate is subject to the reporting requirements for candidates as set forth in §§ 254.061 - 254.088 of the Texas Election Code.

1.6. Conflict of Interest

A. Affidavit and Abstention from Voting [Local Government Code Section 171.004 (Vernon Supp. 1992)]

1. If a Director has a substantial interest in a business entity or in real property, the Director shall file, before a vote or a decision on any matter involving the business entity or the real property, an affidavit stating the nature and extent of the interest and shall abstain from further participation in the matter if:
 - a. in the case of a substantial interest in a business entity, the action on the matter will have a special economic effect on the business entity that is distinguishable from the effect on the public; or,
 - b. in the case of a substantial interest in real property, it is reasonably foreseeable that an action on the matter will have a special economic effect on the value of the property, distinguishable from its effect on the public.
2. The affidavit must be filed with the General Manager of the District.
3. If a Director is required to file and does file an affidavit, the Director is not required to abstain from further participation in the matter requiring the affidavit if a majority of the Directors are likewise required to file and do file affidavits of similar interests on the same official action.

B. Voting on Budget [Local Government Code, Section 171.005 (Vernon Supp.1992)]

1. The Board shall take a separate vote on any budget item specifically dedicated to a contract with a business entity in which a Director has a substantial interest.
2. Except as provided by this Section, the affected Director may not participate in that separate vote. The Director may vote on a final budget if: (a) the Director has complied with the provisions of this Section; and (b) the matter in which the Director is concerned has been resolved.

C. Definitions

1. "Business entity" means a sole proprietorship, partnership, firm, corporation, holding company, joint-stock company, receivership, trust or any other entity recognized by law. (Local Government Code, Section 171.001)
2. For purposes of this policy, a Director has a substantial interest in a business entity if:
 - a. The Director owns 10% or more of the voting stock or shares of the business entity or owns either 10% or more, or \$15,000 or more, of the fair market value of the business entity; or
 - b. Funds received by the Director from the business entity exceed 10% of the Director's gross income for the previous year.
3. A Director has a substantial interest in real property if the interest is an equitable or legal ownership with a fair market value of \$2,500 or more.

4. A Director is considered to have a substantial interest under this Section if a person related to the Director in the first degree by consanguinity or affinity has a substantial interest under this Section. (Local Government Code, Section 171.002)

E. Prohibited Acts/Penalties (Local Government Code, Section 171.003)

1. A Director commits an offense if the Director knowingly
 - a. violates any of the Sections above,
 - b. acts as a surety for a business entity that has work, business or a contract with the District, or
 - c. acts as a surety on any official bond required of a Director of the District.
2. An offense under this section is a Class A misdemeanor.

1.7. Revolving Door

No District Director or employee may represent an interest other than the District's in front of the Board of Directors for 90 days after termination of employment/term of office with the District.

1.8. Remedies

If it is determined that a violation of this Ethics Policy occurred by an employee, the General Manager shall proceed promptly to determine the appropriate penalty. Appropriate documentation of the violation, findings, and penalty will be maintained in accordance with the personnel policies of the District.

If it is determined that a violation of this Policy occurred by a District official, Director or agent, the Board shall proceed promptly to determine the appropriate action.

Criminal penalties apply for violations of State ethics laws.

Ethics Policy

Statement of Affirmation

I acknowledge that I have received a copy of the District Ethics Policy. I also acknowledge that the provisions of the Policy are part of the terms and conditions of my employment and that I agree to abide by them.

Signature of Employee

Date:

Print Name

Employee's Social Security #

APPENDIX B

1. Policy for a Drug-Free Workplace

1.1. Purpose

The objective of this policy is to develop a drug and alcohol-free workplace to help ensure a safe and productive workplace and to provide education and treatment to District employees. In order to further this objective, the following rules regarding alcohol and controlled substances in the workplace have been established.

- The manufacture, distribution, dispensing, possession, sale, purchase, or use of a controlled substance on District property or on District time is prohibited.
- Being under the influence of alcohol or controlled substances on District property, while engaged in the business of the District, or while otherwise representing the District is prohibited. Possession and use of prescription drugs on District property is permitted only if the employee has a valid prescription from a doctor. Excessive, abusive, or hazardous use of either prescription or over-the-counter drugs on District property is prohibited.
- Employees who violate this policy are subject to appropriate disciplinary action including termination.
- The policy applies to all employees of the District regardless of rank or position, and includes full-time, temporary, part-time, and contract personnel.

1.2. Definitions

- **District Premises:** All District property including buildings, vehicles, lockers, and parking lots.
- **District Time:** Any time an employee is working for the District, regardless of the location of the work.
- **District Property:** All District-owned or leased property used by employees such as buildings, offices, vehicles, lockers, desks, closets, etc.
- **Controlled Substance:** Any substance listed in Schedules I-V of Section 202 of the Controlled Substance Act (21 U.S.C. S812), as amended. In general, it is any drug or derivative thereof, of which the use, possession, sale, transfer, attempted sale or transfer, manufacture, or storage is illegal or regulated under any federal, state, local law or regulation; any other drug including (but not limited to) a prescription drug, used for any other reason other than a legitimate medical reason; and inhalants used illegally.
- **Drug:** A drug is any chemical substance that produces physical, mental, emotional, or behavioral changes in the user.

- **Drug Paraphernalia:** Equipment, products, or materials that are used or intended for use in concealing an illegal drug, or for use in injecting, ingesting, inhaling, or otherwise introducing into the human body a controlled substance.
- **Fitness for Duty:** The physical ability to work in a manner suitable for the job. To determine "fitness," a medical evaluation may include drug and/or alcohol testing.
- **Reasonable Cause:** Supported by evidence strong enough to establish that a policy violation has probably occurred.
- **Under the Influence:** A state of having a blood alcohol concentration of 0.08 or more, where "alcohol concentration" has the meaning assigned to it in Texas Penal Code section 49.01, or the state of not having the normal use of mental or physical faculties resulting from the voluntary introduction into the body of an alcoholic beverage or a controlled substance.

1.3. General Policy Provisions

Any of the following actions constitute a violation of this Policy and may subject an employee to disciplinary action including termination:

- Using, selling, purchasing, transferring, possessing, manufacturing, or storing a controlled substance or drug paraphernalia, or attempting or assisting another to do so while in the course of employment or engaged in a District sponsored activity, on District premises, in District owned, leased or rented vehicles, or on District business.
- Working or reporting to work, conducting District business, being on District premises or in a District owned, leased or rented vehicle while under the influence of a controlled substance or alcohol, or while in an impaired condition.

1.4. Preventive Acts

- Employees taking drugs prescribed by an attending physician must advise the General Manager in writing of any possible side effects such medication may have regarding their job performance and physical/mental capabilities. This written information must be kept confidential and communicated to the General Manager prior to the employee commencing work. All medical information will be kept confidential and the employer, without exception, will punish any breach of privacy and confidentiality in this regard. All prescription drugs must be kept in their original containers.
- Any employees involved in a work-related accident where alcohol or drugs are believed to be a contributing factor will be referred to the General Manager and District Board of Directors in addition to other accident investigation activities.

1.5. Drug Testing

Employees may be tested for alcohol and/or illegal and unauthorized drugs after a workplace injury or an accident involving injury to a third party or damage to District property or the property of another if there is a reasonable suspicion of alcohol or drug use. Employees engaged in safety-sensitive job duties may be randomly tested for alcohol or drug use. Safety-sensitive duties are those which involve the safety of the employee or of third parties and include without limitation operation of any vehicle or equipment for which a commercial driver's license is required.

1.6. Mandatory Reporting of Convictions

Employees are required to provide written notice to the General Manager within five calendar days of a conviction or deferred adjudication for violation of any criminal drug law, driving while intoxicated, driving under the influence, or vehicle homicide (including a plea of nolo contendere).

1.7. Employee Assistance Program

The District will provide employees and their families with confidential, professional assessment and referral for assistance in resolving or accessing treatment for addiction to, dependence on, or problems with alcohol, drugs or other personal problems adversely affecting their job performance. Confidential assessment and referral services will be provided without cost to the employee or family member. The cost of treatment, counseling or rehabilitation resulting from an Employee Assistance Program (EAP) referral will be the responsibility of the employee, but may be partially covered under the District's health insurance.

When suspected or documented job impairment due to alcohol or drug use has been observed and identified, a Team Leader will refer to the General Manager who may recommend participation in the EAP. Any action taken by the General Manager, however, will be based on job performance.

General Manager referrals to the EAP will include the employee's release of information consent forms to be returned to the General Manager by the EAP. Refusal to participate in or failure to complete the EAP-directed program will be documented. Should job performance not improve after a reasonable amount of time as determined by the drug counselor, the employee is subject to progressively corrective action, up to and including termination of employment.

Self-referral by employees or family members is strongly encouraged. The earlier a problem is addressed, the easier it is dealt with and the higher the success rate. Self-referral will not be the basis for corrective actions but does not preclude the District's use of corrective actions based on job performance. The General Manager may allow time for completion of self-referral to an EAP-directed program before initiating or determining additional corrective actions, depending on the facts and circumstance of any case.

EAP-related activities, such as referral appointments, will be treated on the same basis as other personal business or health matters with regard to use of sick leave or comp time. Sick leave may be taken as needed, while comp time must be pre-approved.

1.8. Coordination with Law Enforcement Agencies

The sale, use, purchase, transfer or possession of a controlled substance or drug paraphernalia is a violation of the law. The District will report information concerning sale, possession, purchase, transfer, or use of any controlled substances on District premises to law enforcement officials and will turn over to the custody of the law enforcement officials any such substances found during a search of an individual or property. The search policy is in section xx9.11 of the employee policy manual. Searches of lockers, desks or closets will only be conducted when based on reasonable cause. The District will cooperate fully in the prosecution and/or conviction of any violation of the law.

1.9. Reservation of Rights

The District reserves the right to interpret, change, suspend, cancel or dispute, with or without notice, all or any part of the policy, procedures, or benefits herein. Specifically, benefits provided by the District are subject to constant change and their inclusion in this policy is not a guaranteed right to any such benefits. Benefits will be reviewed annually, and employees will be notified of any changes to benefits offered by the District.

Although adherence to this policy is considered a condition of continued employment, nothing in this policy alters an employee's status as an at will employee and shall not constitute nor be deemed a contract or promise of employment. Employees remain free to resign their employment at any time for any or no reason and the District retains the right to terminate any employment at any time.

1.10. Other Laws and Regulations

The provisions of this policy shall apply in addition to, and shall be subordinate to, any requirements imposed by applicable federal, state or local laws, regulations, or judicial decisions. Unenforceable provisions of this policy shall be deemed to be deleted without effect on other provisions.

Drug-Free Workplace Policy

Employee Acknowledgement

I acknowledge that I have received a copy of the Drug-Free Workplace Policy. I also acknowledge that the provisions of the Policy are part of the terms and conditions of my employment and that I agree to abide by them.

Signature of Employee

Date:

Print Name

Employee's Social Security #

APPENDIX C

1. Policy on Suspected Misconduct and Dishonesty (Fraud Policy)

1.1. Introduction

Like all organizations, the District is faced with risks from wrongdoing, misconduct, dishonesty and fraud. As with all business exposures, the District must be prepared to manage these risks and their potential impact in a professional manner.

The impact of misconduct and dishonesty may include:

- the actual financial loss incurred
- damage to the reputation of the organization and its employees
- negative publicity
- the cost of investigation
- loss of employees
- damaged relationships with permittees and constituents
- litigation
- damaged employee morale

The goal is to establish and maintain a business environment of fairness, ethics and honesty for employees, permittees and anyone else with whom the District has a relationship. To maintain such an environment requires the active assistance of every employee and manager every day.

The District is committed to the deterrence, detection and correction of misconduct and dishonesty. The discovery, reporting and documentation of such acts provides a sound foundation for the protection of innocent parties, the taking of disciplinary action against offenders up to and including dismissal where appropriate, the referral to law enforcement agencies when warranted by the facts, and the recovery of assets. Accordingly, all employees are to report any acts of misconduct or dishonesty as detailed below.

1.2. Purpose

The purpose of this document is to communicate the District's policy regarding the deterrence and investigation of suspected misconduct and dishonesty by employees and others, and to provide specific instruction regarding appropriate action in case of suspected violations.

1.3. Definition of Misconduct and Dishonesty

For purposes of this policy, misconduct and dishonesty include but are not limited to:

- acts which violate the District's Ethics Policy

- theft or other misappropriation of assets, including assets of the company, customers, suppliers or others with whom the District has a business relationship
- misstatements and other irregularities in company records, including the intentional misstatement of the results of operations
- wrongdoing
- forgery or other alteration of documents
- fraud and other unlawful acts
- any similar acts

The District specifically prohibits these and any other illegal activities in the actions of its employees, manager, and Board of Directors and others responsible for carrying out the District's activities.

1.4. Policy and Responsibilities

1.4.1. Reporting

It is the responsibility of every employee, manager and Board Director to immediately report suspected misconduct or dishonesty to the General Manager. The General Manager, when made aware of such potential acts, must immediately report such acts to the Board President and the District's legal representative. Any reprisal against any employee or other reporting individual because that individual, in good faith, reported a violation is strictly forbidden. If the General Manager is the subject of the report, the report should be made to the Board ~~Director~~President.

Due to the important yet sensitive nature of the suspected violations, effective professional follow-up is critical. Managers, while appropriately concerned about "getting to the bottom" of such issues, should not in any circumstances perform any investigative or other follow-up steps on their own. Concerned but uninformed managers represent one of the greatest threats to proper incident handling and proper investigations by the investigator assigned.- All relevant matters, including suspected but unproved matters, should be referred immediately to those with follow-up responsibility.

1.4.2. Additional Responsibilities of Managers

All employees have a responsibility to report suspected violations. However, employees with supervisory and review responsibilities at any level have additional deterrence and detection duties. Specifically, personnel with supervisory or review authority have three additional responsibilities.

- First, you must become aware of what can go wrong in your area of authority.
- Second, you must put into place and maintain effective monitoring, review and control procedures that will prevent acts of wrongdoing.
- Third, you must put into place and maintain effective monitoring, review and control procedures that will detect acts of wrongdoing promptly should prevention efforts fail.

Authority to carry out these three additional responsibilities is often delegated to subordinates. However, accountability for their effectiveness cannot be delegated and will remain with the managers.

Assistance in effectively carrying out these responsibilities is available upon request through the General Manager.

1.4.3. Responsibility and Authority for Follow Up and Investigations

The General Manager and the District's legal representative have the primary responsibility for assigning all investigations involving the District.

Properly designated members of the investigative team will have:

- free and unrestricted access to all company records and premises,
- the authority to examine, copy and/or remove all or any portion of the contents of files, desks, cabinets, and other storage facilities (whether in electronic or other form) without the prior knowledge or consent of any individual who might use or have custody of any such items or facilities when it is within the scope of investigative or related follow-up procedures.

All investigations of alleged wrongdoing will be conducted in accordance with applicable laws. All employees are required to cooperate with all workplace investigations. Refusal to cooperate in any workplace investigation will lead to disciplinary action up to and including termination of employment.

This investigation policy applies to any workplace investigations including complaints of violations of the EEO policies, safety violations or other complaints which require an investigation.

1.4.4. Reported Incident Follow Up Procedure

~~Care must be taken in the follow-up of suspected misconduct and dishonesty to avoid acting on incorrect or unsupported accusations, to avoid alerting suspected individuals that a follow-up and investigation is underway, and to avoid making statements which could adversely affect the District, an employee, or other parties.~~

~~Accordingly, the~~ general procedures for follow-up and investigation of reported incidents are as follows:

- Employees and others must immediately report all factual details as indicated above under this Policy.
- The General Manager has the responsibility for follow-up and, if appropriate, investigation of all reported incidents or assignment of the investigation to an investigator selected with the

assistance of legal counsel. If the report involves the General Manager then the Board of Directors will be responsible for selecting an investigator with the help of legal counsel.

- All records related to the reported incident will be retained wherever they reside.
- Do not communicate with suspected individuals about the matter under investigation during the course of the investigation.
- The General Manager may also obtain the advice of the District's legal representative at any time throughout the course of an investigation, steps, proposed disciplinary action or any anticipated litigation.
- Neither the existence nor the results of investigations or other follow-up activity will be disclosed or discussed with anyone other than those persons who have a legitimate need to know in order to perform their duties and responsibilities effectively.
- All inquiries from an attorney or any other contact from outside of the District, including those from law enforcement agencies or from the employee under investigation, should be referred to the District's legal representative.

Investigative or other follow-up activity will be carried out without regard to the suspected individual's position, level or relationship with the District.

Questions or Clarifications Related to This Policy

All questions or other clarifications of this policy and its related responsibilities should be addressed to the District's General Manager, who shall be responsible for the administration, revision, interpretation, and application of this policy.

Approval

General Manager

Date

Acknowledgment

My signature signifies that I have read this policy and that I understand my responsibilities related to the prevention, detection, and reporting of suspected misconduct and dishonesty.

I further acknowledge that I am not aware of any activity that would require disclosure under this or other existing company policy or procedure statements.

Signature: _____

Print Name: _____

Date Signed: _____

APPENDIX D

1. Travel Policy

1.1. Purpose

The District Travel Policy is designed to establish clear and uniform policies for official District travel costs reimbursement, clearly identify travel expenses eligible for reimbursement by the District, and to serve as a guide for the accounting and proper reporting of travel-related expenses.

Events which are considered District business include seminars, training, meetings, field trips, conferences, educational events, exhibitions, expositions, and any other related events pertaining to the Travel Criteria.

1.2. Travel Criteria

To make the trip applicable to the Travel Policy, the goal of the trip has to meet one or more of the following criteria:

- It deals specifically with subjects that would directly benefit the District or which are part of the District's activities,
- It has a direct bearing on the professional competence of District personnel or Board, or
- It involves matters of general interest to groundwater planning, management, protection, enhancement, conservation, and other subjects pertinent to the District's business and activities.

There are four types of travel locations:

- Local: within the District's jurisdiction and greater Austin area,
- Out-of-Town: beyond the local area above and within the borders of the State of Texas,
- Out-of-State: beyond the boundaries of the State of Texas, and
- International: beyond the boundaries of the United States of America.

1.3. Responsibilities

1.3.1. Employee

The employee is responsible for being conservative and prudent to maximize economy and efficiency when incurring expenses while traveling on District business. The employee is responsible for following the Travel Policy while involved in any event related to District travel and reimbursement, including booking and/or verification of reservations and other travel arrangements, keeping receipts, and applying for timely reimbursement.

1.3.2. General Manager

The General Manager is responsible for: 1) providing and periodically revising a written policy concerning the incurring and reimbursement of travel expenses on District business, 2) requesting

approval from the Board for all staff out-of-state travel, 3) informing the Board on all other approved travel, 4) approving travel expenditures submitted for reimbursement, and 5) authorizing payment of a per diem if appropriate.

The General Manager has the discretion to: 1) approve local and out-of-town travel within the state that has been previously approved in the operating budget; 2) purchase or authorize purchase of education, conservation, pollution and/or other related materials to be used by the District while attending meetings with state agencies, political subdivisions, conferences/seminars, or other similar events; 3) authorize travel cash advances; and 4) purchase or authorize the purchase of food and/or non-alcoholic beverages within budget constraints.

1.3.3. Board of Directors

The Board is responsible for approving the written policy concerning the incurring and reimbursement of travel expenses on District business which is provided and periodically revised by the General Manager; and for approving the General Manager's request for all staff and Board travel out-of-state.

The Board President will approve travel expenditures submitted for reimbursement in the absence of the General Manager. The Board Vice President will approve travel expenditures submitted for reimbursement in the absence of the Board President.

1.3.4. District

The District's General Manager and accounting staff are responsible for approval and payment of all actual and necessary expenses for employees who must be away from their regular assigned place of employment. Reimbursement will be based on a properly completed and approved expense reimbursement request or travel expense report (TER) form.

The District's General Manager and accounting staff will also implement and monitor the approved travel budget, and report all travel expenditures under proper accounting codes and according to approval procedure.

1.4. **Liabilities**

1.4.1. Employee and/or Director

The traveling employee and/or Director is responsible for their own safety and incidental personal belongings while traveling on District business; any fines and/or tickets resulting of their own doing or personal account; personal purchases; any loss of funds provided by the District for travel expenses; and for the expenses of their accompanying spouse, child, or any companion who is not employed by the District nor on the Board.

1.4.2. District

The District will not be responsible for an employee's incidental personal belongings while traveling on District business; any fines and/or tickets resulting of their own doing or personal account; personal purchases; any loss of funds provided by the District for travel expenses; and

for the expenses of their accompanying spouse, child, or any companion who is not employed by the District nor on the Board.

1.5. Forms

The two forms that may be used for travel expense reporting are the Request for Reimbursement of Employee/Director Expenses and the Travel Expense Report (TER).

1.5.1. Travel Expense Report

The TER Form is used to report expenses associated with overnight travel, and for reimbursing out-of-pocket, non-prepaid expenses that are incurred associated with overnight travel. The TER Form is used in two ways:

1.5.2. Request for Cash Advances or Per Diem

Any request for authorization for cash advances or per diem should be entered on the TER form and submitted for approval to the General Manager at least 15 days prior to travel date. Under normal circumstances, the District will issue a check for advances on the payday prior to the travel unless there are special circumstances. Cash advances are based on actual per diem rates or other known expenses. Travel advances will be provided at the discretion of the General Manager, depending on the type and purpose of the trip involved.

If the employee elects to be reimbursed for meals and incidental expenses on a per-diem basis rather than actual cost basis, the TER must be used as a per-diem authorization. Fill out the header information and the per-diem column only, including the total per-diem requested, and get it authorized by the appropriate signature authority before leaving on a trip. The employee must elect and be paid for per-diem before the trip is taken, with the per-diem paid by District check to the employee, so this form for your per-diem funds should be submitted several work days before the beginning of the trip. Keep a copy of this TER Form.

After the trip, receipts and documentation of expenses shall be submitted to accounting as proof of expenditure to be processed and filed with the request for reimbursement. Any cash not spent should be returned to accounting. In the event of cancellation, all cash advances shall be returned to the District.

1.5.3. Travel Expense Reporting

All eligible overnight travel expenses should be recorded on a TER form and submitted with supporting receipts to accounting as soon as possible after the trip is completed. Requests for expense reimbursement that are older than two months, absent extreme circumstances, will not be reimbursed.

After the employee returns from a trip, another TER is submitted with all approved additional expenses, to be approved by the appropriate signature authority. If the employee elected to use per-diem, include that cost (to the District) on the trip expense total, and also as a pre-paid expense item, attaching the copy of the approved TER that was used to receive the per-diem before the

trip, along with other trip receipts, as documentation. If an employee's personal vehicle is used either as the primary means of travel on the overnight trip or to go to and from the airport on a business trip, keep track of those miles and put the cost of those miles, at the prevailing IRS mileage rates, on the TER as "Local Mileage." The employee must also fill in the account(s) the travel expenses should be charged to at the bottom of the TER, which must add up to the total expense of the trip. The trip total should include all expenses and receipts and documentation related to the trip, including conference registration fees that were separately prepaid by the District.

According to federal regulations defining what is a deductible business expense, an employee may request and be paid only for $\frac{3}{4}$ of one day's per diem on each of the trip's travel days (i.e., outbound and inbound days), regardless of how and what time of day was spent traveling. Also, if the employee will incur a relatively large expense for business travel several months in advance on some personal account, then the employee has the option of using the District credit card rather than a personal credit card for such expenses; if this option is selected, then such District charge-card purchases must also be shown as a District Prepaid Expense on the TER that is submitted after the trip so that accounting can associate that with the trip. Business charges to personal credit cards are not eligible for the state sales tax exemption.

Regardless of when, what type, size, or purpose of business expense is incurred, if it is charged to the District credit card, it must be reported with receipts attached immediately upon the employee's next return to the office, even if that expense is for a trip that hasn't happened yet, or for a purchase that hasn't been received yet. If it is beyond the employee's signature authority, then a Purchase Order (P.O.) must be completed and appropriately authorized for that purchase, again ideally in advance of such purchase using the District credit but otherwise immediately thereafter.

1.6. Expenses Eligible for Reimbursement

All expenses must be itemized with a description of the expense to include the date the expense was incurred, the amount to be reimbursed, and applicable receipt/documentation to be attached to the appropriate form.

1. **Mileage:** Based on the current year's IRS Standard Mileage Reimbursement Rate. Whenever practical, an employee should make arrangements to use the District vehicles, especially for local and same-day travel. When using a personal vehicle on District business, mileage will be based on either the distance from the District office or from home, whichever distance to the business destination is shorter.

All employees using their personal vehicles for District business must have a valid Texas driver's license and carry the minimum type and level of insurance required by state law. The District will reimburse employees using their personal vehicles for District business, as defined by this Travel Policy, for up to \$250.00 for the payment of personal insurance deductibles incurred as a result of loss or damage to an employee's personal vehicle, provided the employee must not be judged at fault in a police report concerning the incident.

- Employee's personal vehicle use on District-related matters at all times may be reimbursed.
 - Directors traveling on District business are entitled to receive mileage reimbursement.
2. **Transportation:** Actual expenses and approved documentation required for transportation expenses incurred in District related business (e.g., taxi, bus, air, car rental, gasoline, etc.).
 3. **Parking and Tolls:**
 - Parking meters (actual expenses, no documentation required).
 - Garages and lots where receipts are available (actual expenses, approved documentation required).
 4. **Meals and Gratuities:**
 - When receiving per diem, no documentation required. The General Manager may authorize a per diem while on District business or traveling based on IRS Federal Per Diem rates for the destination city, or the closest city to the travel destination.
 - When not receiving per diem, actual expenses for food and non-alcoholic beverages while traveling on District business; approved documentation required.
 5. **Lodging:** On out-of town trips and other District business (actual expenses, approved documentation required).
 6. **Training, seminars, conferences, conventions and similar events:** For registration, books and supplies (actual expenses, approved documentation required).

7. **Purchasing education, conservation and related materials:** Purchases within the individual employee's purchasing authority (actual expenses, approved documentation required).
8. **Photocopies and/or other related services** for District business: (actual expenses, approved documentation required).

1.7. Expenses Not Eligible for Reimbursement

The District will not be responsible for certain expenses, including but not limited to the following:

1. Loss of personal funds or property, as defined by this Travel Policy, unless resulting from a District act;
2. Personal entertainment expenses including alcoholic beverages, movies, shows, videos, carnivals, places of attraction, and/or any costs not relevant to District business, unless part of a conference or related event;
3. Excess baggage charge for personal belongings;
4. Unauthorized expenses for car rental and registration fees;
5. Expenses of employee's or Director's accompanying spouse, child, or any companion who is not employed by the District or does not serve on the Board of Directors.

1.8. Tax Exemptions

Where possible, all eligible tax exemptions should be utilized. Employees and/or Directors are responsible for obtaining tax exemption certificates to be used during their travel. Tax exemption certificates are available from the District's accounting staff and should be carried when traveling.

1.9. Booking Policies

This section is for flights, lodging, or any other items requiring advance booking. All bookings should be made as early or as timely as possible and should involve the lowest or most reasonable prices on the market, taking into account the needs of the traveler and the purpose of the trip. Booking expenses should be refundable or exchangeable whenever practical. Bookings should consider savings offered by traveling off-peak hours, weekends, and special offers if available, and which save time or money for the District.

1.10. Expenses for District Business-Related Guests

Expenses for District guests are subject to approval by the General Manager with consideration of specific circumstances. The Travel Policy restrictions and benefits applied to District guests are the same as to District employees or Directors.

1.11. Reimbursement and Accounting for Travel Expenses

All original receipts as described in the section “Expenses Eligible for Reimbursement” and/or proper documentation for incurred travel expenses must be submitted within 60 days of travel to Accounting staff. This will allow job-related charges to be billed to specific accounts within a reasonable period after the expenses were incurred.

If a receipt is lost, the employee or Director will be required to itemize the expense on their expense reimbursement request or TER form. The General Manager must approve this expenditure.

Accounting staff is responsible for ensuring that all entries of travel expenses for reimbursement are appropriate, complete and up-to-date; and for providing complete information on past travel expenses whenever necessary. All travel expenditures submitted for reimbursement must be approved by the General Manager.

1.12. Prohibitions

All restrictions and benefits outlined in the District Travel Policy apply to the Board and persons employed by the District and their guests. Anyone who files a false expense reimbursement request or TER form may be subject to disciplinary and/or legal action.

APPENDIX E

1. Employee Incentive Compensation Plan

In addition to cost-of-living and other approved salary increases that occur at the start of the fiscal year, the compensation of all eligible staff of the District ~~will~~ may be augmented by a non-recurring incentive component, provided certain conditions are met during the course of the year. This incentive compensation component will be paid to those staff members who achieve or satisfy individual objectives that are established between the individual staff member and the General Manager at or near the start of each fiscal year. Changes in the objectives or deliverables for a previously authorized project under the Incentive Compensation Plan may be approved by the General Manager only if the employee demonstrates reasonable cause, including extenuating or unforeseeable circumstances, and is subject to Board concurrence. Changes in the compensation available to an employee under the Incentive Compensation Plan for a fiscal year may be made only before the start of the fiscal year. ~~that is, it is not a discretionary program of expense.~~

1.1. Eligibility of Participants

All regular employees (i.e., not temporary employees) who are in good standing (i.e., not on probation) at the end of the fiscal year, and also who have been or will have been employees of the District for at least one year at the end of the fiscal year, are eligible for participation in the Incentive Compensation Program for that fiscal year. Both exempt and nonexempt employees are eligible to participate.

1.2. Incentive Amount

The incentive compensation pool will be established as part of the approved budget at the start of each fiscal year. Government labor laws require the District to specify in advance the amount of additional, incentive compensation that each staff member would be paid if he or she meets the prescribed conditions. The amount to be paid to an eligible employee from the approved pool will be indexed, first, to the percentage of that employee's actual salary budgeted in that fiscal year to the total salaries budgeted for all eligible employees, and then, further indexed to the percentage of the pre-defined individual objectives, by whole numbers, that the employee achieves. Accordingly, for any one individual employee, each goal will have an identical incentive compensation value.

1.3. Individual Employee Objectives

For each fiscal year, each employee will establish with the General Manager a set of designated individual objectives to be accomplished during the upcoming fiscal year, after the budget for that year has been approved. These statements will reflect accomplishment of programmatic goals that relate to important roles in the budgeted work of the teams that the employee substantively supports, personal and/or professional development goals, goals related to meeting specific staff guidelines or other organizational cultural needs, and other special projects or initiatives for the employee that are negotiated with the General Manager. Inputs from Team Leaders and colleagues

may be sought by the General Manager in assessing if a particular objective for an employee has been achieved, but the General Manager will make the final determination of how many individual objectives have been achieved for each individual.

The objectives will be achievable within the budgeted funds, and the General Manager will be a partner in helping the employee achieve those goals. Each of the objectives for any one employee will be valued the same, so each also will be established to be, to the extent practicable, similar in importance to the District.

The General Manager will also attempt to normalize the degree of difficulty in earning incentive compensation dollars proposed among the staff members. For example, the individual objectives for the more senior, higher-paid members of the staff will generally represent more “stretch goals” and/or ones that are of more strategic or tactical importance.

1.4. General Manager Participation

Provided the eligibility requirements above are met, the General Manager will participate in the Incentive Compensation Plan in a similar, but slightly different fashion. The General Manager’s individual objectives will be set by the Board near the start of each fiscal year, and may include or comprise the District goals also established by the Board. The potential incentive compensation amount will be the sum of 1) the amount defined in an identical fashion as to other employees, i.e., as a percentage of total eligible payroll that is applied to the budgeted pool, plus 2) an additional increment, if any, that the Board of Directors establishes at the start of the fiscal year. The proportion of the potential incentive compensation to be paid to the General Manager will be determined by the Board, after considering equally 1) what percentage of the potential incentive compensation is paid to other employees (reflecting how well the General Manager helped the rest of the staff achieve their objectives), and 2) what proportion of the agreed District and/or individual objectives the General Manager accomplished during the course of the year (reflecting how well the General Manager met the specific expectations of the Board).

APPENDIX F

1. Telecommuting Policy and General Elements of Telecommuting Agreements

1.1. Policy Statement

Upon written request to the General Manager, the District may approve telecommuting-based employment for certain eligible staff working in certain eligible jobs when it is in the District's best interest to do so. Approval of any request for a telecommuting arrangement is at the General Manager's sole discretion, based upon the needs of the District and any applicable legal considerations. Telecommuting will not be authorized unless and until the employee signs a special telecommuting agreement between the District and the employee that specifies the agreed terms and conditions under which the telecommuting is to be performed.

Both exempt and non-exempt staff may be eligible to enter a telecommuting arrangement, which may be either for a relatively short-term, temporary period or on an ongoing, regular basis. Further, the telecommuting may be for a defined, regular part of one or more work days per week or for one or more defined work days each week. While the District will take into consideration an employee's personal situation and non-business factors with respect to decisions about telecommuting, the decision-making is primarily based on overall needs of and benefits to the District. Regardless of employee eligibility, telecommuting is not an employee right.

1.2. Considerations for Eligibility

Eligibility requirements for a telecommuting employee include a) having been an employee of the District for at least ~~24~~12 months; b) having achieved and maintained above average job performance in the judgment of the GM; and c) having a job for the District that has essential functions, as identified in the job description, that may be performed proficiently under a telecommuting arrangement. Jobs that require close supervision, timely use of District resources available only at the District's facilities, or timely interaction with staff, stakeholders, or the public will not be approved for telecommuting. Job Positions eligible for telecommuting consideration may change annually and are available for inspection. Notwithstanding the considerations above, final determination of an employee's eligibility for telecommuting rests with the General Manager.

The following general characteristics are appropriate for telecommuting jobs or tasks: requires ability to work independently; requires concentration and diligence; requires little face-to-face interaction with other staff, stakeholders, or the public; *and* allows job performance to be monitored by output of a specific, measurable work product. Only to the extent that a particular job conforms to those characteristics will that part of a job be allowed to be worked under a telecommuting arrangement.

The following personal traits are desirable to be a successful telecommuter: able to work productively on their own, without regular direct supervision and with minimal distraction; highly knowledgeable about the job requirements; self-motivated, well organized, and trustworthy in achieving deadlines; excellent written and verbal communication skills; *and* not in need of regular social interaction in the workplace.

1.3. Conditions for Telecommuting Arrangement

Telecommuting employees must agree and ensure: that the telecommuting work area conforms to applicable OSHA regulations (a copy of which will be provided by the District); that all time spent in telecommuting is accurately recorded and that any overtime hours are appropriately authorized; that confidential and privileged information is protected; and that all policies at the normal workplace also apply at the telecommuting work place.

1.4. Elements of Telecommuting Agreements

Telecommuting Agreements (T/A) including assigned T/A days during the week are required for each and every telecommuting employee. The following elements will generally be a specified part of the T/A:

1. The FLSA status of the telecommuting employee (i.e., exempt or non-exempt), and the compensation for any approved, earned overtime.
2. The understanding that even on an approved telecommuting work day, if the employee is needed in the District's office or at another location on behalf of the District, the employee will be available on reasonable notice of not less than one hour to appear where needed.
3. The understanding that should a District holiday or inclement-weather day, or an employee-initiated paid time off day (sick day or vacation day) fall on the assigned telecommute day, no other day can be substituted as a telecommuting day.
4. The understanding that the employee must have an effective work space, including but not limited to a computer, phone and internet connection.
5. The equipment, services, and supplies to be furnished by the District and by the telecommuting employee, and the expressed understanding that any equipment, services, and supplies furnished by the District must be used solely for District business purposes.
6. The responsibility for equipment maintenance and repair, electronic security (e.g., anti-malware), and work space maintenance and operating costs.
7. The arrangements by which telephone calls, faxes, voicemails, and emails will be forwarded to the telecommuting employee.
8. The means by which telecommute time will be recorded and approved, and whether and by which any compensable overtime while telecommuting is to be authorized.

9. The provision of a safe and healthful telecommuting work space, including OSHA-acceptable ventilation, lighting, and noise levels, and a commitment to report any injury to the telecommuting employee suffered during the telecommute period to the District, and the specification of the right of the District and/or OSHA to enter the workplace premises to ensure the work space is free of hazards that might cause injury and/or to investigate any such injury.
10. Consent by the employee to reasonable periodic inspections of the telecommuting premises by the District to ensure proper maintenance of District property and compliance with safety standards.
11. The applicability to the telecommuting employee of all District policies for its staff.
12. No reasonable expectation of privacy exists with respect to telephone and computer used in the telecommuting work-space location, and that they may be monitored for compliance with District policies, regardless of whether they are furnished by the District or the telecommuting employee.
13. The T/A can be discontinued at any time by the District with or without cause.
14. The T/A does not constitute a contract of employment, and that the telecommuting employee is still "employed at will" by the District.
15. The security protections to be afforded and the restrictions on the existence of and access to confidential and proprietary information in the telecommuting work space, and the recovery of such information upon termination of the telecommuting practice.
16. Assurance that the telecommuting work space is in compliance with local zoning ordinances.
17. Acknowledgment and acceptance of the effect, if any, of providing the telecommuting work space on the homeowners insurance of the telecommuting employee.

**A TELECOMMUTING AGREEMENT FORM NEEDS TO BE SIGNED BY BOTH
EMPLOYEE AND THE DISTRICT.**

APPENDIX G

BENEFITS

1. Group Insurance Program

Full-time employees are eligible for the District's group insurance program on the first day of the month following the completion of 60 days of employment.

The District will pay the cost of the employee's premium of the District's current health insurance provider. The District will pay 25% of the dependent care coverage premium of the District's current health insurance provider. The District will pay the full premium of the employee insurance. The District will pay the full premium for basic employee life insurance coverage at two times the employee's annual salary up to \$100,000 of coverage (the District's life insurance coverage includes short-term disability coverage, long-term disability coverage, and basic employee accidental death and dismemberment coverage). The District will pay the full premium of the employee for vision insurance. Group insurance benefits are subject to change at any time. The District may alter the types of insurance offered, vary or eliminate the amount of premium that the District will pay, or eliminate group insurance benefits entirely.

1.1. Current District-Paid Coverage

- Employee Health Insurance
- 25% Dependent Coverage Health Insurance
- Gap insurance (covers deductible)
- Employee Dental Insurance
- Employee Vision Insurance
- Basic Employee Life Insurance (including short-term disability, long-term disability and basic employee accidental death and dismemberment)

1.2. Current Employee-Paid Coverage

- 75% Dependent Coverage Health Insurance
- Various supplemental packages

1.3. Other Insurance

1.3.1. Unemployment Compensation Insurance Policy

Unemployment compensation insurance is paid for by the District and provides temporary income for employees who have lost their job under certain circumstances. The employee's eligibility for unemployment compensation will, in part, be determined by the reasons for the employee's separation from the District.

1.3.2. Workers' Compensation Insurance Policy

Workers' compensation is a no-fault system designed to provide benefits to all employees for work-related injuries. Workers' compensation insurance coverage is paid for by employers and governed by state law. The workers' compensation system provides for coverage of medical treatment and expenses, occupational disability leave, and rehabilitation services, as well as payment for lost wages due to work-related injuries. If an employee is injured on the job while working at the District, no matter how slightly, the employee shall report the incident immediately to their Team Leader. Consistent with applicable state law, failure to report an injury within a reasonable period of time could jeopardize the employee's claim for benefits.

To receive workers' compensation benefits, the employee will notify their Team Leader immediately of the claim. If the injury is the result of an on-the-job accident, the employee must fill out an accident report. The employee will be required to submit a medical release before they can return to work.

2. Retirement Plan

The District maintains a mandatory participation retirement program for its eligible employees after the first year of employment (see Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer Retirement Plan and Trust, Summary of Plan Provisions, for eligibility requirements). The District will deduct 7.5% of the employee's salary from the employee's paycheck each pay period and then match that 7.5% with a District contribution. The employee portion and the District's portion of the retirement funds are then invested under the employee's name in a retirement plan approved by the Board. An employee may choose from among several different funds for the retirement plan. Upon entry into the program, eligible employees are 50% vested with the District's contribution. After two years of service with the District, eligible employees will become 100% vested. Employee contributions to the account are always 100% vested. Note that this is a federal income tax-deferred program. In other words, 7.5% of gross wages will be tax-deferred for federal income taxes only; not for Social Security or Medicare taxes. The District may alter the terms of its retirement plan or eliminate the plan at its discretion.

3. Severance Policy

A severance package is not legally required of employers. Severance packages are benefits, and with few exceptions, providing benefits is optional for employers in the United States. However, the District offers a severance package to full-time employees who have worked at the District for at least one full year and that are terminated without cause. Severance is equal to one week of salary for each full year that employee is employed full-time by the District, for a maximum equivalent to 8 weeks of salary. This amount will be payable to the terminated employee in one lump sum at the time the last paycheck is scheduled to be paid.

Additional matters which may result in disciplinary action and which may constitute "cause" for which a severance payment is denied include, but are not limited to, the following: unsatisfactory

job performance, repeated tardiness or excessive absences, insubordination, illegal acts, dishonesty, falsification of District records, failing to follow health and safety rules, breaches of security, job abandonment, violation of District employment policies, conviction of a felony offense, conduct which brings discredit to the District or which constitutes a conflict of interest with the employee's duties to the District, violations of the District Code of Ethics, or destruction of District property.

APPENDIX H

Achievement Level Classification and Expectations

<u>Capability Area</u> <u>(Performance Competencies)</u>	<u>Entry-Level</u>	<u>Staff</u>	<u>Senior</u>	<u>Principal</u>
<u>Technical Skills and Basic Job Competence</u> (Job Knowledge, Quantity, Quality, Dependability, Judgement)	Confirms basis for being hired by District by work outputs	Applies fundamental skills to work on assignments and solve well-defined problems; demonstrates accuracy and thoroughness in work; comprehends written instructions and protocols; seeks assistance when needed; typically meets his/her job requirements	Plans and executes tasks; assures work quality of others; identifies opportunities arising from ongoing work; takes responsibility for his/her actions; possesses relatively high level of analytical ability to develop alternative solutions and to successfully complete projects/processes; routinely exceeds job requirements	Understands scientific and technical issues affecting District; develops sound, innovative, and cost-effective solutions to ill-defined problems; promotes ideas effectively; job requirements vary with time period but are uniformly successfully satisfied
<u>Higher-order Job Skills</u> (Planning and Organization, Adaptability, Cost Consciousness, Problem Solving, Creativity)	Learns from others at higher levels	Works in an organized manner; occasionally makes suggestions for improving a project or work process from their own involvement	Demonstrates ability to plan and organize his or her own work efficiently; participates effectively in project or process teams to solve problems and achieve goals; identifies problems and proposes solutions to identified problems; comprehends how all parts of the District "work"	Leads project and process teams involved in key developmental areas; takes key role in resolving both internal problems and external conflicts; develops procedures and practices that promote efficiency and other improvements in area of responsibility; participates in any strategic and tactical planning
<u>Personal and Interpersonal Skills</u> (Cooperation, Work Habits, Internal Communications, Conflict Resolution, Teamwork)	Exhibits diligence and displays collaborative and pleasant demeanor at work	Communicates clearly and effectively with supervisors; exhibits pleasant demeanor with co-workers; is reliable in work hours and quality; takes direction constructively;	Communicates well, both orally and in writing; provides clear instructions and timely and constructive feedback to his/her task members; handles adversity	Communicates well with internal and external contacts; demonstrates leadership in at least one functional area of his/her field of specialization; helps identify needs and

<u>Capability Area (Performance Competencies)</u>	<u>Entry-Level</u>	<u>Staff</u>	<u>Senior</u>	<u>Principal</u>
<u>People/Staff Management and Project/Process Management Skills</u>	Learns from others at higher levels	Learns how to best manage himself/herself; learns importance of meeting work area commitments; generally performs work under close supervision	Manages own time effectively to meet internal and external expectations; completes work on-time and within budget; understands how immediate work area fits in with others and how it contributes to overall performance; leads well-defined tasks and manages medium-sized projects	develop training and other staff development programs; is an effective role model for lower-level staff Plans and manages large, complex projects and key internal tasks; ensures existing District resources are used wisely; as required by job; manages projects and processes to realize expected benefits; demonstrates good judgment in making risk/reward decisions
<u>Board and Public Relationship Development Skills</u>	Learns from others at higher levels	Learns how to contribute effectively to work that is already at hand; presents professional image; understands relationship and roles of Board, staff, and GM	Makes effective presentations to the Board and other entities; supports responses to the Board's and the public's related inquiries effectively; demonstrates creativity and responsiveness to District needs/problems	Has established relationships with outside organizations; finds and develops relationships with new partnership possibilities
<u>Knowledge of District and Its Mission</u>	Becomes familiar with District's Management Plan, statutory authorities, Rules, and policies, as they relate to the employee's work area	Utilizes knowledge of District's general policies and procedures and organizational approach effectively and appropriately	Knows roles and capabilities of his/her work team and relation to other teams and staff; understands District's systems and processes that support own team's activities well enough to use them effectively	Very familiar with District policies; is aware of District's capabilities and mission and can effectively represent those capabilities externally; knows how to "get things done" in a constructive and efficient fashion and not create other problems
<u>Training Required (at this level)</u>	New staff orientation	TBD by GM and Team Leader(s)	TBD by GM and Team Leader(s)	TBD by GM

<u>Capability Area¹</u> <u>(Performance</u> <u>Competencies)</u> <u>Certifications</u>	<u>Entry-Level</u>	<u>Staff</u>	<u>Senior</u>	<u>Principal</u>
	<u>None</u>	<u>None</u>	<u>Texas PG or similar (if available)</u>	<u>Texas PG or similar (if available)</u>
<u>Typical Education²</u>	<u>Admin Staff: A.A. or equivalent</u> <u>Technical Staff: B.A. or equivalent</u>	<u>Admin Staff: A.A. or equivalent</u> <u>Technical Staff: B.A. or equivalent</u>	<u>Admin Staff: B.A. or equivalent</u> <u>Technical Staff: M.A. or equivalent</u>	<u>Admin Staff: B.A. or equivalent</u> <u>Technical Staff: Ph.D. or equivalent</u>
<u>Typical Applied Years of Experience²</u>	<u>0 – 6 months</u>	<u>6 months – 8 years</u>	<u>8 – 15 years</u>	<u>More than 15 years</u>
<u>Prerequisites</u>	<u>Title: (functional name)</u> <u>Total Number of Personal Days: 0</u>	<u>Title: Staff</u> <u>Total Number of Personal Days: 1</u>	<u>Title: Senior</u> <u>Total Number of Personal Days: 2</u>	<u>Title: Principal</u> <u>Total Number of Personal Days: 3</u>

Notes:

1. Demonstrated proficiency in the skill-sets at the indicated Achievement Level for all Capability Areas, as appraised by the employee's management, is expected at, and required to be eligible for assignment/promotion to, that Level.

1.2. "Education" and "Applied Years of Experience" should be considered only indicative of training and experience typically needed to gain proficiency at that Achievement Level, rather than prerequisites for assignment/advancement.

Item 5

Board Discussions and Possible Actions

- b. Update on Camp Scholarship contest winners.**

Why I want to attend the Aquatic Sciences Adventure Camp

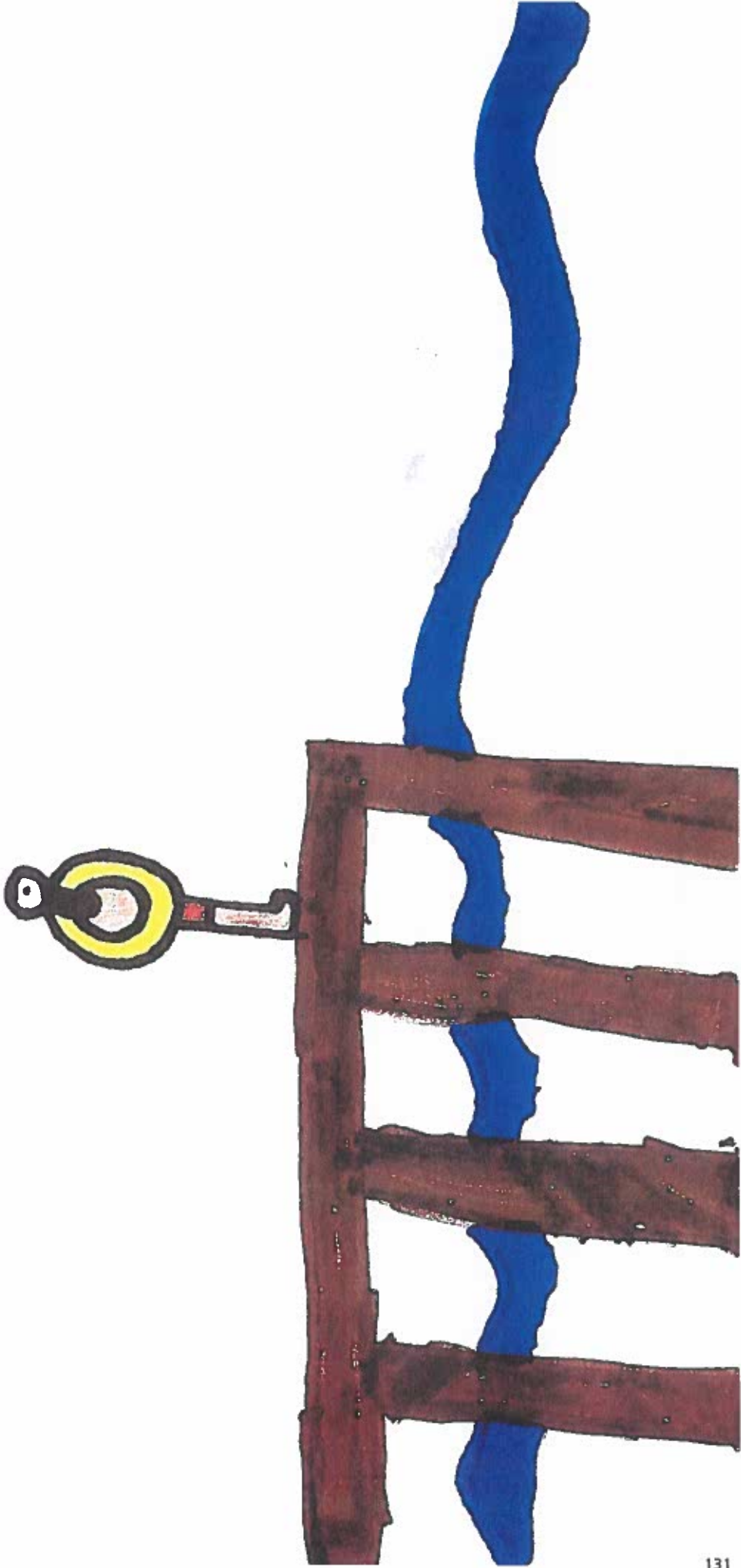
Hi board members, I am Ben, and I am 10 years old and would love to get into the Aquatics camps. I go to school at Negley Elementary. I am a fifth-grader. I am in GT/ Gifted and Talented. I love science and would love to learn more about it.

I want to go because it seems like a fun experience, and I think I could really learn something. I love to swim and do other outside activities. This will really help me meet new friends and get outside more. It seems like it would be a great time being with new people or people I have already met. All the activities seem like something I would want to do, like River Rafting, Caving, SCUBA, Water Chemistry, Low ropes Course, and Meadows Centers. I want to learn about water chemistry and other exciting facts because I am interested in water and its properties and traits.

Another reason I want to go to this camp is so I can learn about how to protect the waters of Texas and more fun facts about the water and do other science activities. So please consider letting me into the Aquatics camp. This seems fun to get outside and away from the house without my parents and be responsible for my actions and myself.

I am probably most excited about SCUBA because I think it will be a fun experience and help me understand more about water. Then the second most interesting to me is River Rafting. It seems exciting and just overall fun. It would be exciting to go to the overnight Aquatics camps, and it would be really educating and help me understand water, and what we can do to conserve water and maybe while in the cave learn about some endangered species that reside in the cave-like the Texas Blind Salamander or maybe the Toothless Blind catfish They seem fascinating animals, and I would love to learn about it

Ben Brewer Art Submission



Why I want to attend the Aquatic Science Camp!

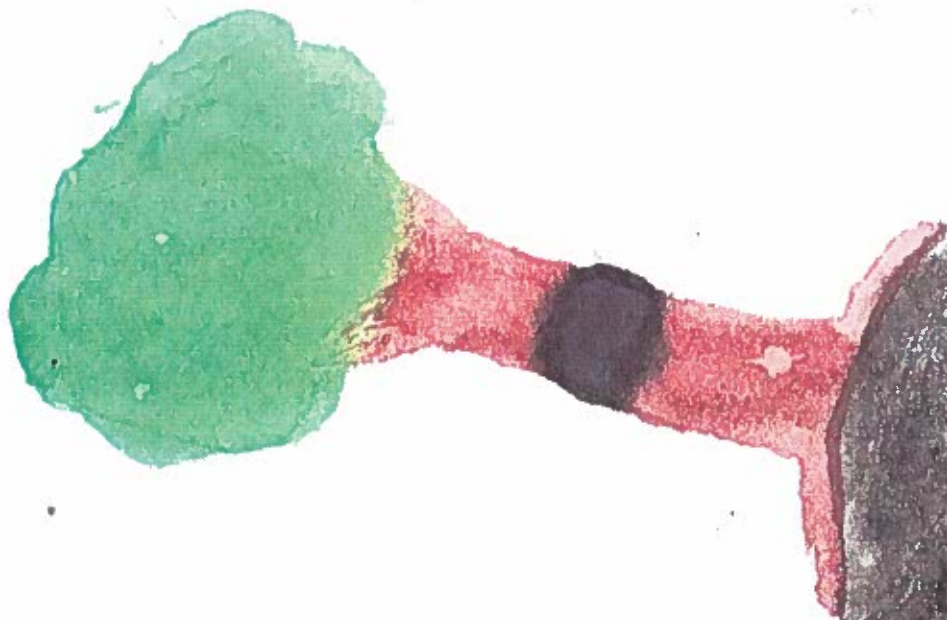
By: Caitlin Lowery

I want to attend the Aquatic Science overnight camp because I like outdoor adventure, exploring, swimming, hiking and a lot more. I also want to come to this overnight camp because I think I can easily make new friends and meet new people. I think I will have fun in this camp because I really like science a lot. I also really like animals which we will probably see a lot outside while hiking.

Another reason I want to come to this camp is because I think it will be fun to sleep in your own dorm. It would also be cool to have your very own roommate to talk to just like a real college student.

My last reason I want to attend the overnight camp is because we can learn a lot of cool things about nature that we probably didn't know. I think it will also be really amazing to go in a cave because they are super cool and interesting.

In conclusion, I really want to be in this camp because I will almost always look forward to exploring, being outside, making new friends, caving, and learning about science. Lastly, I think that this science overnight camp is a good fit for me because everything we do there is a mixture of some of my favorite things that I like to do.



Caitlin Lowery Art
Submission

Why I want to Attend the aquatic science adventure camp

It's interesting how if I look for it I can see the way my city was built for water but also the way water has changed my city. I can see the water tower outside school and I can see the erosion on the trail made by running water. I can see the different drains on the walk to the park by my old elementary school and through the neighborhoods.

A few years ago I found a stream behind a basketball court and I asked where it went, the answer being the Edwards Aquifer.

I like to go to a river that's by my grandmother's house which has fossils in the gravel and wild onions, which I mistook for irises in the woods. Later I did have a realization that onions are bulbs, similar to some flower bulbs in an Austin frozen yogurt store's parking lot. Yes, I'm still questioning my reality.

The river by my grandmother's is the Middle Bosque River which does not find its way to the Edwards aquifer, but you can see Armadillo there looking for bugs, hear woodpeckers, and the last time I went I got to see a possum walking around. I want to see different ways in which I can help the rivers and water sources around me stay clean, and also, how myself and others can be in these environments without harming our surroundings.

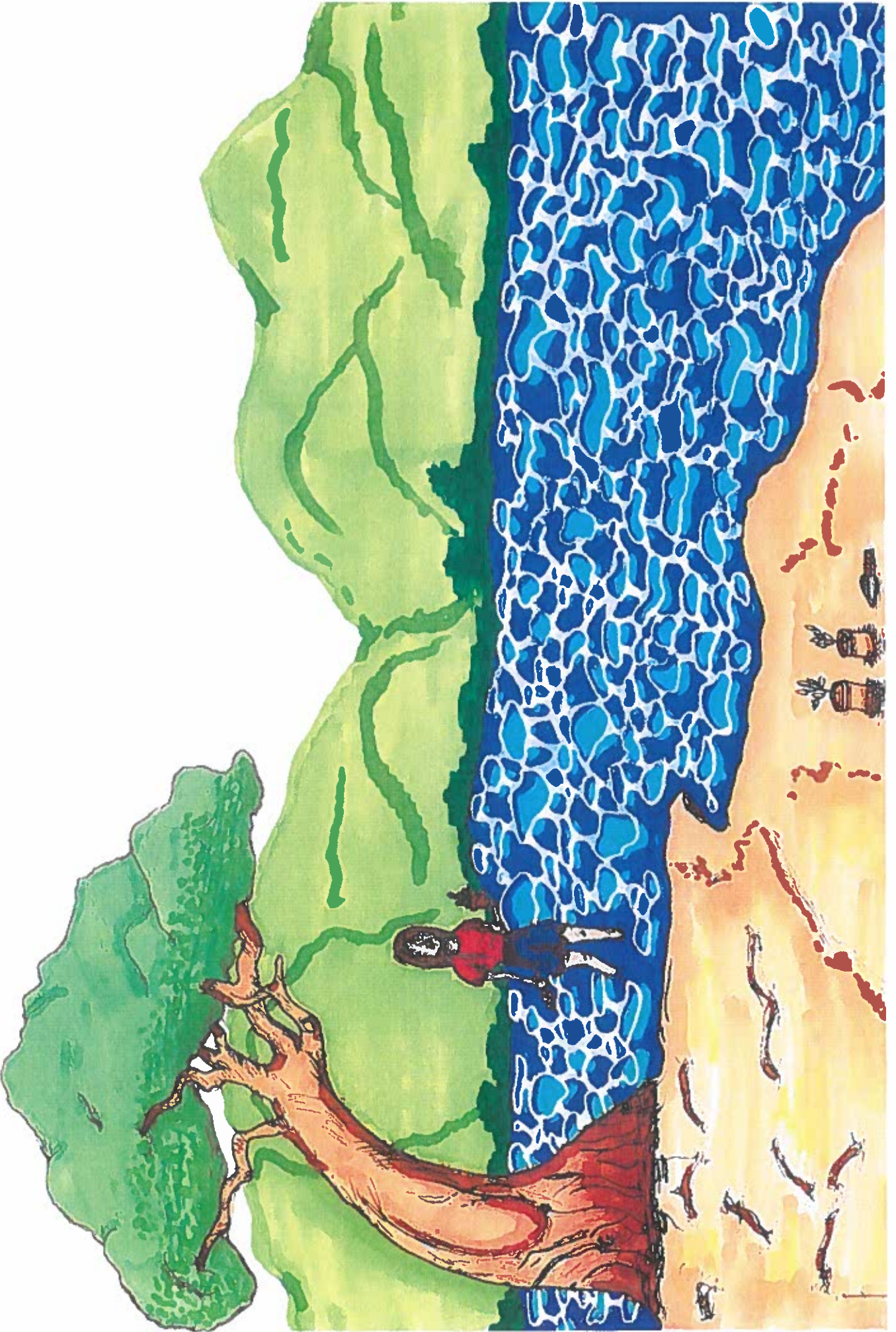
Walking around almost anywhere while it's raining is lovely. I can watch the drains do their job, the tall grasses become clogged with water. I only saw it once at the Lady Bird Wildflower Center. A worker gave us directions so that me and my dad could see rain and a newly formed stream pouring down a sinkhole's mouth.

I want to have more experiences like that, getting to see my world and things about it that I didn't know happened every time it rained. I want to know what happens after the water goes into the sinkhole, and what lives in that habitat. I'll get to experience my interests in a first hand environment with people to guide me in the right direction but where I can also express and follow my interests.

I hope to grasp not only the answers to my questions but how I can find the answers to them. I can do quite a bit with Google but I think having someone to explain all this to me and to get to have some interactive work sounds pretty good.

I can't wait for the experiences and adventures the camp offers - river rafting, cave exploring, and finding out more about the animals that inhabit the San Marcos River. I think it will be fun to have the equipment to go on a few adventures I can't quite do in my backyard. Getting to make some friends while doing these activities that I love and wish to try sounds like a good plan to me as well

-Elizabeth Crank



Why I want to attend the Aquatic Science Adventure Camp!

Hello, I am Jack Brewer. I am in 6th. My school is Barton Middle School. My favorite activity is water adventure. I am looking forward to Scuba Diving and River Rafting. Also, I want to go to the Aquatic camp because I want to explore and discover new things. I also would like to go because I love Water. After all, you can do tons of activities like fishing, Swimming, kayaking, and a lot more. I have always been interested in water because of how beautiful Rivers, Lakes, and beaches are.

One of my favorite camping trips was at Colorado Bend State Park. Our campsite was near a river where I spent most of my time fishing. But, I also wanted to go because Science is my favorite subject to learn. You learn many new things about the world that you didn't know.

Going to this camp could help me learn about activities related to Water and the environment. Also, going to this camp could help me better understand professional equipment associated with Science. This is my favorite reason I would like to go to the Aquatic Science Adventure camp to learn and discover new things about aquatic life.

More about me is that I was born on September 30th, 2009. I was born in Hawaii in a tripler hospital in Honolulu, Hawaii. When I was little, my parents would always take me hiking and take me to the beach. We would always go camping on the beach and in jungles when I was 3, we moved to Texas, there wasn't really any time to do anything because my mom and dad always had to take care of me and my two younger brothers. But as we got older and more mature we started doing a lot of hiking and camping and going to the beach. And in the summer, I did a lot of camping and survival camping training. So, I think I would be most ready to do the Aquatic Science Adventure camp because I would like to learn more ways to conserve Water, explore Science, and try new activities.

Jack Brewer

Jack Brewer Art Submission



Johnpaul Garza

03-21-22

My Why.

Dr. Johnpaul Garza, I could get used to that! Ever since I can remember I have wanted to work with aquatic animals and I have always wanted to work with drum roll please... ORCAS! OR Killer Whales, I have always gone to Sea World and watch them perform and that inspired me to work and learn about marine life. Even though a river is far from a ocean it feels like a first step to my dream of becoming a marine veterinarian and it being in my home town makes it feel MORE special. And I love outdoors, learning, and adventure and that's why I would love to be in this program!

Johnpaul
Garza



Why I want to attend the Aquatic Sciences Adventure Camp!

Hello, My Name, Is Noah Brewer, And I'm in Third Grade at Negley Elementary
And I want to go to this camp to make new friends and have fun this summer And
To Go River Rafting And Scuba Diving That Seem Really Really Fun!
And I Never Went Scuba Diving And That Such Much Fun To Do At The Camp.

More Facts About Myself!

I Was Born On October 25 In Texas, 2012.

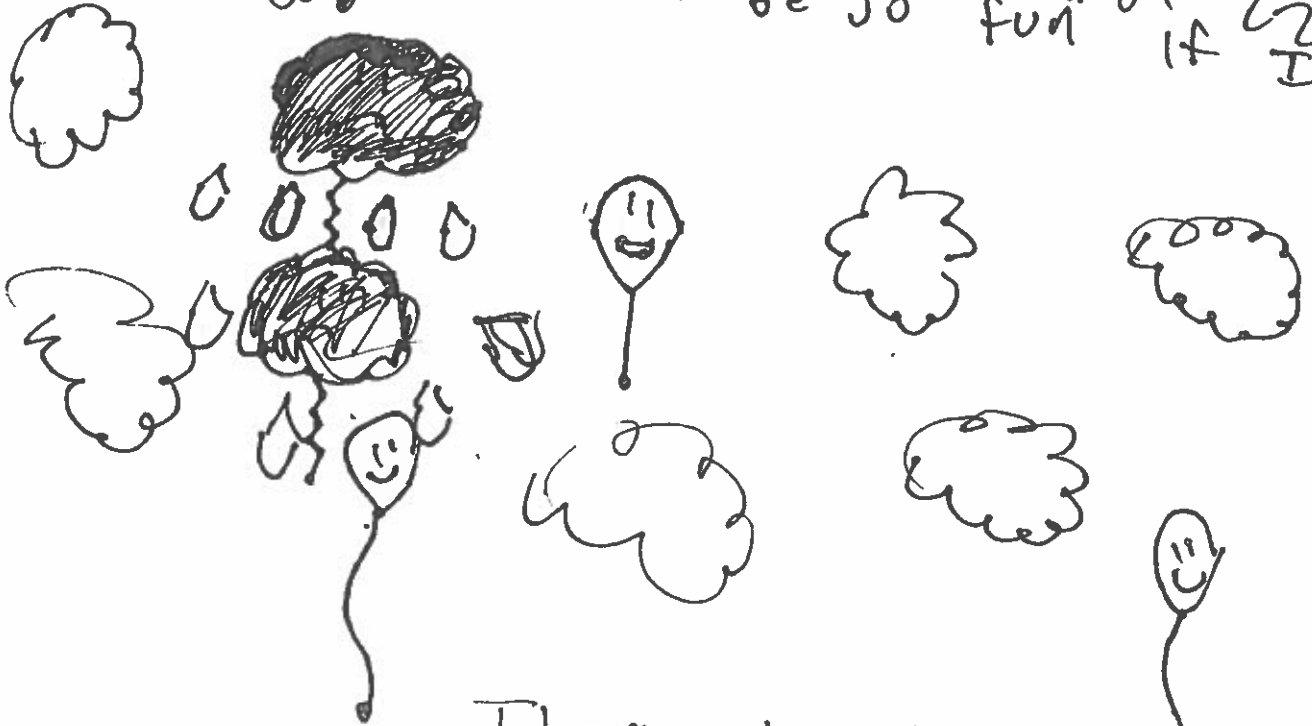
I Have Two Brothers, Jack And Ben.

I Like To Play Basketball.

More Things That I Want to Go To This Camp.

I Want To Go Fishing Bc I Want Fishing BeFore And It Super fun
But The Part You Have To Wait. And I know How To Swim
And I Want To Learn more Species There Are At The Camp Site
“Like Texas Blind Salamander,” “Cascade Cavers Salamanders”
And I Never Went To Do Water Chemistry And That Seem Super Fan
And I Would Love To Go To The Camp Site.

hi I am Noan Brewer I am 9
years old in third grade I would
like to go on a vacation I would
never tating to have fun and if I
can go IT will be so fun



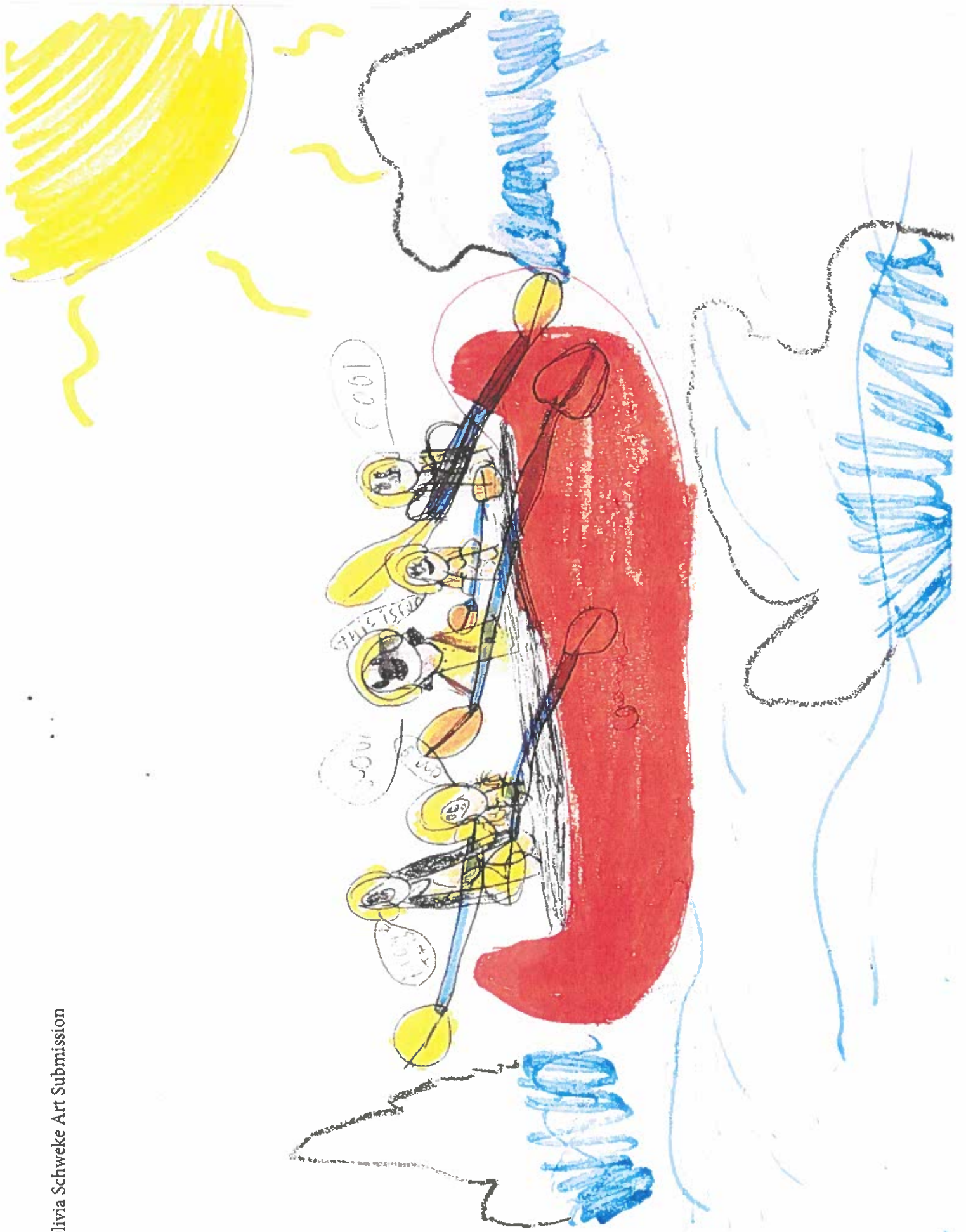
Theme happy summer

Sun



Dear Board, I want to go to experience 5-day ~~day~~ camp because I want to learn more about the river and the things that live there. I'm excited about it because I don't know much about it and the wildlife there. I also want to know more about plants. I like to grow things and just made a garden in my back yard that's just for my juiced pipe. My favorite animal is an Axolotl and I know there is a blind Salamander in the river that looks like one. I would really like to see it! I would also really like to go to camp to go to adventures like scuba ~~diving~~ diving and rafting. I have never been before. My teacher went rafting in Spring break and it looked so cool! Last of all, I really would like to go on a mussel hunt because I want to get ~~off~~ dirty and find some creatures. Thank you for reading my letter and I hope to see you this summer.

Sincerely, Olivia Schweke



Why I want to attend the Aquatic Sciences Adventure Camp

by Pepper Carlton, 9 years old

I hope to learn how to tell the difference between clean water and polluted water because if we run out of clean water, I would like to know how to make dirty water safe. And I am interested in learning how to prevent polluting the water.

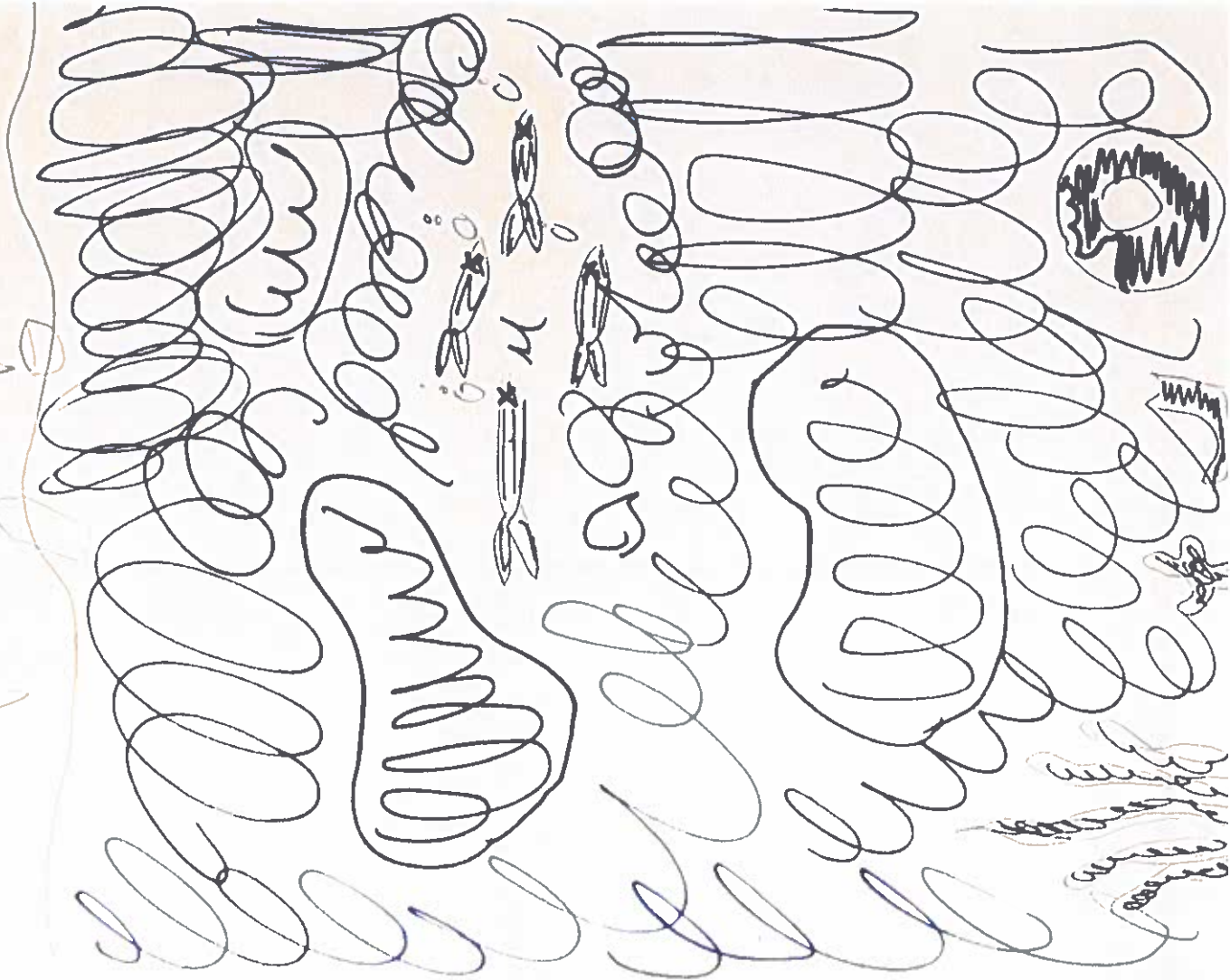
Ever since I was a baby, I loved the water. My parents and I would splash and enjoy the water around Texas. My mom would catch snakes, my dad would go deep in the water and I would go looking for cool fish. I want to make sure other kids can have that opportunity as well. That is why I want to learn how to protect our local fresh water and local beaches from pollution.

I want to learn about cool and exotic fish because I want to know which ones are venomous and which ones are safe to eat and digest. I also want to learn how to catch fish to learn how to help their ecosystem and know when it is in trouble.

The bugs you can find in Texas are interesting and I would like to learn more about them too! I also want to learn more about caves because the pokey things hanging are very interesting.

I would be a good person to give a scholarship to because I like science and nature and taking care of the earth. If I got the scholarship I would know more about polluted water and clean water and I could stop someone from drinking unsafe water that could make their stomach upset.

Polluted water



"Why I want to attend the Aquatic Sciences Adventure Camp!" by Ryder Armstrong

The past 2 years, I have had almost no hands-on learning. COVID-19 has changed education, there have been no labs, few other concrete learning tools, and too many digital activities. I have read, watched videos, and written, but have not been able to get out into the world and learn. This is why I want to attend the Aquatic Sciences Adventure Camp- to get the unique experience of an overnight camp, to do interesting, exciting, and hands-on activities, and to learn more about the Central Texas aquatic environment and ecosystem through them.

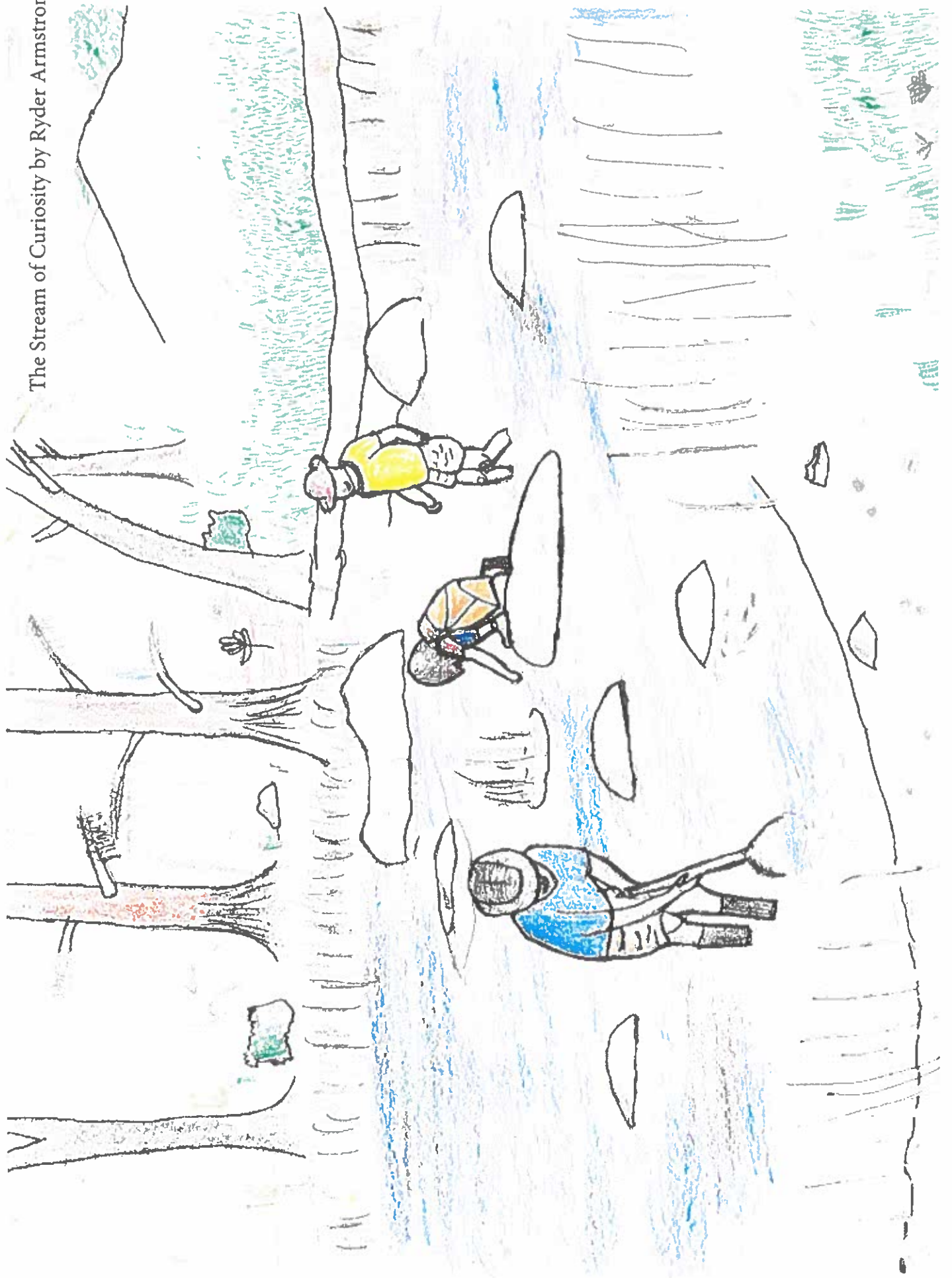
One of the main reasons I want to go to this camp is simply to get the camp experience. I have never been to an overnight camp before, and this is my last chance to attend one before I go to high school. An overnight camp is a rite of passage, and an unique experience you can't get anywhere else. At a camp, you are away from your family and their influences, and get a chance to act like yourself and find your identity as a person. You are also surrounded by other kids your age, most of whom share your interest in the topic of the camp, which gives you a chance to make new friends. In addition to other kids, there are camp counselors who I hope will enrich our learning experience and our activities.

Specifically at this camp, there are many activities I am looking forward to, including scuba diving, a high ropes course, caving, and rafting. Most of these activities involve water, which will be a welcome relief from the summer heat. I have never scuba dived before, and I am excited to do so, because breathing underwater is something many dream of, but only a few get to do. I have snorkeled in the Florida mangroves before, and enjoyed swimming around and seeing all the little fish, but not the barracuda and stingray. The high ropes course will provide a challenge, a view, and a little bit of overcoming fear. I am also looking forward to caving at the camp. I have explored a small cave in Austin before, on a field trip in 6th grade through Watershed Detectives. Caving is a neat and dynamic experience because caves are so different from what you see around you every day, and there are the physical elements of climbing and squeezing through gaps. Additionally, I am eager to river raft, a fun experience that can be both relaxing and exciting. I hope all these activities will be mixed with education, so I can learn more about the water around me.

While I am eager to learn anything involving aquatic science, I am especially interested in aquatic ecosystems, water quality indicators, the impact of human activities on those ecosystems, and solutions to these problems. While I already have some basic understanding of how aquatic ecosystems work, I wish to learn more about the intricate web of ecology in the aquatic ecosystems of the Central Texas area. I want to learn more about human pollution in the environment, especially water quality indicators, and how to read and find them. I also want to learn about what humanity can do about pollution- as a whole and as individuals. This could include government action, activism, biomimicry, and how to harness ecological resilience.

I want to go to the Aquatic Sciences Camp in order to get the camp experience, participate in hands-on, adventurous activities, and learn more about aquatic ecosystems. Should I go, I will have an awesome week of exciting activities and engaging education. Hopefully, you will help me achieve my goal of attending this camp.

The Stream of Curiosity by Ryder Armstrong



2022 Aquatic Adventure Camp Scholarship

By William Khazen
AHB Community School
Austin, Texas

This is a model of the Flower Garden Banks reef near Galveston, Texas, the northernmost coral reef in the Gulf of Mexico! I initially wanted to make a model of The Great Barrier Reef then I wondered if there were any coral reefs in Texas. Surprisingly, I found one. This reef was discovered by fishermen in the early 1900's. They named it after the sponges and plants around the area. Some points of interest in the reef are the mud volcanoes. What amazed me about the coral is how complex it is when you take a deeper look into it.

I want to go to Aquatic Science Adventure Camp because I would like to learn more about the local marine life, share interesting facts with my friends and see how lab equipment works. I look forward to learning how to scuba dive, exploring the caves and swimming. I'm also excited to meet new people! Mostly, I am excited for camp because so many of the activities are not something you can do every day.

William Khazen Art Submission









Agenda Item 5b. Aquatic Summer Camp Winners

- **Ryder Armstrong – Full Scholarship – Age 13 – Lively Middle School/6-Day Overnight Expedition Camp**
- **Johnpaul Garza – Full Scholarship – Age 10 – Bowie Elementary/Explorer 5-Day Day Camp**
- **Olivia Schweke – Full Scholarship – Age 9 – Carpenter Hill Elementary/Explorer 5-Day Day Camp**
- **Elizabeth Crunk – Full Scholarship – Age 13 – Gorzycki Middle School/6-Day Overnight Expedition Camp**
- **William Khazen – Partial Scholarship – Age 12 – AHB Community School/6 Day Overnight Expedition Camp**



Agenda Item 5b. Aquatic Summer Camp Winners

- Pepper Carlton – Partial Scholarship – Age 9 – Cunningham Elementary/Explorer 5-Day Day Camp
- Ben Brewer – Partial Scholarship – Age 11 – Negley Elementary/6-Day Overnight Expedition Camp
- Caitlin Lowary – Partial Scholarship – Age 11 – Mills Elementary/6-Day Overnight Expedition Camp
- Jack Brewer – Partial Scholarship – Age 12 – Barton Middle School/6-Day Overnight Expedition Camp
- Noah Brewer – Partial Scholarship – Age 9 – Negley Elementary/6-Day Overnight Expedition Camp



Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer
Conservation District

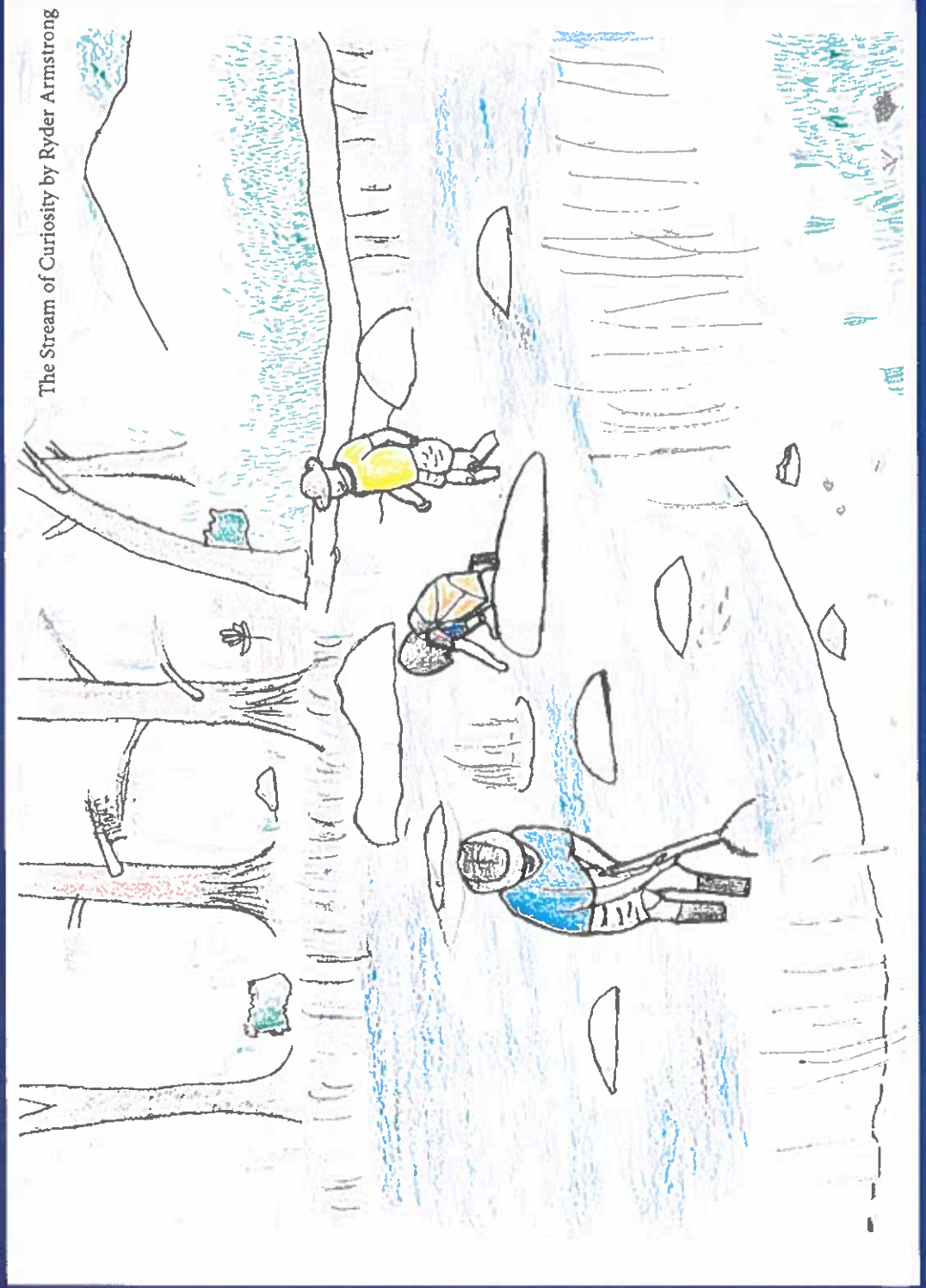
Agenda Item 5b. Aquatic Summer Camp Winners

Total Scholarship Amount: \$6,360



Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer
Conservation District

Agenda Item 5b. Aquatic Summer Camp Winners

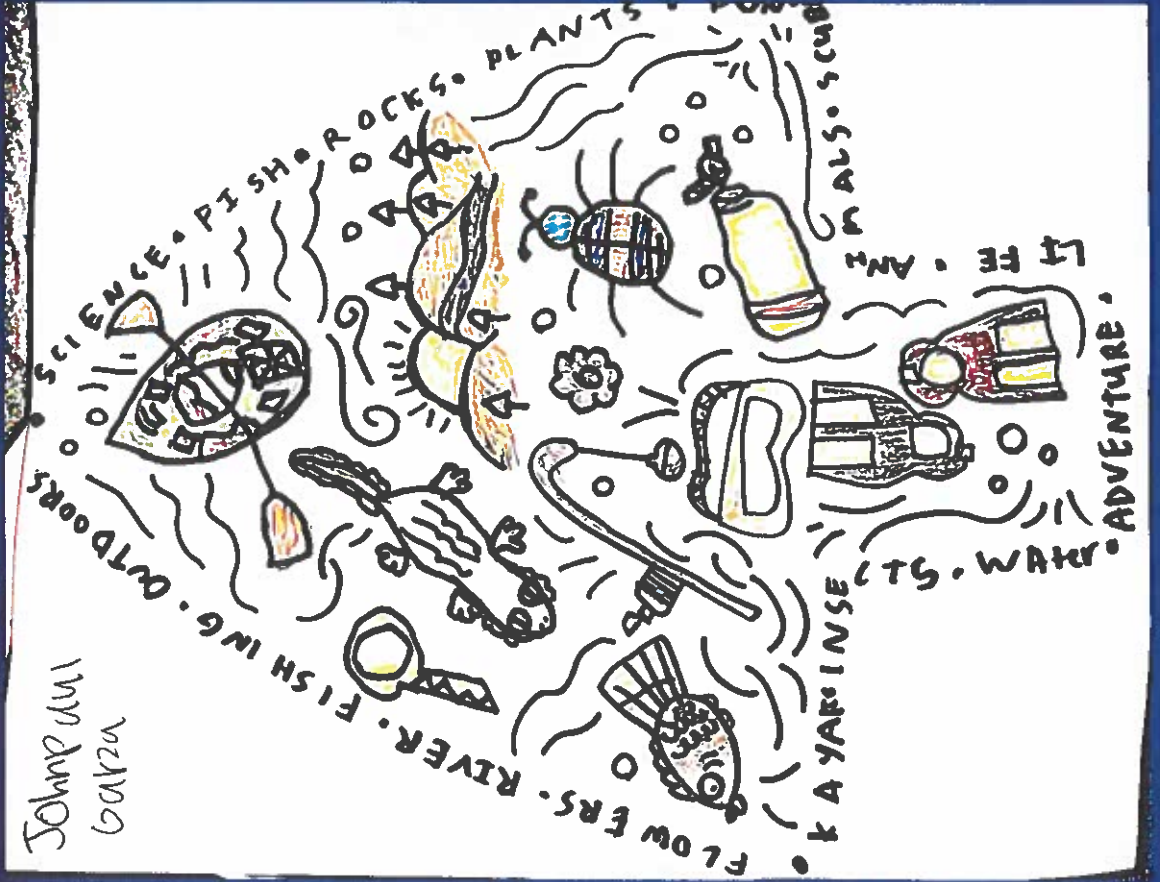


The Stream of Curiosity by Ryder Armstrong



Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer
Conservation District

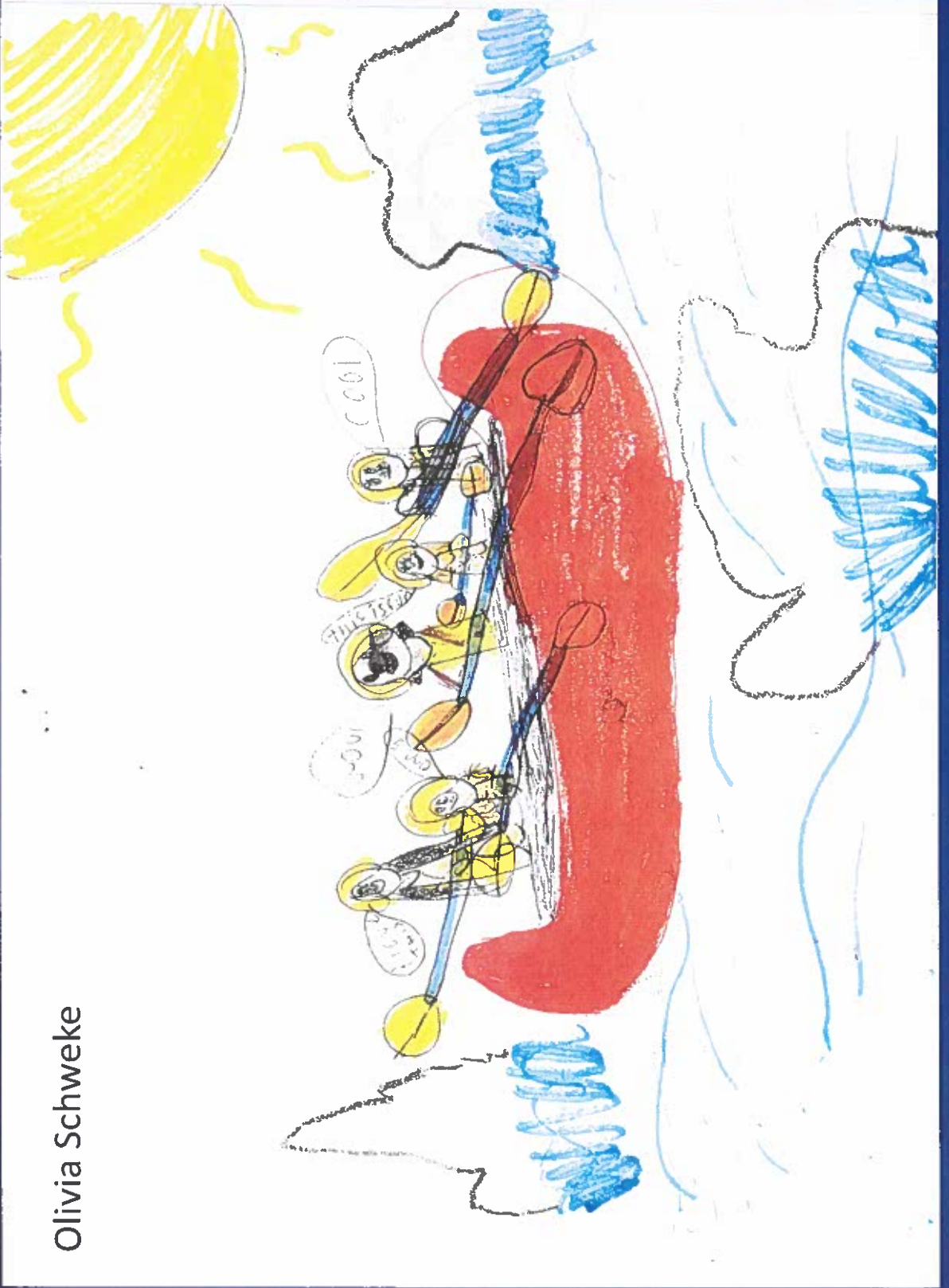
Agenda Item 5b. Aquatic Summer Camp Winners





Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer
Conservation District

Agenda Item 5b. Aquatic Summer Camp Winners

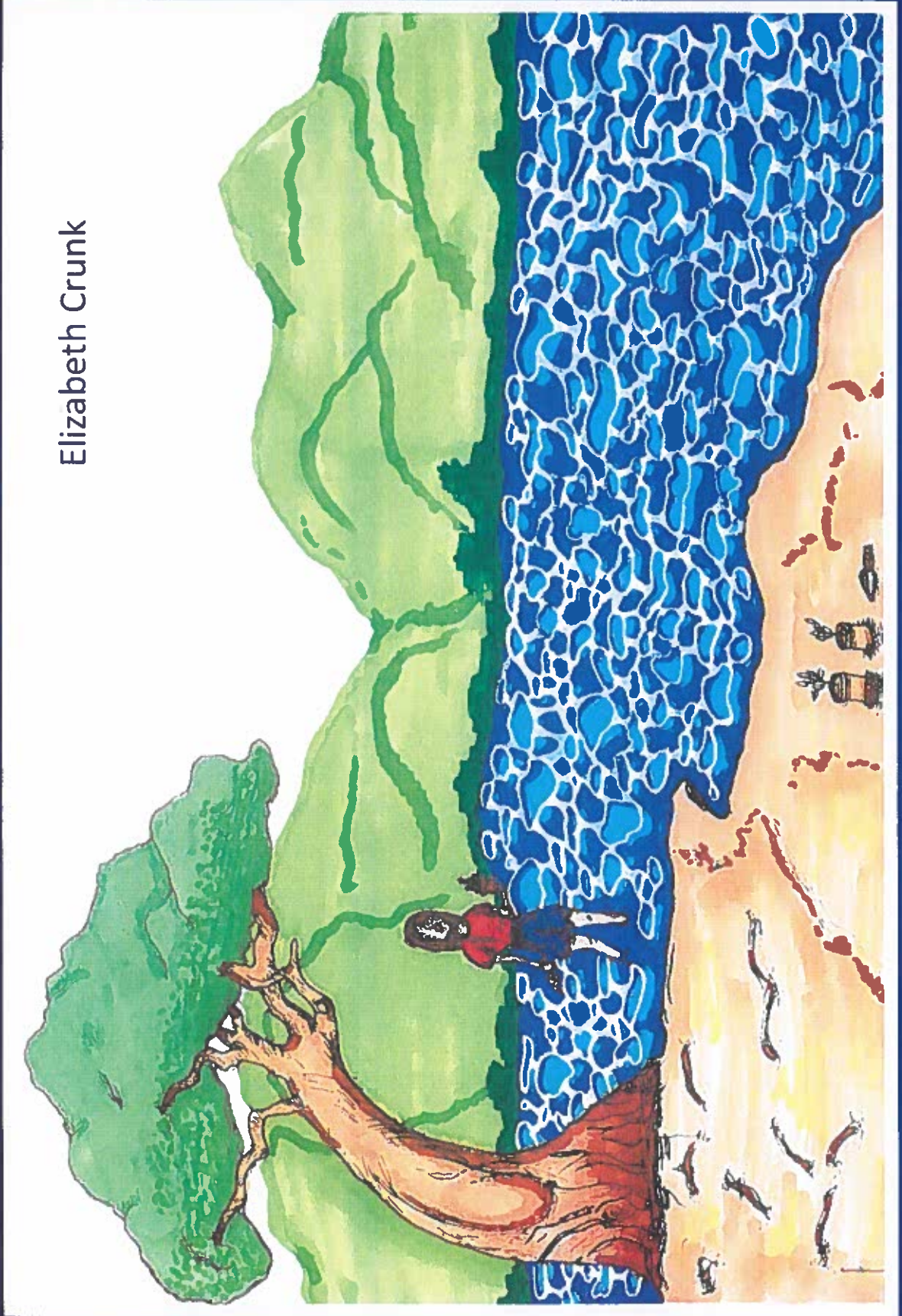


Olivia Schweke



Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer
Conservation District

Agenda Item 5b. Aquatic Summer Camp Winners



Elizabeth Crunk



Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer
Conservation District

Agenda Item 5b. Aquatic Summer Camp Winners

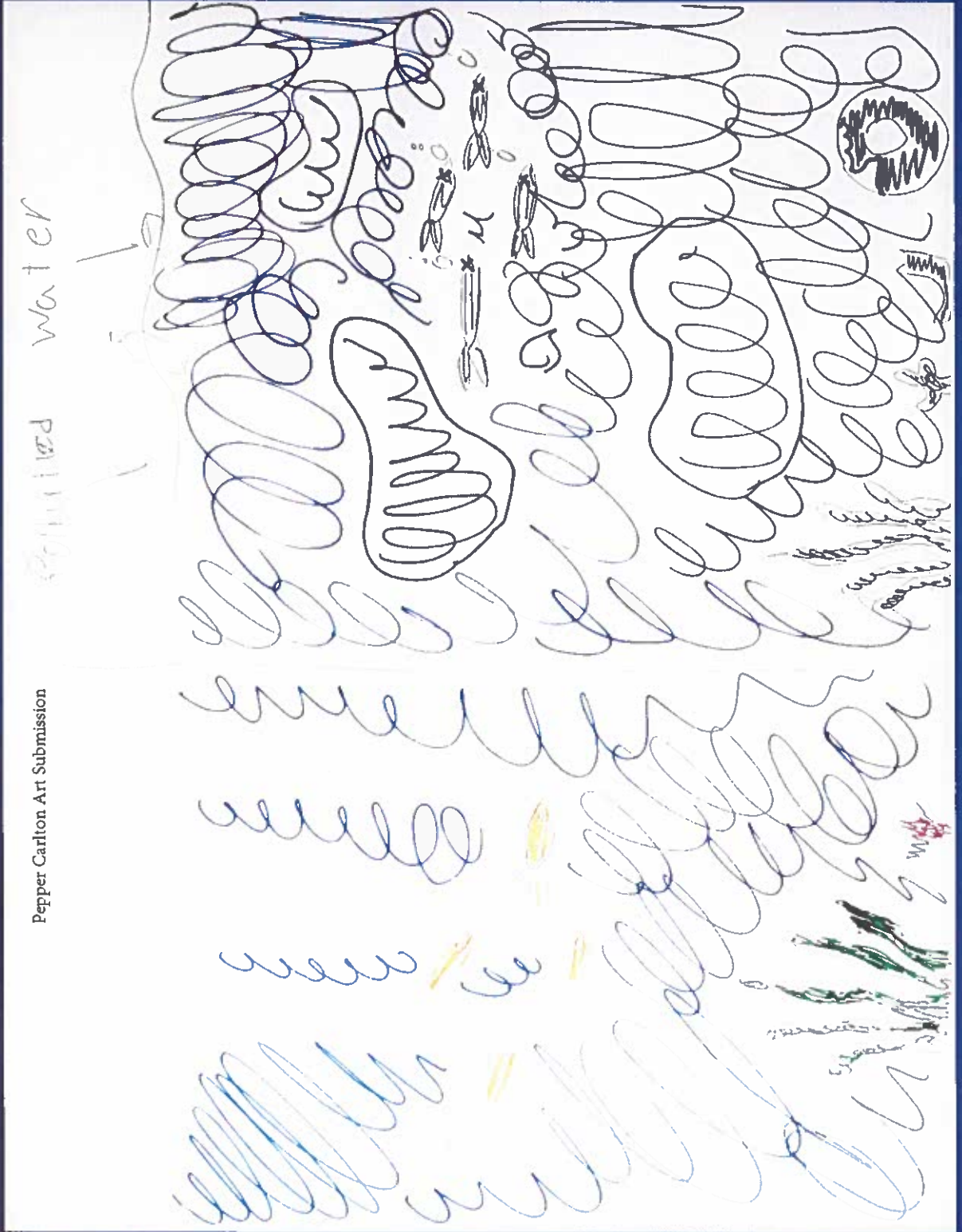


William Khazen Art Submission



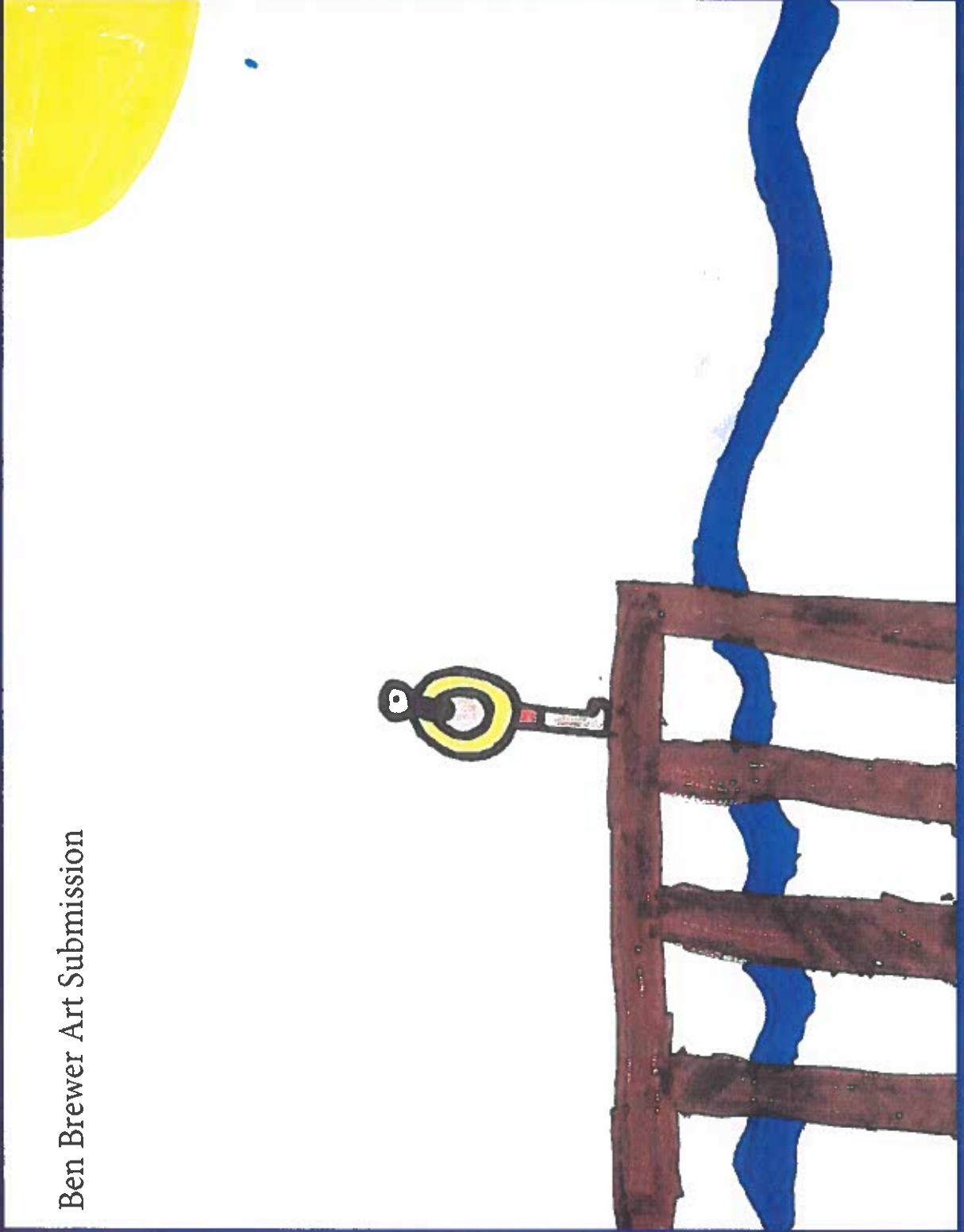
Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer
Conservation District

Agenda Item 5b. Aquatic Summer Camp Winners



Agenda Item 5b. Aquatic Summer Camp Winners

Ben Brewer Art Submission





Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer
Conservation District

Agenda Item 5b. Aquatic Summer Camp Winners



Caitlin Lowery Art
Submission

Agenda Item 5b. Aquatic Summer Camp Winners





Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer
Conservation District

Agenda Item 5b.
**Kent S. Butler Groundwater Stewardship
Scholarship Essay Contest**

Deadline to Apply: Wednesday, April 20

bseacd.org/education/scholarships/



**Barton Springs
Edwards Aquifer**
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Applicants	Final Scores (From highest to lowest)
1. Ryder Armstrong	170 Points - \$1,000 - FULL
2. Johnpaul Garza	159 Points - \$500 - FULL
3. Olivia Schweke	156 Points - \$500 - FULL
4. Elizabeth Crank	155 Points - \$1,000 - FULL
5. William Khazen	150 Points - \$610 - PARTIAL
6. Pepper Carlton	144 Points - \$350 - PARTIAL
7. Ben Brewer	134 Points - \$600 - PARTIAL
8. Caitlin Lowery	129 Points - \$600 - PARTIAL
9. Jack Brewer	125 Points - \$600 - PARTIAL
10. Noah Brewer	116 Points - \$600 - PARTIAL

Item 6

Director's Reports

Directors' Reports.

Directors may report on their involvement in activities and dialogue that are of likely interest to the Board, in one or more of the following topical areas:

- **Meetings and conferences attended or that will be attended;**
- **Committee formation and updates;**
- **Conversations with public officials, permittees, stakeholders, and other constituents;**
- **Commendations; and**
- **Issues or problems of concern.**

Item 7

Adjournment