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**ALLEGHANY COUNTY WATER DISTRICT
SIERRA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA**

BYLAWS

INTRODUCTION

The establishment of these bylaws arises out of a practical need to separate the duties and responsibilities pertaining to how the board governs itself from the Ordinances of the district. Up until this time (2016) all rules and regulations of the district including how the board governs itself were included in the ordinances.

With the adoption of these bylaws; matters pertaining to how the board governs itself and oversees staff (as well as staff duties and responsibilities) shall be covered by either the Bylaws or the Policies & Procedures of the District. If no Bylaw or Policy is in place for a matter that is written into the existing ordinances, then the ordinance shall hold sway. Reasonable effort will be made to rescind ordinances that are replaced by either these bylaws or district policy in a timely manner. Attachment A of these bylaws shall list the date of adoption of these bylaws, the dates of any amendments, along with a list of rescinded ordinances including rescission date.

ARTICLE I

NAME, ADDRESS, AUTHORITY, CLASSIFICATION

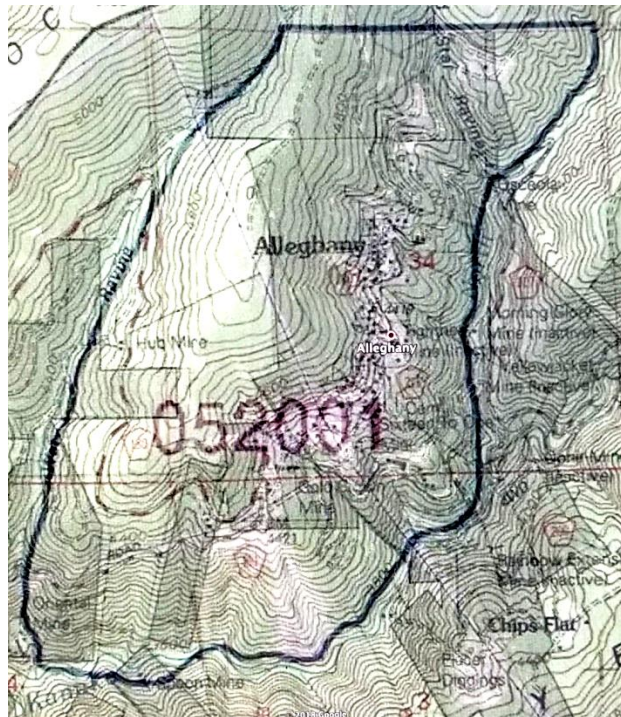
Name: Alleghany County Water District (ACWD). **Mailing Address:** PO Box 860, Alleghany, CA 95910

Phone: 530-287-3204 **Website:** alleghanywater.org **email:** alleghanywater@gmail.com

Authority: Alleghany County Water District is supervised by a governing board herein after referred to as “The Board of Directors” or “The Board”. The Board derives its authority from the district’s formation documents approved by the Sierra County Board of Supervisors on March 6, 1939 and recorded with the Secretary of State on March 8, 1939 under the authority of California Water Code Division 12 Section 30000 through 33901; commonly referred to as the district’s “enabling legislation”.

Classification: Under the enabling legislation for County Water Districts, ACWD has to authority to do the following: Furnish water for any present or future beneficial use; store and conserve water, acquire water rights, and operate works to supply or make use of water for any beneficial use; salvage sewage and storm waters; generate and sell at wholesales incidental hydroelectric power; acquire and operate sewer facilities; sell or lease oil or mineral rights; in cooperation with U.S. acquire and operate work for irrigation or development of power; provide recreational facilities; provide fire protection facilities; drain and reclaim lands; acquire, conserve or dispose of flood and storm water.

**ARTICLE II
CORPORATE SEAL, DISTRICT BOUNDARIES**



District Boundaries

**ARTICLE III
POWERS OF THE BOARD**

- 1.) The Board of Directors may exercise all of the powers conferred upon it by the State of California Government Code.
- 2.) The Board of Directors shall have the authority to adopt Ordinances and Policies & Procedures for the conduct of the business affairs of the District and to amend such Policies & Procedures as long as they are not contrary to state or federal law.
- 3.) Pursuant to the procedures and requirements of Water Code Section 31000-31016, and applicable statutory law, the Board shall set the rates and charges for District water and all other services related to providing potable domestic water under the laws of the State of California.

- 4.) Subject to state law, the Board shall have the authority to levy fines to ratepayers who violate District rules.

**ARTICLE IV
BOARD MEMBER QUALIFICATIONS, ELECTIONS, TERMS**

- 1.) **Board Membership.** The Board shall consist of five (5) Members, each of whom shall be a registered voter of the Alleghany County Water District.
- 2.) **Term of Office.** The term of office of each elected member of the Board shall be four (4) years.
- 3.) **Elections:** All elections shall be carried out in conformance with the State of California Code of regulations and shall be combined with the official elections of Sierra County including all notice and deadline requirements.
- 4.) **Vacancies:** Pursuant to Section 30504 of the California code: "The district shall notify the county elections official of any vacancy no later than 15 days after either the date on which the district board is notified of the vacancy or the *effective date of the vacancy, whichever is later."
- 5.) **Attendance:** Failure to attend three consecutive regular meetings without notification shall constitute "abandonment" of the position and may result in the board declaring a vacancy.
- 6.) **Replacement of Board member.** The Board, by majority vote, may appoint a qualified replacement to fill in the remaining term of a Board Member who resigns or is otherwise ineligible to continue as a Member of the Board. Vacancies of unfinished terms shall be posted in three conspicuous public places within the district for a minimum of 15 days. See Attachment C The board shall reappoint within 60 days of posting for the vacancy. ***If the board fails to fill the position within 60 days it loses the power to re-appoint.*** Appointment after 60 days but before 90 days may be made by the Sierra County Board of Supervisors. Gov. Code Section 1780 (b) After 90 days either an election or special election is required to fill the vacant seat.

* Effective date is the date that the board either accepts a resignation or declares a seat vacant per #5 above.

Oaths of office: Per the enabling legislation for County Water Districts Water Code Section 30577 "Each member of the board, or the secretary, may administer oaths and affirmations in connection with the taking of testimony at any hearing, investigation, or other matter pending before the board".

ARTICLE V
MEETINGS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- 1.) **Regular Meetings.** Regular meetings of the Board of Directors will be monthly on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:00 pm at the Firehouse in Alleghany 105 Plaza Court, unless posted otherwise. The regular meeting schedule shall be published in the Mountain Messenger's "Calendar of Events" and on the district's website.
- 2.) **Special Meetings.** Special meetings may be called at any time by the President or any two Directors. Whether the meetings are called by the President or by the Directors, notice thereof shall be made to each Board Member and posted in compliance with the Brown Act. Such notice shall be at least 24 hours prior to the special meeting and shall include the time, place, and the business to be transacted.
- 3.) **Emergency Meetings.** Emergency meetings may be called at any time by the President or any Director. Whether the meeting is called by the President or by a Director, notice thereof shall be made to each Board Member and posted in compliance with the Brown Act. Such notice shall be at least 24 hours prior to the emergency meeting when possible.
- 4.) **Meeting Agenda.** The Secretary or designee will prepare and post the meeting agenda at least 72 hours prior to each regular meeting and at least 24 hours prior to each special meeting. -The agenda will be posted at the place of meeting, on the Post Office Bulletin Board and on the district's website. Prior to posting the agenda, any Director may add agenda items by contacting either the Secretary or the General Manager prior to posting. The agenda shall be in compliance with the Ralph M. Brown Act. A sample agenda format is included with these by-laws as attachment B.
- 5.) **Adjournment of Meetings.** A Board meeting may be adjourned to continue at a future date by a majority vote of the Board Members. The purpose of the adjournment will be to continue and complete the present meeting. If the meeting is continued for more than 5 days, a new agenda will be prepared and posted.
- 6.) **Quorum.** A majority of the Members of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. Unless otherwise required by law, the majority of a quorum may make decisions and transact business on behalf of the Board.
- 7.) **Meetings to be Open to the Public.** All of the sessions of the Board of Directors, whether regular, special or emergency, shall be open to the public. The President may place a 3 minute time limit on public input if deemed necessary. Public Comment is limited to topics directly under the jurisdiction of the Board. The board may not deliberate or take action on a topic not listed on the agenda unless it is deemed to be an "emergency item" by a majority of the board. Simple answers by the board regarding topics not on the agenda are permissible.
- 8.) **Executive (Closed) Sessions.** The Board of Directors may hold executive sessions during a regular or special meeting to consider any matter permitted under the Ralph M. Brown Act.
- 9.) **Meeting Procedure.** Meetings will be conducted using Rosenberg's Rules of order.
- 10.) **Conduct.** No boisterous conduct shall be permitted at any Board meeting. Persistence in boisterous conduct shall be grounds for summary termination by the Chairperson of person's privilege to remain within the hearing, meeting, or workshop.
- 11.) **Complaints.** No oral presentation shall include charges or complaints against any District employee, regardless of whether or not the employee is identified in the presentation by name or by another reference which tends to identify. All complaints shall be directed to either the General Manager or the President in writing.

**ARTICLE VI
OFFICERS**

- 1.) **Number.** The officers of the District shall be a President, Vice-President, Secretary, and such other officers as may be determined by the Board from time to time to perform such duties as may be designated by the Board.
- 2.) **President.** The President: (a) shall act as Chairman and preside at all meetings of the Board of Directors, (b) may sign any deeds, notes, bonds, contracts, or other instruments authorized by the Board to be executed, and (c) shall perform in general all duties incident to the office of President and such duties as may be prescribed by the Board from time to time.
- 3.) **Vice-President.** The Vice-President (a) shall be the vice-chairman of the Alleghany County Water District, and (b) shall preside at all meetings of the Board in the absence of the President (c) shall fulfill all other duties of the President as prescribed by the board in the President's absence.
- 4.) **Secretary/Clerk of the Board.** The Secretary shall: (a) keep the minutes of the meetings of the Board Meetings, (b) see that all notices are duly given in accordance with these bylaws -and as required by the Brown Act, (c) be custodian of the District records and of the Seal of the District and affix the seal of the District to all documents, the execution of which on behalf of the District under its seal is duly authorized in accordance with the provisions of these bylaws, (d) perform in general all duties incident to the office of secretary and such other duties as from time to time may be assigned by the Board.
- 5.) **Insurance.** The District shall procure and maintain insurance, including such insurance as is necessary to protect the Directors and regular contractors of the District.
- 6.) **Compensation.** The Board Members may be reimbursed for reasonable expenses incurred while representing the District, in accordance with a Reimbursement Policy adopted by the Board of Directors.
- 7.) **Officer Terms:** The board of directors shall appoint officers annually in January for a one-year term; with the exception of the Secretary whose term shall correspond with his/her contract for services.

**ARTICLE VII
CODE OF CONDUCT FOR DIRECTORS AND DISTRICT STAFF**

In the meeting process, Board members and staff shall strive to:

- avoid making individual pronouncements and public conjecture outside of official Board meetings about district matters not yet decided by the Board;
- speak or act for the Board only when specifically authorized to do so by action of the Board;
- arrive on time for meetings; stay focused;
- raise concerns about ground rules as soon as possible;
- not take things personally;
- after the motion and second, encourage discussion and strive for consensus;
- allow for minority point of view;
- not repeat what has been said, be concise;
- be recognized by the chair before speaking;
- come prepared, ready to ask questions and make decisions, do what is agreed upon;
- follow the agenda;
- respect confidentiality of Executive Session;
- accept the principle of board unity or consensus by supporting majority decisions of the Board.

In personal interactions, Board members and staff shall strive to:

- disagree without being disagreeable;
- be honest; sensitive, trustworthy,
- use humor,
- be tolerant;
- respect the opinion of others;
- not intentionally cause anyone embarrassment;
- act with integrity and credibility;
- represent the people of the District and
- make decisions based on factual information.

**ARTICLE VIII
FISCAL YEAR, ANNUAL BUDGET**

The **fiscal year** shall begin on July 1st and end on June 30th.

1. **Budget Preparation:** The district shall adopt Policies & Procedures pertaining to the preparation of the annual budget.
2. **Budget Deadlines:** A preliminary budget for the following fiscal year shall be adopted by June 30th. The final budget shall be adopted by October 1st. Upon adoption, a copy of both the preliminary budget and the final budget shall be sent to the Sierra County Auditor.
3. **Budget Hearing:** After the adoption of the preliminary budget and prior to the adoption of the final budget a public hearing shall be duly posted and held for the purpose of engaging the

public's input. The public hearing shall be posted at least 10-days in advance, in three public places.

**ARTICLE IX
CONTRACTS**

- 1.) No contracts to purchase, sell, lease or convey, nor the conveyance of any real estate owned by the District nor contract to assign or the assignment of any leasehold Interest owned by the District shall be made unless authorized by the Board of Directors at a regular or special meeting.
- 2.) The Board can contract with, or employ, individuals, firms, corporations or other such entities as necessary.

**ARTICLE X
AMENDMENTS TO BYLAWS**

The Bylaws of the District may be amended, added to, or repealed by a majority vote of the Board of Directors at any meeting of the Board of Directors, providing notice of the proposed change or changes is given in the notice of the regular or special meeting.

Attachment A

Attachment A of these bylaws shall list the date of adoption of these bylaws, the dates of any amendments, along with a list of rescinded ordinances (replaced by bylaws) including rescission date.

These bylaws were first presented at the regular meeting held on 9/8/2015 and initially adopted on: January 12, 2016

Bylaw amendments:

2/9/2016 **Attachment B** (agenda format) amended

3/8/2016 correction to **Article 1 item 5** to correspond with Gov code. (posting requirements for vacancies)

6/14/16 **Article 3 item 7** Public Response time changed from 5 minutes to 3 minutes.

11/8/16 **Article I Item 3** removed text "The board shall establish a policy that will detail the election process." Item 3 added the word "regular" so that three consecutive regular meetings must be missed before the board can declare a seat vacated. **Article VII Item 3** Budget hearing removed text: "At the board's discretion a motion to adopt the final budget may be made at the Public Hearing". Added text: The public hearing shall be posted at least 10-days in advance.

1/14/2020 **Articles I & II** completely new. **Article V** added #10 Conduct at board meetings and #11 Complaints at board meetings. Added **Article VII code of conduct**. Other minor changes to clean up language made throughout. Election procedures revised to match gov. code & County procedures.

2/27/2024 **Article IV** added reference to new attachment "C" which is an example of the vacancy notice & application. Also added language about oaths of office at the bottom of the page to hopefully avoid confusion because County Water Districts are unique in allowing any officer or board member to administer oaths of office.

Ordinance changes directly related to bylaws

The following ordinances were **rescinded** as a result of the initial adoption of these bylaws by Ordinance #34 First reading date: January 12, 2015 Adoption 2/9/2016

Ordinances that pertain to meeting details such as time, place or date:

1, 2, 4,10,11,16,21,22,27 and 29

Attachment B: Order of Business and Agenda content (actual format may vary as may number of items)

NOTICE

**OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF
ALLEGHANY COUNTY WATER DISTRICT**

DATE and TIME

Alleghany Firehouse 105 Plaza Ct. Alleghany

This agenda has been prepared and posted at least 72 hours prior to the regular meeting of the Board of Directors in accordance with the Ralph M. Brown Act. Agenda items are numbered for identification purposes only and will not necessarily be considered in the indicated order. Details and supporting materials concerning agenda items are available for public reference by calling 530-287-3204 or email: alleghanywater@gmail.com

1. Call to Order & Establish a Quorum

2. Consent Calendar

- a) Approval of the agenda
- b) Reading and approval of the minutes for the meeting dated:
- c) Approval of Treasury Report and List of Claims for previous calendar month

Approval of the consent calendar (A board member may request that any item on the consent calendar be moved to the regular agenda for further discussion)

3. Information/Discussion Items

- a) Correspondence
- b) Staff Reports
- c) Board member or special committee reports
- d) Library Report
- e) Park Report

5. Unfinished Business (Discussion & Possible Action Items):

- a) Customer Accounts/Billings/Disconnects
- b) List anything that is carried over from a previous meeting and that may require action here.

6. New Business (Discussion & Possible Action Items):

- a) List new action items here.

7. Public Response Time The public may be heard on an item before or during the consideration of any agenda item to be considered by the board, subject to reasonable time limitations for each speaker. Members of the public may address matters under the jurisdiction of the Board of Directors, and not on the posted agenda, provided that no action shall be taken on any item not appearing on the agenda. The Board cannot take action on any unscheduled items unless it is declared by a vote of at least two-third (2/3) of the Board that there is an urgent need to take immediate action, and the need for action came to the attention of the District after the agenda was posted.

8. Next meeting date, Items for next agenda & Adjournment

Upon request, Agendas will be made available in alternative formats to accommodate persons with disabilities. Please make your request to District Secretary, P.O. Box 860, Alleghany CA 95910 specifying your disability and the format in which you would like to receive this Agenda and future Agendas as well.

Bylaws Attachment C



NOTICE OF VACANCY

Interested persons are hereby notified that pursuant to Government Code §1780 there is a vacancy on the

Alleghany County Water District Board of Directors

Requirements

Applicants must be registered voters of the water district.
An oath of office is required for assuming the seat.

The position to be filled is the remainder of a 4-year term ending _____.

Applications are available in the box below the bulletin board at the post office.

Or online:

alleghanywater.org click on UPDATES at the top of the page.

Or request by email to alleghanywater@gmail.com

Phone: (530) 287-3204

ACWD PO Box 860, Alleghany CA 95910

Applications must be received by : _____ and can be placed in the payment box near the firehouse in the Plaza or given to Secretary Amber Mehrmann, Deputy Secretary Rae Bell Arbogast or mailed to the address above.

This district board has 60 days from the date the board is notified of the vacancy or the effective date of the vacancy, whichever is later, to fill the vacancy or call a special election. Gov. Code 1780

Pursuant to Government Code §1780, this notice will be posted for a minimum of 15 days in 3 or more conspicuous locations within the district's boundaries: Post date: _____



APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP ON
Alleghany County Water District Board of Directors

THIS FORM TO BE USED FOR BOARD **VACANCIES TO BE FILLED BY APPOINTMENT**

Contact Sierra County Clerk Recorder's Office for election forms.

FILING DEADLINE (AS LISTED ON VACANCY LISTING): _____.

NAME: _____.

RESIDENCE ADDRESS: _____.

MAILING ADDRESS: _____, PHONE

NUMBERS: HOME: _____ BUSINESS: _____.

IN WHICH SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT DO YOU RESIDE? _____, TIMES YOU

ARE AVAILABLE FOR MEETINGS? DAYS: _____ TIMES: _____.

EMPLOYMENT EXPERIENCE: _____

_____.

ORGANIZATION AND COMMUNITY EXPERIENCE: _____

_____.

OTHER EXPERIENCE WHICH YOU FEEL WOULD BE HELPFUL TO BRING TO THE ATTENTION OF BOARD MEMBERS IN MAKING THIS APPOINTMENT: _____

_____.

EDUCATION (INCLUDE HIGH SCHOOL, COLLEGE AND/OR UNIVERSITY, AND GRADUATE STUDY):

WHY WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE APPOINTED?: _____

A RESUME CONTAINING OTHER PERTINENT INFORMATION ABOUT YOURSELF WOULD BE HELPFUL TO THE BOARD MEMBERS IN EVALUATING YOUR APPLICATIONS.

DATE: _____ SIGNATURE _____

APPLICATION MUST BE FILED WITH ACWD PO Box 860, Alleghany CA 95910, either by mail or by handing it in person, to the Secretary or General Manager

MEMBERS OF THIS ADVISORY BOARD OR COMMISSION ARE:

REQUIRED to file a Statement of Economic Interests with the County Clerk. If you should have any questions as to what this might involve, please call the Sierra County Clerk at (530) 289-3295.