

PEACE RIVER MANASOTA REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY

BUDGET POLICIES [2019]

Purpose and Intent:

1. Establish policies for reserve accounts.
2. Identify the funds to which the policies apply.
3. Provide guidance as to how reserves are to be used and replenished.

General Considerations:

1. To maintain adequate reserves is important for the Authority's financial well-being, and for being prepared for periods of time of revenue shortfalls, natural disasters, unanticipated expenditures, and to ensure stable water rates.
2. Adequate fund balance levels are essential component of the Authority's overall financial management and a key factor in measurement of the Authority's financial strength by bond rating agencies.
3. The Authority seeks to maintain the highest possible credit ratings that can be achieved without compromising the mission of the Authority and meeting all contractual obligations.
4. The Authority will adopt fund classification guidelines reflecting the Government Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 54.

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FUNDS AND ACCOUNTS

1. **Utility Reserve Fund:**

The Authority establishes a policy to maintain an uncommitted Utility Reserve Fund with a minimum balance equivalent to 180 days of the total operations and maintenance expenditures in the Authority's annual budget. Utility Reserve Fund is the residual classification for the Enterprise Fund and represents fund balance that has not been restricted, committed or assigned to specific purposes within the Enterprise Fund.

2. **Rate Stabilization Account:**

The Authority establishes a policy to maintain Rate Stabilization account that can be used to mitigate water rate increase in the Authority's annual budget. The Authority Board of Directors may transfer into the Rate Stabilization Reserve such moneys which are on deposit in the Utility Reserve Fund as it deems appropriate. It is the goal of the Authority to maintain a balance at the end of each fiscal year of \$1 million in the Rate Stabilization account.

3. **Renewal and Replacement Fund:**

The Authority's bond documents [2005 Bonds and 2010 Bonds] establishes a Renewal and Replacement Reserve Fund requirement on the date of calculation, an amount of money equal to (1) five percent of the Gross Revenues for the preceding fiscal year or (2) such greater or lesser amount as may be certified by the consulting engineers in an amount appropriate. The Authority establishes a policy to maintain a minimum balance in the Replacement and Renewal Reserve Fund of two million dollars unless either of the above conditions requires a greater minimum amount be maintained in the fund.

Renewal and Replacement charges are established by the Authority for the exclusive purpose of funding renewals and replacements of water supply facilities. The charges are established to satisfy the requirements of the Authority's obligations and shall be set forth in the annual budget approved by the Authority board of directors. Renewal and Replacement costs are the capital expenditures set forth in the annual budget approved by the Authority board of directors for the ordinary renewal, replacement, upgrade and betterment of water supply facilities. Renewal and Replacement costs do not include capital expenditures associated with the expansion or addition of water treatment, storage, pumping or transmission capacity or the costs associated with reconstruction of any major components of the water supply facilities.

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4. General Fund [Operation, Maintenance and Administration Fund]:

Moneys in the Revenue Account shall first be used each month to deposit in the General Fund [aka Operation, Maintenance and Administration Fund] such sums as are necessary to pay operations and maintenance costs for the ensuing month; provided the Authority may transfer moneys from the Revenue Account at any time to pay operating and maintenance costs to the extent there is a deficiency in the Operation, Maintenance and Administration Fund for such purpose. Amounts in the Operation, Maintenance and Administration Fund shall be paid out from time to time by the Authority for operating and maintenance costs. The Authority establishes a policy to fund an operating reserve within the Operation, Maintenance and Administration Fund in an amount which shall be equal to the monthly average of operating and maintenance costs for the preceding fiscal year as provided in the Authority's preceding budget. Moneys in the operating reserve shall be used to pay operating and maintenance costs to the extent other moneys in the Operation, Maintenance and Administration Fund are not available for such purposes.

DEBT SERVICE COVERAGE:

For each fiscal year, the Authority covenanted in Bond resolutions to fix, establish, maintain and collect such rates, fees and charges, and revise them from time to time, whenever necessary, so as to always provide in each fiscal year net revenues equal to (1) at least 115% of the annual debt service becoming due in such fiscal year; and (2) at least 100% of any (a) amounts required by the terms of the Bond resolutions to be deposited in the Reserve Account or with any issuer of a Reserve Account Letter of Credit or Reserve Account Insurance Policy in such fiscal year, and (b) any payments required to be made to Charlotte County and DeSoto County pursuant to the Master Water Supply Contract due in such fiscal year.

The Authority establishes a policy to budget for debt service coverage of 150% to assure compliance with bond covenants and maintain the highest possible credit ratings that can be achieved without compromising the mission of the Authority and meeting all contractual obligations. Debt service coverage is budgeted based on each customer's respective debt obligation. Funds budgeted for debt service coverage for each customer is to be maintained on behalf of that customer.

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MEMBER CONTRIBUTION:

Member contribution to the General Fund in the Authority's annual budget shall be calculated as follows:

- (1) 50% of the total contribution shall be equal to each Authority member; and
- (2) 50% of the total contribution shall be proportioned to each Authority member proportionate to their respective county's population to the region's total population.

CUSTOMER PLANNING ASSESSMENT:

The Master Water Supply Contract provides that Management and Planning Costs of the Authority may be obtained from the Customers in a manner determined by the Authority Board. It is the Authority's policy that Management and Planning Costs in the Authority's annual budget shall be proportioned to each Authority Customer proportionate to their respective entity's population to the region's total population. (Sarasota County population shall be less the City of North Port population.)

FEES & CHARGES FOR NEW SYSTEM CONNECTIONS:

The Authority's Strategic Plan provides that a long-term aim of the Authority is to forge a system that is environmentally sensitive and sustainable, highly interconnected, diversified and affordable. Expanding interconnects with Authority non-members shall be coordinated directly through their respective host county Authority member for connection to the regional system.