

Chester Public Utility District Policy Manual

Section 2400 Communications & Technology Management

POLICY TITLE: California Public Records Act Response Procedures

POLICY NUMBER: 2425

The California Public Records Act (Government Code, section 7920.000 et seq.) grants California residents important rights to obtain access to records held by public agencies. The District adopts this policy to clarify how it will respond to requests for records under the Public Records Act.

2425.1 All requests for public records shall be in writing, on a form approved by the Board of Directors, unless the request is to review an agenda, agenda reports, or minutes of the Board or ordinances or resolutions of the Board or any of its committees, which are available in the District office.

2425.2 District staff will respond to all requests as soon as possible after they are received, but not later than 10 days after receipt of the request to either state whether the District has responsive records or request an extension of up to 14 days to make that determination pursuant to Government Code section 7922.535.

a) District staff shall review each request and determine whether it seeks identifiable records. If not, District staff shall offer to help the requestor identify records responsive to the request.

b) District staff shall request all Board members and District staff who may have the records requested to search their files. Board members and District staff must report whether they have responsive records and, if so, when the records can be made available to the requestor.

c) District staff shall respond to the requestor, advising him or her in writing of the availability of the documents, a description of the medium (paper, electronic format, etc.) and location of the records, and whether any are exempt from disclosure under the Public Records Act. To the extent feasible, District staff will provide suggestions to overcome any practical basis for denying access to the records sought.

d) ~~If a request is made for copies of records,~~ District staff shall ~~also~~ advise the requestor of the estimated ~~copying~~ cost. The District shall make any disclosable records it holds in electronic format available in such format when requested.

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e) The person requesting the copies shall pay the charges for the requested copies established by the Board. At present those are: [\$1.00 for the first page, \$.05 each additional page, \$.10 per page for Political Reform Act materials, CD's-\$5.00, DVD's \$10.00]. District staff shall not make the requested copies until a deposit of the estimated copying cost is received and shall not release the copies until the actual copying cost is paid.

f) Electronic Records: The fee for compiling electronic data or extracting information is the hourly rate of the lowest paid qualified employee to fulfill request. District Staff shall provide an estimated cost that is payable before District Staff starts compiling data. If there is a variance in cost the remaining balance shall be paid/refunded after request is complete but before it is in the public members possession.

2425.3 In accordance with the Public Records Act, District staff will provide specific, identifiable records but will not research records for particular types of information, as distinct from records, or analyze information which may be contained in public records. District staff has no obligation to create records in response to a Public Records Act request.

2425.4 District staff will respond to requests for public records in accordance with the Public Records Act as the Act now exists or may hereafter be amended, and nothing in this policy is intended nor shall it be construed to conflict with the terms of the Public Records Act. Chester Public Utility District Request for Public Records Form:

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Date requested:	Date required:
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Please list each document, file, or record separately

I wish to ☐ Review
☐ Obtain copies of the following public records:

I/We, the undersigned, request documents as indicated and agree to pay the District for copies at the rate of \$1.00 for the first page and \$0.05 for each additional page (\$0.10 per page for documents requested pursuant to the Political Reform Act) when I receive or my representative receives them.

Name/Organization: _____
Mailing Address: _____

Phone Number: () _____ Signature: _____
FAX Number: () _____ Email: _____

FOR INTERNAL USE ONLY		
Approved ☐ Denied ☐	Signature: _____	
Reason, if denied: _____		
Disposition of Request: Documents/response provided on (date) _____		
By: ☐ Mail ☐ Pick-up ☐ FAX ☐ Email ☐ Delivered ☐ Verbal ☐ Phone		
Comments:		
Date Completed:	Staff Member(s):	Staff Time:

Adopted: