

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

**September 10, 2020**

**ITEM 4**

**PRESENT A SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY**

**BACKGROUND AND SUMMARY**

The District maintains a website to enable the public to access important information about District business. Such websites have become ubiquitous in modern life and are highly effective. However, California public agencies are subject to requirements that do not apply to private entities, such as the First Amendment and the Public Records Act. The District should manage its social media carefully to avoid (1) possible freedom of speech issues; and (2) generating records that would be difficult to produce in response to a Public Records Act request.

The proposed policy would place any use or maintenance of District social media under the control of the District Manager or his designee, who would limit content to publicly available information. The policy also sets objective limits on the information that third parties may post on the District website, thereby avoiding a First Amendment problem.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

None

**RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends that the Board hear public testimony, consider the proposed draft policy and adopt the draft resolution.

**ATTACHMENTS**

Resolution  
Social Media Policy

**SUBMITTED BY:**

Ann Danforth  
General Counsel