

<h1>POLICY MANUAL</h1>	Date Adopted: March 20, 1961
Classification: PROGRAM	Date Last Amended: 09/16/74; 03/14/83
Subject: Annexation	Approved By:

1. The legislated responsibility assigned to the District by the State of California and the local electorate require that it address the drainage, flood control and water conservation needs of the natural watersheds which are located within or impact upon the Fresno-Clovis metropolitan area. Such responsibility, together with the following principles, shall form the basis of District Annexation Policy.
  - A. District service benefits accrue to both urban and rural, developed and undeveloped lands.
  - B. The District's legislated responsibilities mandate District programs and service area boundaries based on the boundaries of complete watershed areas.
  - C. It is not possible to service a single parcel or portion of a watershed without providing services to the entire watershed.
  - D. It is not possible to exclude a single parcel or portion of a watershed from services provided to a complete watershed.
  - E. Selective inclusion in the District or exclusion from the District of an individual parcel or portion of a watershed results in inequalities in the distribution of benefits and the costs of service.
  - F. Watershed boundaries, and therefore District service area boundaries, are unrelated to and often inconsistent with political jurisdictional boundaries.
  - G. All parcels within a watershed annexed to the District receive services and benefits and, as a result of District annexation, pay in proportion to the benefit received.
  - H. Property on high ground generates runoff. Collection and safe disposal of this runoff is a District service benefit.
  - I. Property on low ground receives runoff. Interception, control and safe disposal of this runoff is a District service benefit.

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- J. Protection of public facilities, such as roads, bridges, water, sewer, gas and electric systems is a District service benefit to all who pay for and use such facilities.
  - K. Creation and preservation of underground water resources is a District service benefit to all who use such water.
  - L. Maintenance of flood-free roads to ensure access to property, the pursuit of property rights, the passage of emergency vehicles, and the assurance of pedestrian safety is a District service benefit.
  - M. Prevention of City and County expenses in the pursuit of temporary flood control measures, such as sandbagging, signing, and pumping is a District service benefit to all who pay City and County taxes.
  - N. The generation of public open-space, and recreational resources is a District service benefit.
  - O. Prevention of erosion and silting of farmlands and the protection of natural channels and other topographical features is a District service benefit.
  - P. Prevention of crop damage from excessive runoff is a District service benefit.
  - Q. Control and servicing of internal drainage of development activity is a District service benefit, both to the developer and to the parcels adjoining such development activity.
2. The Board of Directors shall initiate annexation proceedings pursuant to its own initiative when such proceedings are determined to be in the public interest.
  3. The Board of Directors shall initiate annexation proceedings upon the receipt of a written request from one or more of the owners of property within the watershed proposed for annexation.

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4. Individual district annexations shall be formulated to accomplish the following:
  - A. To include, as a minimum, the complete watershed area, which is the object of the annexation;
  - B. To complete the annexation of watersheds only partially annexed in previous proceedings; and,
  - C. Secure the annexation of the maximum area consistent with the current information, needs, and proceedings.
  
5. The District shall secure at the earliest possible date the annexation of the complete watershed area made the responsibility of the District by action of the legislature of the State of California and the electorate of the local community.