

FINANCIAL RESERVES

Dept/Div:	Finance	Approved By:	Resolution No. 2026-12
Effective Date:	July 1, 2026	Applicability:	District Wide
Supersedes:	Resolution No. 2025-15	See Also:	N/A

1.0 General Policy

Maintaining adequate reserves is an essential part of sound financial management. The Yorba Linda Water District Board of Directors understands the importance of reserves in (1) providing reliable service to its customers and well-maintained infrastructure for current and future customers, (2) financing capital projects as well as capital repair and replacement, and (3) providing the ability to respond to changing circumstances. Interest derived from reserve balances shall be credited to the reserve account from which it was earned.

2.0 Categories

Yorba Linda Water District (YLWD or District) shall accumulate, maintain and segregate its reserve funds into the following categories:

- Board Designated Unrestricted Reserves; and
- Board Designated Restricted Reserves.

3.0 Scope

This policy will assist the Board of Directors in establishing:

- Target Funding Levels
- Requirements for the use of reserve funds; and
- Annual review requirements for each reserve.
- Funding priority order of reserve categories

4.0 Periodic Review and Priority Funding Order

Staff and the YLWD Board shall review the reserve balances and targets annually as a part of the annual budget process. The Finance Staff will continue to review all reserve and investment balances monthly, with a quarterly report going to the full Board. Any changes must be approved by resolution and presented to the Board of Directors annually. Changes can include, but are not limited to, establishment of additional reserve funds, changes in reserve target levels, and changes in types of reserve categories.

Staff will allocate funds for unrestricted reserves when target levels are exceeded using the following funding priority order: Operating Reserve, Capital Replacement Reserve, Emergency Reserve, and Rate Stabilization Reserve (Unrestricted). Any year when all target levels are met, staff will present to the Board a plan to utilize funds over the target levels.

5.0 Designated Unrestricted and Restricted Reserves

5.1 Board Designated Unrestricted Reserves

These are reserve funds earmarked for the purpose of funding such items as new capital facilities, repair or replacement of existing facilities, and general operating reserves designated for a specific purpose and use by the Board of Directors. As a means for the District to retain its AAA rating, the minimum targeted total unrestricted reserve balance is at least 365 days in cash at the end of the fiscal year. In the event the unrestricted reserve fund falls below its minimum, 365 days in cash, the Board will act to restore the balance above the minimum level within twelve (12) months from the date that the fund fell below the minimum level.

5.1.1 Operating Reserve.

5.1.1.1 Definition and Purpose – Established to cover temporary cash flow deficiencies that occur as a result of timing differences between the receipt of operating revenue and expenditure requirements and unexpected expenditures occurring as a result of doing business.

5.1.1.2 Funding Level – The District's target level of 60% of the annual operating budget, including interest expense, for both the water and sewer funds.

Levels	Water	Sewer
Target	60%	60%

Levels	Water	Sewer
Target	\$28,226,333	\$2,736,247

5.1.1.3 Events or Conditions Prompting the Use of the Operating Reserve – This reserve may be utilized as needed to pay outstanding operating expenditures prior to the receipt of anticipated operating revenues.

5.1.2 Emergency Reserve

5.1.2.1 Definition and Purpose – Established to provide protection recovery to the District and its customers for losses arising from an unplanned event or circumstance (i.e. fires, earthquakes or financial emergencies). The reserve level combined with YLWD's existing insurance policies should adequately protect YLWD and its customers in the event of a loss.

5.1.2.2 Funding Level – Established at a target level equal to 5% of the net capital assets for both the District's water and sewer funds.

Levels	Water	Sewer
Target	5%	5%

Levels	Water	Sewer
Target	\$8,997,157	\$1,686,426

- 5.1.2.3** Events or Conditions Prompting the Use of the Emergency Reserve – This reserve shall be utilized to cover unexpected losses experienced by the District as a result of a disaster or other unexpected loss. Any reimbursement received by the District from insurance companies as a result of a submitted claim shall be deposited back into the reserve as replenishment for the loss.

5.1.3 Capital Replacement Reserve

- 5.1.3.1** Definition and Purpose – Established to provide funding for (a) general use on capital projects as well as capital repair and replacement funding as the District's infrastructure deteriorates over its expected useful life and (b) non-scheduled capital asset repair and replacement and other capital related expenses.

- 5.1.3.2** Funding Level – The target level for each reserve fund is 2 years of capital improvement projects and capital outlay plus 2 times the fiscal year depreciation. The target levels in these reserve funds will fluctuate depending on the capital improvement plan and timing of the projects.

Levels	Water	Sewer
Target	\$35,963,220	\$6,530,800

- 5.1.3.3** Events or Conditions Prompting the Use of the Capital Replacement Reserve – Through the annual budget process, staff shall recommend anticipated asset replacement and capital improvement projects. The Board of Directors shall take action to approve recommended project appropriations from the capital replacement reserve. Should unplanned replacement be necessary during any fiscal year, the Board of Directors may take action to amend the budget and appropriate needed funds as required.

5.1.4 Rate Stabilization Reserve (Unrestricted)

- 5.1.4.1** Definition and Purpose – Established to assist in smoothing out water rate increases. This reserve is governed by the District's bond covenants and funds deposited into this reserve are treated as operating revenues in the fiscal year designated by the District and will be treated as such in fiscal years of such designation for the purposes of computing the District's debt service coverage ratio.

- 5.1.4.2** Funding Level – Established at a target level of 10% of budgeted water sales for the current fiscal year, less the amount of Rate Stabilization Reserve (Restricted). The Board of Directors have the option of funding the Unrestricted Rate Stabilization Reserve at a lower level.

Levels	Water
Target	\$1,487,529

- 5.1.4.3** Events or Conditions Prompting the Use of the Rate Stabilization Reserve (Unrestricted) – The reserve can be used during any year where other revenues are not sufficient to meet the required debt service coverage ratio or when the maximum level in the reserve is reached.

5.2 Board Designated Restricted Reserves

These are funds held to either satisfy limitations set by external requirements established by creditors, grant agencies or law, or to only be used for a specific purpose. Examples include stipulated bond covenants and reserves held with a fiscal agent.

5.2.1 Rate Stabilization Reserve (Restricted)

- 5.2.1.1** Definition and Purpose – This reserve is governed by the District's bond documents, which requires the District to maintain the rate stabilization reserve.

- 5.2.1.2** Funding Level – Established at a target level of the amount indicated in the District's bond documents of \$4,246,603.

Levels	Water
Target	\$4,246,603

- 5.2.1.3** Events or Conditions Prompting the Use of the Rate Stabilization Reserve (Restricted) – This reserve can be used in the event that operating funds are not adequate to meet debt service obligations within the current year.

5.2.2 Capacity Fee Reserve

- 5.2.2.1** Definition and Purpose – This reserve is governed by California Government Code Section 66013 of the Mitigation Fee Act, which requires the District to set aside capacity charges collected in a separate fund.

- 5.2.2.2** Funding Level – Funding for the Fiscal Year shall be established at a target level of zero dollars. The District's intent is to utilize capacity fee revenues on eligible capital infrastructure as projects are undertaken.

Levels	Water	Sewer
Target	\$0	\$0

- 5.2.2.3** Events or Conditions Prompting the Use of the Capacity Fee Reserve – This reserve can be used solely for the purposes for which the capacity fees were collected, such as (a) District water and sewer facilities in existence at the time the fee is imposed; or (b) new District water and sewer facilities to be acquired or constructed in the future that are of proportional benefit to the Person or property being charged.

5.2.3 Employee Liability Reserve

5.2.3.1 Definition and Purpose – The purpose is to cover employees' accrued vacation and other compensatory time and to ensure the complete funding associated with the liability incurred for employees who have met the requirements necessary for district paid health benefits at retirement.

5.2.3.2 Funding Level – Funding for the Fiscal Year shall be established at a target level of \$635,035.

Levels	Water	Sewer
Target	\$594,491	\$40,544

5.2.3.3 Events or Conditions Prompting the Use of the Employee Liabilities Reserve – This reserve may be used in the event that operating funds are not adequate to meet vacation, compensatory and sick time paid out or retiree medical cost obligations within the current year.