

special Government employees is essential to assure the proper performance of the Water Resources Council's (hereafter referred to as the Council) business and the maintenance of confidence by citizens in their Government. The avoidance of misconduct and conflicts of interest on the part of employees and special Government employees through informed judgment is indispensable to the maintenance of these standards. To accord with these concepts, this part sets forth the Council's regulations prescribing standards of conduct and responsibilities and governing statements of employment and financial interests for employees and special Government employees.

§ 706.102 Definitions.

In this part:

(a) *Employee* means the Director and an employee of the Council employed by the Director under the authority of § 701.78(a)(4) of this chapter.

(b) *Special Government employee* means a special Government employee as defined in section 202 of Title 18 of the United States Code who is employed by the Council.

§ 706.103 Remedial action.

(a) A violation of this part by an employee or special Government employee may be cause for remedial action. Remedial action may include, but is not limited to:

- (1) Changes in assigned duties;
- (2) Divestment by the employee or special Government employee of his conflicting interest;
- (3) Disciplinary action which may be in addition to any penalty prescribed by law; or
- (4) Disqualification for a particular assignment.

(b) Remedial action, whether disciplinary or otherwise, shall be effected in accordance with any applicable laws, Executive orders, and regulations.

§ 706.104 Interpretation and advisory service.

The General Counsel will serve as Counselor for the purpose of providing interpretation and advisory assistance to the Council staff on matters covered in this part 706.

Subpart B—Conduct and Responsibilities of Employees

§ 706.201 Proscribed actions.

An employee shall avoid any action which might result in, or create the appearance of:

- (a) Using public office for private gain;
- (b) Giving preferential treatment to any person;
- (c) Impeding Government efficiency or economy;
- (d) Losing complete independence or impartiality;
- (e) Making a Government decision outside official channels; or
- (f) Affecting adversely the confidence of the public in the integrity of the Government.

§ 706.202 Gifts, entertainment, and favors.

(a) Except as provided in paragraphs (b) and (c) of this section, an employee shall not solicit or accept, directly or indirectly, any gift, gratuity, favor, entertainment, loan, or any other thing of monetary value, from a person who:

- (1) Has, or is seeking to obtain, contractual or other business or financial relations with the Council;
- (2) Conducts operations or activities that are regulated by the Council; or
- (3) Has interests that may be substantially affected by the performance or nonperformance of his official duty.

(b) The restrictions set forth in paragraph (a) of this section do not apply to:

(1) Obvious family or personal relationships, such as those between the employee and his parents, children, or spouse, when the circumstances make it clear that those relationships rather than the business of the persons concerned are the motivating factors;

(2) The acceptance of food and refreshments of nominal value on infrequent occasions in the ordinary course of a luncheon or dinner meeting or other meeting or on an inspection tour where an employee may be properly in attendance;

(3) The acceptance of loans from banks or other financial institutions on customary terms to finance proper and usual activities of employees, such as home mortgage loans; and