

Staff Report

for the Board of Directors Meeting of February 27, 2019

TO: Board of Directors
FROM: Gary D. King, PE, PhD, Engineering Manager
DATE: February 20, 2019
SUBJECT: District Policy 6685 - Canal Encasements

ENGINEERING

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt Resolution 2019-06 (Establishing District Policy 6685 – Canal Encasements), as recommended by the Engineering Committee on February 19, 2019.

BACKGROUND:

The attached policy addresses numerous issues that have been encountered by the District relevant to encasing of the canals. These issues have been experienced while working with developers, private landowners, and District activities. The policy will create a consistent direction for the managing of external or internal encasement activities.

BUDGETARY IMPACT

There is no budget impact at this time.

ATTACHMENTS: (1)

Resolution 2019-06 (Establishing District Policy 6685 – Canal Encasements)
District Policy 6685 – Canal Encasements

GDK



RESOLUTION No. 2019-06

OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE NEVADA IRRIGATION DISTRICT

**ESTABLISHING ADMINISTRATIVE POLICIES –
Canal Encasements**

WHEREAS, the Nevada Irrigation District (the “District”) intends to establish, and revise from time to time, administrative policies to guide the operations and management of the District; and

WHEREAS, the policy is intended to align the Board and the Administration regarding the encasement of canals; and

WHEREAS, the encasement policy addresses the needs of the District at the time of approval, and it is understood that the encasement policy will be subject to modifications by future Boards as appropriate; and

WHEREAS, such draft policies have been reviewed by the District’s Legal Counsel and found to be in accordance with law; and

WHEREAS, the District owns and maintains over 475 miles of canals for raw water conveyance. Raw water conveyance and the related facilities are designed and constructed to accommodate District managed water supplies; and

WHEREAS, encasement of canals may be necessary to protect water quality, minimize the risk of injury, reduce operation and maintenance costs, minimize uncontrolled and unacceptable storm water intrusion, and reduce seepage; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of this policy is to provide guidance in determining when to pursue canal encasements.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Directors of the Nevada Irrigation District hereby adopts the following policies as attached, and shall be incorporated herein:

#6685 – Canal Encasements

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the attached policies shall be incorporated into the District Policy Manual, and the Board Secretary is hereby authorized to assign and revise policy numbers, and format and reformat the attached, as needed for an organized, comprehensive, policy manual.

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PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of the Nevada Irrigation District at a regular meeting held on the 27th day of February 2019, by the following vote:

AYES:	Directors:
NOES:	Directors:
ABSENT:	Directors:
ABSTAINS:	Directors:

President of the Board of Directors

Attest:

Secretary to the Board of Directors

Nevada Irrigation District

POLICY MANUAL

POLICY TITLE: Canal Encasements
POLICY NUMBER: 6685

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance in determining when to pursue raw water conveyance (canal) encasements.

The District owns and maintains over 475 miles of canals for raw water conveyance and associated raw water conveyance facilities. Raw water conveyance and the related facilities are designed and constructed to accommodate District managed water supplies.

Encasement of canals may be necessary to protect water quality, minimize the risk of injury, reduce operation and maintenance costs, minimize uncontrolled and unacceptable storm water intrusion, evaporation, and reduce seepage.

- 6685.1** District will proactively pursue encasement of canals to reduce impacts such as water quality health and safety impacts, uncontrolled stormwater intrusion, and water loss.
- 6685.2** The Canal Encasement policy is supported by the Storm Water Policy (Policy # 6655) to eliminate the discharge of stormwater into existing canal facilities. The focus will be to allow stormwater to remain in its natural channel and parent watershed, as outlined in the stormwater policy, and not to enter District facilities. The District is not a stormwater utility.
- 6685.3** Factors used to determine the need for encasement(s) in a development area such as location and size of buildings, parking lots, roads and other improvements within proximity of a canal; the canal size; the type of downstream water use; the nature of the development; and the use of hazardous materials within the development.
- 6685.4** District will design culverts, canals, and appurtenant structures to meet approved master plan design flows for District operations with an additional 25% capacity for unanticipated flows, or as modified by the Engineering Manager to meet District needs, but shall not permit the system to be used for the intentional conveyance of stormwater.
- 6685.5** District will actively engage local and state land use authorities and other regulatory bodies to manage and mitigate impacts to District facilities by stormwater runoff.

- 6685.6** Water which escapes District canals or conveyance facilities through seepage remains District property and is subject to elimination or recapture by the District at the District's discretion. Landowners possess no right or entitlement to the continuation of such escaped waters. If District conveyance facilities traverse land pursuant to prescriptive right, the District will make available a raw or treated water service per the current rules and regulations. The District will consider claims regarding seepage in accordance with applicable legal authorities.
- 6685.7** Private culverts can be considered an encasement but are covered under District Policy #6690, Privately Owned Culverts.
- 6685.8** District will review any encasement for compliance with state and federal regulations such as the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).
- 6685.9** Development occurring within a setback established by a local and/or state land use authority may be subject to encasement for protection of District facilities and the underlying property.

Adopted: **February 27, 2019 via Resolution 2019-06**