HIGHLINE WATER DISTRICT
King County, Washington

RESOLUTION 19-1-2C

RESOLUTION ADOPTING AN ALTERNATE FUELS USAGE POLICY

WHEREAS, RCW 43.19.648 (2)(a) requires all local governmental subdivisions of the state, including special purpose districts, to the extent determined practicable by rules adopted by the Washington State Department of Commerce (DOC), to satisfy one hundred percent of their fuel usage for operating publically owned vehicles and construction equipment from electricity or biofuel; and

WHEREAS, RCW 43.19.648 (2)(c)(i) requires DOC to adopt rules that provide authority for local government subdivisions to elect to exempt police, fire, and other emergency response vehicles, including utility vehicles frequently used for emergency response, from the fuel usage requirement; and

WHEREAS, Highline Water District, a Title 57 water special purpose (District), owns and maintains a fleet of vehicles and construction equipment necessary for District operations, and such vehicles and equipment currently utilize gasoline and diesel fuel; the District provides essential governmental services in the provision of potable water service to its customers, and the provision such service is necessary to protect and maintain the public health, welfare and safety within and without the District’s corporate and utility service area boundaries; and

WHEREAS, failures and disruptions occur in the District’s water system caused by many circumstances, including, but not limited to, defective materials, defective installation techniques, weather and environmental conditions such as seismic events; and all District vehicles and construction equipment are potentially needed and used to respond to such events on an emergency basis; and

WHEREAS, WAC 194-29-020 (7) provides that "Practicable" or "practicability" means "the extent to which alternative fuels and vehicle technologies can be used to displace gasoline and diesel fuel in vehicles, as determined by multiple dynamic factors including cost and availability of fuels and vehicles, changes in fueling infrastructure, operations, maintenance, technical feasibility, implementation costs, and other factors"; and

WHEREAS, there are no biofuel or electric fueling stations within the District’s service boundaries that allow for the individual fueling of District vehicles and construction equipment; and

WHEREAS, the District purchases one or two vehicles per year making the cost of complying with RCW 43.19.648 (2) (a) high and impracticable; and

WHEREAS, in the future when preparing and adopting annual budgets that include the purchase of vehicles, the District will evaluate and consider the practicality of purchasing vehicles that utilize electricity or biofuel; and

WHEREAS, WAC 194-29-040 requires each local government using 200,000 or more gallons of gasoline and/or diesel to fuel vehicles on an annual basis to report to DOC how it is complying with the goals of satisfying one hundred percent of fuel usage for operating vehicles and construction equipment from electricity or biofuel; and
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WHEREAS, the District uses approximately 15,000 gallons of gasoline and/or diesel to fuel vehicles on an annual basis and therefore is not required to report to DOC how it is complying with goals to satisfy fuel usage for operating vehicles and construction equipment from electricity or biofuel.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

The Board of Commissioners hereby approves the following alternate fuels usage policy:

1. The recitals set forth above are incorporated herein by this reference.

2. All District vehicles and construction equipment are needed and used for emergency response and therefore, pursuant to RCW 43.19.648 (2) (c) (i), are exempt from the requirements of RCW 43.19.648 (2) (a).

3. The District has determined it is currently impracticable to utilize alternative fuels and/or vehicle technologies to displace gasoline and diesel fuel to comply with goals of satisfying fuel usage for operating vehicles and construction equipment from electricity or biofuel.

4. The District uses approximately 15,000 gallons of gasoline and/or diesel to fuel vehicles on an annual basis and will therefore not be reporting to DOC regarding its compliance with goals to satisfy fuel usage for operating vehicles and construction equipment from electricity or biofuel.

5. This resolution and the policies set forth herein shall be effective the date set forth below. All District resolutions, policies, and procedures are hereby amended, rescinded, and/or superseded to be in accordance with the provisions of this resolution.

ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS of Highline Water District, King County, Washington, at a regular open public meeting thereof held on the 2nd day of January 2019.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Daniel Johnson, Commissioner

Todd Fultz, Commissioner

George Landon, Commissioner

Kathleen Quong-Vermeire, Commissioner

Vince Koester, Commissioner
Subject: Adopt Alternative Fuels Usage Policy

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ATTACHMENTS:

1. Resolution 19-1-2C

COMMENTS:

RCW 43.19.648 (2)(a) requires all local governmental subdivisions of the state, including special purpose districts, to the extent determined practicable by rules adopted by the Washington State Department of Commerce (DOC), to satisfy one hundred percent of their fuel usage for operating publically owned vehicles and construction equipment from electricity or biofuel.

RCW 43.19.648 (2)(c)(i) requires DOC to adopt rules that provide authority for local government subdivisions to elect to exempt police, fire, and other emergency response vehicles, including utility vehicles frequently used for emergency response, from the fuel usage requirement.

The District uses approximately 15,000 gallons of gasoline and/or diesel to fuel vehicles on an annual basis and therefore is not required to report to DOC how it is complying with goals to satisfy fuel usage for operating vehicles and construction equipment from electricity or biofuel.

Staff recommends approval of this resolution.