WOODRIDGE MUTUAL WATER AND PROPERTY ONWERS CORPORATION ELECTION PROCEDURES

California's Davis-Stirling Common Interest Development Act (specifically, Civil Code §§5100–5130) requires that common interest development property owner associations, such as the Woodridge Mutual Water and Property Owners Corporation ("Association"), adopt rules regarding the conduct of elections of directors (as well as other specified votes conducted by an owners' association). Those election rules must comply with a number of specific requirements that are set forth in the statute.

The procedures that follow were drafted to reflect those statutory requirements, and it is these procedures that will be used by the Association in the 2021 election of directors and in subsequent elections, unless certain provisions of these procedures must be modified or amended to reflect subsequently enacted legislation:

- Equal Access to Association Media. In accordance with Association Board Resolution from March 4, 2021, as amended and updated, the following guidelines remain in effect regarding the use of Association Media:
- (a) Campaign Signs. The posting of campaign signs must be in compliance with current Association rules and state law. In no event shall campaign signs be permitted to be erected or maintained within any portion of the Common Areas of the Development.
- (b) Association Advertising. If Any Materials are Provided to the Membership regarding the elections, the Association offers each candidate one-half page for a campaign statement in the to be provided in the same manner that those other documents are provided. So for example, if there is space in the website, for elections the Members shall be able to provide a one half page statement (text to be supplied by the candidate and printed in each issue) in addition to a 450word resume. Candidates may utilize the advertisement in any manner they choose (e.g., written statements, charts, pictures, letters of endorsement) in accordance with the Association's News Editorial Policy. By state law, the Association may not edit or redact any content from these communications but may include a statement specifying that the candidate or member, rather than the Association, is responsible for the content of the statement.

Each candidate and other members advocating a point of view may also purchase a maximum of an additional one-half page of space in each of the June, July, and August editions of the Newsletter at regular advertising prices.

- (c) Provision of Mailing Labels. If Mailing labels become available, Candidates are entitled to purchase labels for mailing at a cost of \$100.00 to be paid at the time the labels are ordered.
- (d) No Other Association Media Access. It is not the policy of the Association to provide candidates with other means of access to Association media, newsletters, or Internet websites during a campaign. In the event that the statements or actions of an incumbent director, who is also a candidate for reelection to the board, are reported in any Association media solely in the context of that director's performance of his or her duties, those reports or statements shall not constitute provision by the Association of access to its media for campaign purposes.

Should this Association policy change in the future, the Civil Code election rules provide that equal access to any permitted media shall be provided to all nominees and members advocating a point of view (whether or not endorsed by the board of directors). An Association cannot edit or redact any content from any candidate communications, but the Association may include a statement specifying that the nominee or member authoring the communication, and not the Association, is responsible for the content of the communication. In accordance with Civil Code §5135, no Association funds shall be used for campaign purposes, except to the extent necessary for the Association to comply with the duties imposed on it by law.

- 2. Equal Access to Association Meeting Areas for Nominees and for Members Advocating a Particular Point of View. The Association shall provide equal access to the Common Area meeting facilities at Woodridge Mutual Water and Property Owners Corporation during a campaign, at no cost, to all candidates, including those who are not incumbents, and to all members advocating a point of view, including those not endorsed by the board, for purposes reasonably related to the election. This requirement, which is imposed by statute, shall not be interpreted as obligating the Association to provide access to such meeting spaces at times when the space is normally and customarily utilized for other Association or community purposes. In other words, the Association retains its authority and responsibility to ensure that the Common Facilities are managed, operated, and accessed for the common benefit and enjoyment of all Association members.
- 3. Minimum Qualifications for Candidacy. In accordance with the Association bylaws, to be eligible to be a candidate for election to the board of directors, the candidate must be a member of the Association who is in good standing (meaning that the proposed candidate is not delinquent in the payment of Association assessment obligations and is not otherwise subject to a suspension of membership privileges as the result of disciplinary action initiated by the Association, except as provided in Civil Code §5105(d)). If title to a separate interest parcel is held by a legal entity that is not a natural person, the governing authority of that legal entity may appoint a natural person to be a member for purposes of being eligible for candidacy for election to the board.
- 4. Nominations for Election to the Board of Directors; Self-Nomination. In addition to the nomination procedures specified in Section7.4 of the Association bylaws, by state law, the Association must permit any member to "self-nominate" himself or herself for election to the board of directors. Any member desiring to nominate himself or herself as a candidate for election to the board must (a) qualify as an eligible candidate under Civil Code §§5100 and 5105 and the Association's election rules applicable to all candidates at the time the person's candidacy is proposed and thereafter, and (b) present written notice to the board of directors of the person's desire to self-nominate on or before the deadline of the nominating committee for the presentation of its list of candidates to the board of directors. Candidates' names shall be listed on the ballot alphabetically by last name.
- 5. Voting Eligibility. In accordance with Civil Code §5105(g), no member may be denied a ballot for any reason other than not being a member at the time when ballots are distributed. If a member has issued a general power of attorney to another person, the holder of that general power is entitled to receive a ballot on presentation of his or her appointment to the secretary of

the Association and that ballot shall be counted if submitted before the deadline established for the return of ballots.

- 6. Proxy Voting. The secret ballot voting requirements of Civil Code §5100(a) do not prohibit the use of proxy voting. However, because the Civil Code secret ballot voting rules require ballots to be mailed (by first-class mail) or delivered to every member, the utility of proxy voting in association director elections is questionable. For that reason, the Civil Code rules relating to proxy voting in the election of directors do not apply to the election of directors under the secret ballot election process utilized by the Association.
- 7. Notifications Regarding the Voting Process. The secret ballot voting procedures of Civil Code §5115(c) specify that associations must provide general notice (Civil Code §4045) to all members regarding the procedures and deadline for submitting a nomination for election to the board (or individual notice (Civil Code §4040) if requested by a particular member). Civil Code §5115(b) requires associations to provide general notice, at least 30 days before distribution of election ballots, of all of the following: (i) the date and time by which, and the physical address where, ballots are to be returned by mail or handed to the inspector(s) of elections; (ii) the date, time, and location of the meeting at which the ballots will be counted; and (iii) the list of all candidates' names that will appear on the ballot. This information must be provided by individual notice if so requested by a particular owner. Because state law requires the Association to utilize a double-envelope ballot system in the election of directors and the sealed ballots must be mailed or delivered by hand to a location specified by the inspector(s) of elections (Civil Code §5115(c)(2)), any ballots that are sent to the inspector(s) of elections by facsimile transmission or e-mail will not be counted.
- Use of Secret Ballots and Ballot Completion Requirements. In accordance with Civil Code §5100(a), ballots used in the election of directors must be secret ballots that do not identify the voter by name, address, or lot number. The secret ballots, together with two pre-addressed envelopes with instructions on how to return ballots, must be mailed by first-class mail or delivered to every member of the Association not less than 30 days before the deadline for voting. The unsigned ballot must be inserted into an envelope ("Ballot Envelope") that is sealed, and this sealed Ballot Envelope must then be inserted into a second envelope ("Address Envelope") that is sealed. In the upper left-hand corner of the Address Envelope, a space or lines must be presented where the voter can print and sign his or her name, address, and lot number. The Address Envelope must be addressed to the inspector of elections who will tally the votes. The Address Envelope (containing the ballot and the Ballot Envelope) may be mailed or delivered by hand to the location specified by the inspector(s) of elections for the return of ballots, and the member may request a receipt for delivery of the ballot. In accordance with Civil Code §5100(f), these secret ballot voting rules shall not apply if the association's governing documents provide that one owner of each separate interest shall occupy a seat on the board of directors.
- 9. Determination of Election Results; Succession to Office. The candidates receiving the highest number of votes, up to the number of vacancies to be filled in the election, shall be elected as directors and shall take office immediately following their election. In the event there is a tie vote between those candidates who receive the lowest number of votes necessary to qualify the candidate for election, the tie shall be broken by random drawing.

10. Supervision of Election Process; Appointment of Inspector(s) of Elections. To ensure secrecy of ballots and fairness in the conduct of director elections, the board of directors must select an independent third party or parties to serve as the inspector(s) of elections. Civil Code §5110 specifies that the number of inspectors of elections shall be one or three. However, in accordance with longstanding practice, the Association's board of directors has determined that independent members (members not on the Board) of the association shall be the sole inspector of elections. As the duly appointed inspector of elections, the independent members shall have the full powers of an inspector of elections appointed by the board under Corporations Code §7614 and shall perform his or her duties impartially, in good faith, to the best of his or her ability, and as expeditiously as is practical. Any report made by the inspector of elections is prima facie evidence of the facts stated in the report. In other words, the determinations made by the inspector of elections are final unless challenged and proved to be in error.

Without limiting the foregoing, the inspector of elections shall do all of the following:

- (a) Deliver (or cause to be delivered) to each member, at least 30 days before the date of the election, the ballot(s) and a copy of the Association's election operating rules. The rules may be delivered by posting on an Internet website, so long as the website address is noted on the ballot with the statement "The rules governing this election may be found here." Alternatively, the election rules may be provided to members by individual delivery (Civil Code §4040).
 - (b) Determine the number of memberships entitled to vote and the voting power of each.
 - (c) Determine the authenticity, validity, and effect of proxies, if any.
- (d) Receive ballots. Sealed ballots must at all times be in the custody of the inspector of elections or at a location designated by the inspector until after the tabulation of the vote, at which time custody of the ballots shall be transferred to the Association.
- (e) Hear and determine all challenges and questions in any way arising out of or in connection with the right to vote.
 - (f) Count and tabulate all votes.
 - (g) Determine when the polls close, consistent with the governing documents.
 - (h) Determine the tabulated results of the election.
- (i) Perform any acts as may be proper to the conduct of the election with fairness, impartially, in good faith, and to the best of the inspector's ability, and as expeditiously as is practical, and in a manner that protects the interests of all members of the association. If there are three inspectors of elections, the decision or act of a majority of the inspectors shall be effective in all respects as the decision or act of all. Any report made by the inspector(s) of elections is prima facie evidence of the facts stated in the report. Civil Code §5110(d).
- 11. Requirements for Counting and Tabulation of Ballots. The designated inspector of elections must count and tabulate the votes in public at a properly noticed open meeting of the board of directors or the members. Any candidate or other member of the Association may

witness the counting and tabulation of the votes. No person, including a member of the Association or an employee of the Association's management company, if any, shall open or otherwise review any ballot before the time and place at which the ballots are counted and tabulated. In the event that tabulation of the ballots cannot be concluded before the designated time for adjournment of the annual membership meeting, the meeting shall be continued for such time as is required to complete the tabulation of ballots, and members shall be entitled to remain in attendance at the continued meeting to observe the tabulation.

- 12. Announcement of Results of Election. The results of the election shall be promptly reported to the board of directors of the Association, shall be recorded in the minutes of the next meeting of the board, and shall be available for review by members of the Association. Within 15 days of the election, the board shall give general notice (as specified in Civil Code §4045) to the members of the tabulated results of the election.
- 13. Retention of Ballots. The scaled ballots, signed voter envelopes, voter list, proxies, and the candidate registration list shall at all times remain in the custody of the inspector(s) of election or at a location designated by the inspector(s) for no less than 1 year after the date of the election. Civil Code §§5125(a), 5145. In the event of a recount or other challenge to the election process, the Association shall, on written request, make the ballots available for inspection and review by Association members or their authorized representatives. Any recount shall be conducted in a manner that shall preserve the confidentiality of the vote.