

POLICY TITLE: Pregnancy Disability Leave
POLICY NUMBER: 3450

3450.1 Any female employee planning to take Pregnancy Disability Leave (PDL) should advise their supervisor as soon as possible. The employee should also inform their supervisor when such leave is expected to begin and how long it will likely last. The employee should make arrangements with their supervisor regarding the scheduling of any planned medical treatment or appointments in order to minimize disruption to the operations of Apple Valley Foothill County Water District.

3450.2 Upon the request of an employee and recommendation of the employee's health care provider, the employee's work assignment may be modified if necessary to protect the health and safety of the employee and her child.

3450.3 The following conditions also apply:

3450.3.1 PDL begins when ordered by the employee's health care provider. The employee must provide their supervisor with a certification from a health care provider containing:

- a) The date on which the employee became disabled due to pregnancy;
- b) The probable duration of the period or periods of disability; and
- c) A statement that, due to the disability, the employee is unable to perform one or more of the essential functions of her position without undue risk to herself, the successful completion of her pregnancy, or to other persons.
- d) Return to work from PDL will be allowed only when the employee's health care provider endorses a release that must be submitted to the employee's supervisor.

3450.3.2 The duration of the leave will be determined by the employee's health care provider, but in accordance with regulations may be for not more than 17 1/3 weeks or 693 hours. Regular part-time employees are entitled to leave on a pro rata basis. The 17 1/3 weeks or 693 hours of available leave includes any period of time for actual disability caused by the employee's pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical condition. This includes leave for severe morning sickness and for prenatal care.

3450.3.3 The employee will remain in paid status while using appropriate accrued leave (sick or vacation) during a PDL to satisfy any disability waiting periods and/or to supplement disability benefits in order to maintain the equivalent of full salary.

3450.3.4 The employee will be in non-paid status after exhaustion of appropriate accrued leave balances or at the employee's election to not use accrued leave benefits.

3450.3.5 During the period of PDL, Apple Valley Foothill County Water District will continue payment of all premiums for employee benefit plans in place at the time the leave begins. Apple Valley Foothill County Water District will also continue the employer

contribution for employee benefit premiums as if the employee were not in leave status, as required by law or regulations. The employee must reimburse Apple Valley Foothill County Water District for any portion of benefits they would have paid through payroll deduction. Such reimbursement must be received by Apple Valley Foothill County Water District within 30 days of the date of the invoice or written notification. If Apple Valley Foothill County Water District does not receive the reimbursement from the employee within 30 days, Apple Valley Foothill County Water District can cancel any policies and/or plans for which they have not been reimbursed.

3450.4 Under most circumstances, upon submission of a medical certification that an employee is able to return to work from a PDL, an employee will be reinstated to her same position held at the time the leave began or to an equivalent position, if available. An employee returning from a PDL has no greater right to reinstatement than if the employee had been continuously employed.