

AUTHORITY FOR CALIFORNIA CITIES EXCESS LIABILITY

BYLAWS

Amended & Restated January 23, 2025

Amended & Restated January 18, 2024

Amended & Restated January 20, 2022

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**BYLAWS
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**BYLAWS
of the
AUTHORITY FOR CALIFORNIA CITIES EXCESS LIABILITY**

For the regulation of the Authority for California Cities Excess Liability, except as otherwise provided by statute or Agreement creating the Authority for California Cities Excess Liability.

**ARTICLE I
DEFINITIONS**

The terms in these Bylaws shall be defined in the Agreement creating the Authority for California Cities Excess Liability, unless otherwise specified herein.

- A. "Authority" shall mean the Authority for California Cities Excess Liability created by the JPA Agreement.
- B. "Board" or "Board of Directors" shall mean the governing body of the Authority composed of one representative of each Member Agency.
- C. "Full Board" shall consist of all directors, whether, or not present at a Board Meeting.

**ARTICLE II
OFFICES**

The principal executive office for the transaction of business of the Authority is hereby fixed and located at:

Authority for California Cities Excess Liability
c/o Alliant Insurance Services
560 Mission Street, 6th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94105

The Board shall have the authority to change the location of the principal executive office from time to time. Any such change shall be noted in the Bylaws by the Secretary, and this section shall be amended to state the new location. Official notice shall comply with Section 53051 of the California Government Code.

Other business offices may at any time be established by the Board at any place or places where the Authority is qualified to do business.

**ARTICLE III
MEETINGS**

In addition to a required regular meeting as called for by the Joint Powers Authority agreement, the Board shall meet on an as-needed basis, as determined by the Board. Official minutes of the Board meetings shall be kept by the Authority at its principal executive office.

**ARTICLE IV
ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE
MEMBERS**

The Board of Directors shall elect the officers from among the Board members. For each fiscal year, the officers shall be elected in the following manner:

- A. Each Board member may place another Board member in nomination for each office.
- B. Each Board member shall cast one vote for the candidate of their choice for each office.
- C. All terms of office shall be for one year. The officers shall begin serving terms upon the beginning of the fiscal year immediately following the election. The terms of office shall end on June 30 of each year.
- D. Elections shall be held whenever there is an office vacancy.
- E. Officers shall hold their positions as individuals and not as a representative of a specific public entity.

The Executive Committee will be comprised of the elected officers. The Executive Committee shall appoint members to the Underwriting, Claims and Finance Committees. Ad hoc committees may be appointed by the President.

**ARTICLE V
DUTIES OF THE OFFICERS**

The duties of the officers shall be as follows:

A. President

The duties of the President shall be to:

- 1. Preside at all meetings of the Board of Directors.
- 2. Serve on the Underwriting Committee.
- 3. Appoint ad hoc committees.
- 4. Perform such other duties as the Board may specify.

B. Vice President

The duties of the Vice President shall be to:

1. Act as the President in the absence of the President.
2. Serve as chairperson of the Underwriting Committee.
3. Perform such other duties as the Board may specify.

C. Secretary

The duties of the Secretary shall be to:

1. Cause minutes to be kept as specified in the Agreement.
2. Perform such other duties as the Board may specify.

D. Treasurer

The duties of the Treasurer shall be those specified in Section 6505.5 or 6505.6 of the California Government Code, and to:

1. Maintain or cause to be maintained all accounting and other financial records of the Authority.
2. Serve as chairperson of the Finance Committee.
3. Provide written quarterly financial/profit and loss statements in accordance with Government Code Section S6505.5(e). These reports shall be submitted to the Board of Directors at the next regularly scheduled meeting following their completion.
4. Perform other duties as specified by the Board.

ARTICLE VI COMPOSITION AND DUTIES OF COMMITTEES

The operation of the Authority shall be overseen by four standing committees: Executive, Underwriting, Finance, and Claims. ACCEL Member Alternates may be appointed to serve as members of the Underwriting, Finance and Claims Committees, but not as Chairperson. Committee membership shall not meet or exceed a quorum of the Board.

Executive Committee

A. Composition

The Executive Committee shall be comprised of the President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer.

B. Duties

1. Oversee the day-to-day management of the Authority.
2. Make payments pursuant to previously authorized contracts within budget limits.
3. Authorize and reimburse expenses incurred for budgeted activities within budget limits.
4. Such other duties as may be specified for by the Board of Directors.

Underwriting Committee

A. Composition

The Underwriting Committee shall be comprised of the President, Vice President, and other Board members appointed by the Executive Committee. The Vice President shall serve as the chairperson.

B. Duties

1. Review membership criteria and applications of prospective members.
2. Review retrospective adjustments for appropriateness.
3. Interpret and make recommendations on revisions to the Memorandum of Coverage.
4. Review and recommend any coverage or exposure issues brought to the Board.
5. Review and make recommendations to the Board on all underwriting related issues (non-specific claim related issues) on all Authority documents.
6. Perform other underwriting duties as may be necessary.

Finance Committee

A. Composition

The Finance Committee shall be composed of the Treasurer and other Board members as appointed by the Executive Committee. The Treasurer shall act as the chairperson.

B. Duties

1. Recommend to the Board on how funds shall be invested.
2. Review deposit amounts for appropriateness.
3. Oversee administration of actuarial services.
4. Review the independent auditors' proposed audit scope and approach.
5. Review the performance of the independent auditor(s).
6. Recommend the appointment of the independent auditor(s) and review audit fees.
7. At the direction of the Board, review, with counsel, any legal matters that could have significant impact on the financial statements.
8. Review and make recommendations to the Board to maintain or change the Investment Policy in accordance with California Government Code.
9. Review and recommend Administrative Budget to the Board.

Claims Committee

A. Composition

The Claims Committee shall generally be made up of Board members appointed by the Executive Committee with one person being designated Claims Committee Chair by the appointed Board members on the Committee.

B. Duties

1. Monitor proper claim reporting to ACCEL by all member cities.
2. Recommend to the Board appointment of the claims auditor and claims administrator.
3. Administer claims auditing and claims administration contracts.
4. Recommend and keep current claims administration policy and procedures.
5. Review and provide oversight regarding the handling and defense of all claims reported per the policy and procedures.
6. Keep Board of Directors completely informed on all claims matters.
7. Interpret coverage issues, as they relate to specific claims, and make recommendations to the Board.
8. Make case settlement recommendations to the Board.
9. Perform other duties as may be assigned by the Board.

ARTICLE VII BUDGET

The annual budget process shall provide for and show the following reports and minimum considerations:

- A. The Administrative Budget shall include the general and administrative costs;
- B. The Member Account Summary shall include deposits, projected interest income and other income;
- C. The Retrospective Plan Calculation shall include audited estimated claims reserves and allocated claims adjustment costs.

ARTICLE VIII DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS

The disbursement of funds shall be in accordance with the following:

A. Issuance of Checks

1. A register of all checks issued since the last Board meeting shall be provided at the subsequent Board meeting and approved by the Board.
2. The President, Vice President and Secretary have check signing authority and shall make payments pursuant to previously authorized contracts, which are within budget limits. This authority includes the power to authorize and reimburse expenses incurred for budgeted activities, which are within budget limits.

3. The disbursement of checks in any amount shall require at least two signatures.

B. Unencumbered Operating Funds

1. Unencumbered operating funds shall be allocated back to each member city at the end of each Fiscal Year. Any return shall be used as an offset on the following years fund deposit.
2. Any city leaving ACCEL may request and receive any unencumbered operating funds on an equal prorata basis at the end of the Fiscal Year in which they leave.

**ARTICLE IX
INVESTMENT OF FUNDS**

The investment of funds shall be in accordance with the Investment Policy adopted by the Board of Directors. Such investment shall be overseen by the Finance Committee.

A member city's Finance Director or their designee may act as the investment manager of the Authority's funds. If so, there shall be a written agreement prepared. The agreement shall address such areas as service charges, claim payment or withdrawal procedures, authorized investment vehicles and maturities, allocation of pooled investment earnings, and interim financial reporting.

**ARTICLE X
FINANCIAL AUDIT**

An annual financial audit shall be made by a Certified Public Accountant with respects to all receipts, disbursements, and other transactions. A report of such financial audit shall be filed as a public record with Member Agencies in accordance with the Government Code. All costs of such financial audit shall be paid by the Authority. The charge for such audit shall be charged against the Member Agencies in the same manner as all other administrative costs.

**ARTICLE XI
SETTLEMENT OF CLAIMS**

All claims settlement recommendations shall be presented by the Claims Committee to the Board for its approval prior to final settlement.

**ARTICLE XII
LIABILITY PROGRAM**

The Liability Program shall be governed in accordance with the following:

A. Coverage

The excess liability program shall provide pooled self-insurance protection limits and coverages as specified in the Memorandum of Coverage for each Program Year.

B. Program Year

The program year shall begin on July 1 and shall end on the following June 30 for each Member Agency who enters the program effective on July 1.

C. Terms and Conditions of Coverage for New Member

A member joining ACCEL will have coverage for losses under the terms and conditions of the Memorandum of Coverage in effect on the date of the loss.

D. Claims Audit

1. An annual claims audit shall be made on the Authority and each Member Agency's claims prior to the annual retrospective calculations for retrospective adjustments, and a report of such claims audit shall be filed with each Member Agency.
2. Claims audit costs shall be paid by the Authority. The costs for such audit shall be allocated to the Member Agencies in the same manner as all other administrative costs.

E. Deposit (and Audited) Premium Calculations

1. For the purposes of determining the deposit, payroll shall be based on the year's preceding DE6 (or equivalent) payroll (Subject Wages) for quarters ending March 31, June 30, September 30, and December 31, submitted to the Treasurer no later than February 1. Members must also indicate, by including computerized payroll data, any payroll to be omitted from coverage, along with a verification letter from the city's Finance Officer.
2. For those members not providing such information by that date, ACCEL shall assign the task to an auditing firm and assess the cost of such work directly to the member agency.

F. Rating Plan Adjustments

1. On or after July 1, 1989 any member joining ACCEL, other than at the beginning of the Program Year, shall have their loss experience and payroll included in their initial Program Year's retrospective adjustment calculations in accordance with the Program Year definition contained in Article XII B.
2. For purposes of performing any rating plan adjustments, as well as for performing underwriting functions, all loss data common to all members shall be collected in accordance with the policy and procedures developed for that purpose.

G. Underwriting Standards

The Board of Directors shall develop underwriting requirements and guidelines that shall be met and reviewed in the membership underwriting process. These requirements and guidelines shall be those in Article XIII of these Bylaws and/or those adopted as policy and procedures.

ARTICLE XIII NEW MEMBERS

Membership to ACCEL shall be in accordance with the following:

A. Application for Membership

The Underwriting Committee shall provide prospective members with application forms, and establish procedures for their completion and submission. The application form shall include, but not be limited to, a request for the following information:

1. Underwriting data for the current year;
2. Underwriting data for the prior ten years;
3. Incurred losses, paid and reserved, including all allocated losses and administrative expenses equal to or greater than \$25,000, including payments made by insurance companies above an SIR, for the prior ten years;
4. A copy of the most recent claims audit and actuarial reports, if any;
and
5. A copy of the most recent audited financial statements.

B. Membership Approval

1. Membership shall be approved by a two-thirds vote of the Board.
2. Once a prospective member is accepted for membership, the invitation shall be good for 90 days after approval of the Board of Directors. If the prospective member joins ACCEL by governing body action, coverage may be, at the option of said prospective member, retroactive to the first of the month in which the member's governing body approved membership.

- Coverage shall become effective the first day of the month chosen by the prospective member within the approval period authorized by the Board of Directors. In no case shall coverage become effective during the middle of the month unless specifically approved by the Board of Directors. The new member shall have 30 days from date of governing body approval to make payment of fees and the deposit.
3. Administrative fees shall be prorated on a quarterly basis.
 4. Any prospective member joining ACCEL other than at the beginning of a Fiscal Year shall have contributions prorated to the end of the Fiscal Year in which they are covered.
 5. A new Board member shall submit a Conflict of Interest Form at time of the members acceptance to membership and annually thereafter in accordance with State of California.

C. Participation

1. All new members must participate in the ACCEL Liability Program for three (3) full Program Years regardless of when they join.

All new members are eligible to participate in other ACCEL Shared Risk Programs upon approval by a majority vote of the Board of Directors. Applications to participate in optional shared risk programs will be evaluated by the Underwriting Committee and then presented to the Board along with their recommendations.

Participation in the ACCEL Liability Program is required while participating in other ACCEL Shared Risk Programs.

Participation is required to a minimum limit of coverage determined by the Board of Directors at the June Board meeting preceding each Program Year.

**ARTICLE XIV
AMENDMENTS**

These Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the Board provided that any amendment is compatible with the purposes of the Authority, is not in conflict with the Agreement and has been submitted to the Board at least 30 days in advance.

Any such amendment shall be effective immediately, unless otherwise designated.

**ARTICLE XV
OPTIONAL POOLED PROGRAMS**

From time-to-time, various members may join together to take advantage of the benefits of joint purchase of such programs as, but not limited to, all coverage lines, primary insurance, excess insurance, and other related professional services such as premium financing, claims auditing, and other related products and services. All brokerage fees for placement and servicing coverage, and costs for outside services, will be borne by the participants of the program(s). Decisions affecting the programs will be made by only those members participating in the program(s).

In addition to joint purchase insurance programs, members may participate in other shared risk programs created by the Authority, including but not limited to; underlying self-insured liability retention options, Worker's Compensation coverage, Property coverage, and any other coverages approved by the Board. Applications to these programs are evaluated by the Underwriting Committee and then presented to the Board along with their recommendation.

Once approved, participating members agree to:

1. Members joining any alternative Shared Risk Program agree to participation for no less than three (3) full Program Years from the date of participation; and
2. Ongoing participation in the ACCEL Liability Program while participating in other ACCEL shared risk programs.