

**ESPARTO FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT  
PREMIUM ONLY PLAN**

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**ESPARTO FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT  
PREMIUM ONLY PLAN**

**INTRODUCTION**

The Employer is approving this Plan effective 07/01/2023 to provide employees the opportunity to elect to have medical, dental and vision premiums paid on a pre- tax basis. The concept of this Plan is to allow Employees to choose among different types of benefits based on their own particular goals, desires and needs. The Plan shall be known as Esparto Fire Protection District's Premium Only Plan (the "Plan").

The intention of the Employer is that the Plan qualify as a "Cafeteria Plan" within the meaning of Section 125 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, and that the benefits which an Employee elects to receive under the Plan be excludable from the Employee's income under Section 125(a) and other applicable sections of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended.

**ARTICLE I  
DEFINITIONS**

1.1 **"Administrator"** means the Employer unless another person or entity has been designated by the Employer pursuant to Section 7.1 to administer the Plan on behalf of the Employer. If the Employer is the Administrator, the Employer may appoint any person, including, but not limited to, the Employees of the Employer, to perform the duties of the Administrator. Any person so appointed shall signify acceptance by filing written acceptance with the Employer. Upon the resignation or removal of any individual performing the duties of the Administrator, the Employer may designate a successor.

1.2 **"Affiliated Employer"** means the Employer and any corporation, listed on Appendix A, which is a member of a controlled group of corporations (as defined in Code Section 414(b)) which includes the Employer; any trade or business (whether or not incorporated) which is under common control (as defined in Code Section 414(c)) with the Employer; any organization (whether or not incorporated) which is a member of an affiliated service group (as defined in Code Section 414(m)) which includes the Employer; and any other entity required to be aggregated with the Employer pursuant to Treasury regulations under Code Section 414(o).

1.3 **"Benefit" or "Benefit Options"** means any of the optional benefit choices available to a Participant as outlined in Section 4.1.

1.4 **"Code"** means the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended or replaced from time to time.

1.5 **"Compensation"** means the amounts received by the Participant from the Employer during a Plan Year.

1.6 **"Dependent"** means any individual who qualifies as a dependent under the insured and/or self-funded plans for purposes of that plan under Code Section 152 (as modified by Code Section 105(b)), or as allowed by reason of the Affordable Care Act.

1.7 **"Election Period"** means the period established by the Administrator, such period to be applied on a uniform and nondiscriminatory basis for all Employees and Participants. However, an Employee's initial Election Period shall be determined pursuant to Section 5.1.

1.8 **"Eligible Employee"** Means any of the following types of employees are considered eligible to elect coverage under the Esparto Fire Protection District's Benefit Plans:

- regular staff employees who are full-time or part-time scheduled to work twenty (20) hours or more per week

1.9 **"Employee"** means any person who is employed by the Employer. The term Employee shall include leased employees within the meaning of Code Section 414(n)(2).

1.10 **"Employer"** means The Esparto Fire Protection District and any successor which shall maintain this Plan; and any predecessor which has maintained this Plan. In addition, where appropriate, the term Employer shall include any Participating, Affiliated or Adopting Employer.

1.11 **"ERISA"** means the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended from time to time.

1.12 **"Insurance Contract"** means any contract issued by an Insurer underwriting a Benefit.

1.13 **"Insurer"** means any insurance company that underwrites a Benefit under this Plan or, with respect to any self-funded benefits, the Employer.

1.14 **"Participant"** means any Eligible Employee who elects to become a Participant pursuant to Section 2.3 and has not for any reason become ineligible to participate further in the Plan.

1.15 **"Plan"** means this instrument, including all amendments thereto.

1.16 **"Plan Year"** means the 12-month period beginning 01/01 and ending 12/31. The Plan Year shall be the coverage period for the Benefits provided for under this Plan. In the event a Participant commences participation during a Plan Year, then the initial coverage period shall be that portion of the Plan Year commencing on such Participant's date of entry and ending on the last day of such Plan Year.

1.17 **"Premium Expenses"** or **"Premiums"** mean the Participant's cost for the Benefits described in Section 4.1.

1.18 **"Salary Redirection"** means the contributions made by the Employer on behalf of Participants pursuant to Section 3.1. These contributions shall be converted to Cafeteria Plan Benefit Dollars and allocated to the funds or accounts established under the Plan pursuant to the Participants' elections made under Article V.

1.19 **"Salary Redirection Agreement"** means an agreement between the Participant and the Employer under which the Participant agrees to reduce his Compensation or to forego all or part of the increases in such Compensation and to have such amounts contributed by the Employer to the Plan on the Participant's behalf. The Salary Redirection Agreement shall apply only to Compensation that has not been actually or constructively received by the Participant as of the date of the agreement (after taking this Plan and Code Section 125 into account) and, subsequently does not become currently available to the Participant.

1.20 **"Spouse"** means the "spouse," as defined under Federal law, of a Participant, unless legally separated by court decree.

## **ARTICLE II PARTICIPATION**

### **2.1 ELIGIBILITY**

Any Eligible Employee shall be eligible to participate hereunder as of his date of eligibility (or the effective date of the Plan, if later). An Eligible Employee becomes eligible to participate after being employed in a benefits eligible position for fifteen (60) calendar days and may enroll within thirty-one (31) calendar days from date of eligibility.

### **2.2 EFFECTIVE DATE OF PARTICIPATION**

An Eligible Employee shall become a Participant effective as of the first day of the month coinciding with or next following the date on which he enrolls pursuant to the requirements of Section 2.1.

### **2.3 APPLICATION TO PARTICIPATE**

An Employee who is eligible to participate in this Plan shall, during the applicable Election Period, complete an application to participate in a manner set forth by the Administrator. The election shall be irrevocable until the end of the applicable Plan Year unless the Participant is entitled to change his Benefit elections pursuant to Section 5.4 hereof.

An Eligible Employee shall also be required to complete a Salary Redirection Agreement during the Election Period for the Plan Year during which he wishes to participate in this Plan. Any such Salary Redirection Agreement shall be effective for the first pay period beginning on or after the Employee's effective date of participation pursuant to Section 2.2.

### **2.4 TERMINATION OF PARTICIPATION**

A Participant shall no longer participate in this Plan upon the occurrence of any of the following events:

(a) **Termination of employment.** The Participant's termination of employment, subject to the provisions of Section 2.6;

(b) **Change in employment status.** The end of the Plan Year during which the Participant became a limited Participant because of a change in employment status pursuant to Section 2.5;

(c) **Death.** The Participant's death; or

(d) **Termination of the plan.** The termination of this Plan, subject to the provisions of Section 7.2.

## **2.5 CHANGE OF EMPLOYMENT STATUS**

If a Participant ceases to be eligible to participate because of a change in employment status or classification (other than through termination of employment), the Participant shall become a limited Participant in this Plan for the remainder of the Plan Year in which such change of employment status occurs. As a limited Participant, no further Salary Redirection may be made on behalf of the Participant, and, except as otherwise provided herein, all further Benefit elections shall cease, subject to the limited Participant's right to continue coverage under any Insurance Contracts. Subject to the provisions of Section 2.6, if the limited Participant later becomes an Eligible Employee, then the limited Participant may again become a full Participant in this Plan, provided he otherwise satisfies the participation requirements set forth in this Article II as if he were a new Employee and made an election in accordance with Section 5.1.

## **2.6 TERMINATION OF EMPLOYMENT**

If a Participant's employment with the Employer is terminated for any reason other than death, his participation in the Benefit Options provided under Section 4.1 shall cease, subject to the Participant's right to continue coverage under any insured or self-funded plan for which premiums have already been paid.

# **ARTICLE III CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE PLAN**

## **3.1 SALARY REDIRECTION**

Benefits under the Plan shall be financed by Salary Redirections sufficient to support Benefits that a Participant has elected hereunder and to pay the Participant's Premium Expenses. The salary administration program of the Employer shall be revised to allow each Participant to agree to reduce his pay during a Plan Year by an amount determined necessary to purchase the elected Benefit Options. The amount of such Salary Redirection shall be specified in the Salary Redirection Agreement and shall be applicable for a Plan Year. Notwithstanding the above, for new Participants, the Salary Redirection Agreement shall only be applicable from the first day of the pay period following the Employee's entry date up to and including the last day of the Plan Year.

Any Salary Redirection shall be determined prior to the beginning of a Plan Year (subject to initial elections pursuant to Section 5.1) and prior to the end of the Election Period and shall be irrevocable for such Plan Year. However, a Participant may revoke a Benefit election or a Salary Redirection Agreement after the Plan Year has commenced and make a new election with respect to the remainder of the Plan Year, if both the revocation and the new election are on account of and consistent with a change in status and such other permitted events as determined under Article V of the Plan and consistent with the rules and regulations of the Department of the Treasury. Salary Redirection amounts shall be contributed on a pro rata basis for each pay period during the Plan Year. All individual Salary Redirection Agreements are deemed to be part of this Plan and incorporated by reference hereunder.

### **3.2 APPLICATION OF CONTRIBUTIONS**

As soon as reasonably practical after each payroll period, the Employer shall apply the Salary Redirection to provide the Benefits elected by the affected Participants.

### **3.3 PERIODIC CONTRIBUTIONS**

Notwithstanding the requirement provided above and in other Articles of this Plan that Salary Redirections be contributed to the Plan by the Employer on behalf of an Employee on a level and pro rata basis for each payroll period, the Employer and Administrator may implement a procedure in which Salary Redirections are contributed throughout the Plan Year on a periodic basis that is not pro rata for each payroll period.

## **ARTICLE IV BENEFITS**

### **4.1 BENEFIT OPTIONS**

Each Participant may elect any one or more of the following optional Benefits should the Employer offers such benefits:

- (1) Medical Benefit
- (2) Dental Benefit
- (3) Vision Insurance Benefit

### **4.2 MEDICAL BENEFIT**

(a) **Coverage for Participant and Dependents.** If the Employer offers a Medical Benefit, each Participant may elect to be covered under a medical benefit for the Participant, his or her Spouse, and his or her Dependents.

(b) **Employer selects contracts.** The Employer may select suitable vendors for use in providing this Medical Benefit, which contracts will provide uniform benefits for all Participants electing this Benefit.

(c) **Contract incorporated by reference.** The rights and conditions with respect to the benefits payable from such health contract shall be determined therefrom,

and such contract shall be incorporated herein by reference.

#### 4.3 DENTAL INSURANCE BENEFIT

(a) **Coverage for Participant and/or Dependents.** If the Employer offers a Dental Insurance Benefit, each Participant may elect to be covered under the Employer's dental benefit for the Participant, his or her Spouse, and his or her Dependents.

(b) **Employer selects contracts.** The Employer may select suitable dental vendors for use in providing this Dental Benefit, which contracts will provide uniform benefits for all Participants electing this Benefit.

(c) **Contract incorporated by reference.** The rights and conditions with respect to the benefits payable from such dental contract shall be determined therefrom, and such dental contract shall be incorporated herein by reference.

#### 4.4 VISION INSURANCE BENEFIT

(a) **Coverage for Participant and/or Dependents.** If the Employer offers a Vision Insurance Benefit, each Participant may elect to be covered under the Employer's vision Insurance Contract for the Participant, his or her Spouse, and his or her Dependents.

(b) **Employer selects contracts.** The Employer may select suitable vision Insurance Contracts for use in providing this vision insurance benefit, which policies will provide uniform benefits for all Participants electing this Benefit.

(c) **Contract incorporated by reference.** The rights and conditions with respect to the benefits payable from such vision Insurance Contract shall be determined therefrom, and such vision Insurance Contract shall be incorporated herein by reference.

#### 4.5 NONDISCRIMINATION REQUIREMENTS

(a) **Intent to be nondiscriminatory.** It is the intent of this Plan to provide benefits to a classification of employees which the Secretary of the Treasury finds not to be discriminatory in favor of the group in whose favor discrimination may not occur under Code Section 125.

(b) **Adjustment to avoid test failure.** If the Administrator deems it necessary to avoid discrimination or possible taxation to a group of employees in whose favor discrimination may not occur in violation of Code Section 125, it may, but shall not be required to, reject any election or reduce contributions or non-taxable Benefits in order to assure compliance with this Section. Any act taken by the Administrator under this Section shall be carried out in a uniform and nondiscriminatory manner. If the Administrator decides to reject any election or reduce contributions or non-taxable Benefits, it shall be done in the following manner. First, the non-taxable Benefits of the affected Participant who has the highest amount of non-taxable Benefits for the Plan Year shall have his non-taxable Benefits reduced until the discrimination tests set forth

in this Section are satisfied or until the amount of his non-taxable Benefits equals the non-taxable Benefits of the affected Participant who has the second highest amount of non-taxable Benefits. This process shall continue until the nondiscrimination tests set forth in this Section are satisfied. With respect to any affected Participant who has had Benefits reduced pursuant to this Section, the reduction shall be made proportionately among self-funded Benefits.

## **ARTICLE V PARTICIPANT ELECTIONS**

### **5.1 INITIAL ELECTIONS**

An Employee who meets the eligibility requirements of Section 2.1 on the first day of, or during, a Plan Year may elect to participate in this Plan for all or the remainder of such Plan Year, provided he elects to do so on or before his effective date of participation pursuant to Section 2.2.

### **5.2 SUBSEQUENT ANNUAL ELECTIONS**

During the Election Period prior to each subsequent Plan Year, each Participant shall be given the opportunity to elect, on an election of benefits form to be provided by the Administrator, which Benefit options he wishes to select. Any such election shall be effective for any Benefit expenses incurred during the Plan Year which follows the end of the Election Period. With regard to subsequent annual elections, the following options shall apply:

(a) A Participant or Employee who failed to initially elect to participate may elect different or new Benefits under the Plan during the Election Period;

(b) A Participant may terminate his participation in the Plan by notifying the Administrator in writing during the Election Period that he does not want to participate in the Plan for the next Plan Year;

(c) An Employee who elects not to participate for the Plan Year following the Election Period will have to wait until the next Election Period before again electing to participate in the Plan, except as provided for in Section 5.4.

### **5.3 FAILURE TO ELECT**

Any Participant who fails to complete a new benefit election form pursuant to Section 5.2 by the end of the applicable Election Period shall be deemed to have made the same Benefit elections as are then in effect for the current Plan Year. The Participant shall also be deemed to have elected Salary Redirection in an amount necessary to purchase such Benefit options.

### **5.4 CHANGE IN STATUS**

(a) **Change in status defined.** Any Participant may change a Benefit election after the Plan Year (to which such election relates) has commenced and make new elections with respect to the remainder of such Plan Year if, under the facts and circumstances, the changes are necessitated by and are consistent with a change in status which is acceptable under rules and regulations adopted by the Department of the

Treasury, the provisions of which are incorporated by reference. Notwithstanding anything herein to the contrary, if the rules and regulations conflict, then such rules and regulations shall control.

In general, a change in election is not consistent if the change in status is the Participant's divorce, annulment or legal separation from a Spouse, the death of a Spouse or Dependent, or a Dependent ceasing to satisfy the eligibility requirements for coverage, and the Participant's election under the Plan is to cancel health insurance coverage for any individual other than the one involved in such event. In addition, if the Participant, Spouse or Dependent gains or loses eligibility for coverage, then a Participant's election under the Plan to cease or decrease coverage for that individual under the Plan corresponds with that change in status only if coverage for that individual becomes applicable or is increased under the family member plan.

Any new election shall be effective at such time as the Administrator shall prescribe, but not earlier than the first pay period beginning after the election form is completed and returned to the Administrator. For the purposes of this subsection, a change in status shall only include the following events or other events permitted by Treasury regulations:

- (1) Legal Marital Status: events that change a Participant's legal marital status, including marriage, divorce, death of a Spouse, legal separation or annulment;
- (2) Number of Dependents: Events that change a Participant's number of Dependents, including birth, adoption, placement for adoption, or death of a Dependent;
- (3) Employment Status: Any of the following events that change the employment status of the Participant, Spouse, or Dependent: termination or commencement of employment, a strike or lockout, commencement or return from an unpaid leave of absence, or a change in worksite. In addition, if the eligibility conditions of this Plan or other employee benefit plan of the Employer of the Participant, Spouse, or Dependent depend on the employment status of that individual and there is a change in that individual's employment status with the consequence that the individual becomes (or ceases to be) eligible under the plan, then that change constitutes a change in employment under this subsection;
- (4) Dependent satisfies or ceases to satisfy the eligibility requirements: An event that causes the Participant's Dependent to satisfy or cease to satisfy the requirements for coverage due to attainment of age or any similar circumstance; and
- (5) Residency: A change in the place of residence of the Participant, Spouse or Dependent, that would lead to a change in status (such as a loss of HMO coverage).

Notwithstanding anything in this Section to the contrary, the gain of eligibility or change in eligibility of a child, as allowed under Code Sections 105(b) and 106, and IRS Notice 2010-38, shall qualify as a change in status.

(b) **Special enrollment rights.** Notwithstanding subsection (a), the Participants may change an election for health Benefits during a Plan Year and make a new election that corresponds with the special enrollment rights provided in Code Section 9801(f), including those authorized under the provisions of the Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2009 (SCHIP); provided that such Participant meets the sixty (60) day notice requirement imposed by Code Section 9801(f) (or such longer period as may be permitted by the Plan and communicated to Participants). Such change shall take place on a prospective basis, unless otherwise required by Code Section 9801(f) to be retroactive.

(c) **Qualified Medical Support Order or National Medical Support Notice.** Notwithstanding subsection (a), in the event of a judgment, decree, or order (including approval of a property settlement) ("order") resulting from a divorce, legal separation, annulment, or change in legal custody which requires accident or health coverage for a Participant's child (including a foster child who is a Dependent of the Participant):

(1) The Plan may change an election to provide coverage for the child if the order requires coverage under the Participant's plan; or

(2) The Participant shall be permitted to change an election to cancel coverage for the child if the order requires the former Spouse to provide coverage for such child, under that individual's plan and such coverage is actually provided.

(d) **Medicare or Medicaid.** Notwithstanding subsection (a), a Participant may change elections to cancel accident or health coverage for the Participant or the Participant's Spouse or Dependent if the Participant or the Participant's Spouse or Dependent is enrolled in one of the Benefits described in this Plan and becomes entitled to coverage (i.e., enrolled) under Part A or Part B of the Title XVIII of the Social Security Act (Medicare) or Title XIX of the Social Security Act (Medicaid), other than coverage consisting solely of benefits under Section 1928 of the Social Security Act (the program for distribution of pediatric vaccines). If the Participant or the Participant's Spouse or Dependent who has been entitled to Medicaid or Medicare coverage loses eligibility, that individual may prospectively elect coverage under the Plan if a Benefit Option under the Plan provides similar coverage.

(e) **Cost increase or decrease.** If the cost of a Benefit provided under the Plan increases or decreases during a Plan Year, then the Plan shall automatically increase or decrease, as the case may be, the Salary Redirections of all affected Participants for such Benefit. Alternatively, if the cost of a Benefit increases significantly, the Administrator shall permit the affected Participants to either make corresponding changes in their payments or revoke their elections and, in lieu thereof, receive on a prospective basis coverage under another Benefit Option with similar coverage, or drop coverage prospectively if there is no Benefit Option with similar coverage.

A cost increase or decrease refers to an increase or decrease in the amount of elective contributions under the Plan, whether resulting from an action taken by the Participants or an action taken by the Employer.

(f) **Loss of coverage.** If the coverage under a Benefit is significantly curtailed or ceases during a Plan Year, affected Participants may revoke their elections of such

Benefit and, in lieu thereof, elect to receive on a prospective basis coverage under another Benefit with similar coverage, or drop coverage prospectively if no similar coverage is offered.

(g) **Addition of a new Benefit.** If, during the period of coverage, a new Benefit Option or other coverage option is added, an existing Benefit Option is significantly improved, or an existing Benefit Option eliminated, then the affected Participants may elect the newly-added Benefit Option, or elect another Benefit Option if a Benefit Option has been eliminated prospectively and make corresponding election changes with respect to other Benefit Options providing similar coverage. In addition, those Eligible Employees who are not participating in the Plan may opt to become Participants and elect the new or newly improved Benefit Option.

(h) **Loss of coverage under certain other plans.** A Participant may make a prospective election change to add Benefit Options for the Participant, the Participant's Spouse or Dependent if such individual loses group health coverage sponsored by a governmental or educational institution, including a state children's health insurance program under the Social Security Act, the Indian Health Service or a health program offered by an Indian tribal government, a state health benefits risk pool, or a foreign government group health plan.

(i) **Change of coverage due to change under certain other plans.** A Participant may make a prospective election change that is on account of and corresponds with a change made under the plan of a Spouse's, former Spouse's or Dependent's employer if (1) the cafeteria plan or other benefits plan of the Spouse's, former Spouse's or Dependent's employer permits its participants to make a change; or (2) the cafeteria plan permits participants to make an election for a period of coverage that is different from the period of coverage under the cafeteria plan of a Spouse's, former Spouse's or Dependent's employer.

## **ARTICLE VI ADMINISTRATION**

### **6.1 PLAN ADMINISTRATION**

The Employer shall be the Administrator, unless the Employer elects otherwise. The Employer may appoint any person, including, but not limited to, the Employees of the Employer, to perform the duties of the Administrator. Any person so appointed shall signify acceptance by filing written acceptance with the Employer. Upon the resignation or removal of any individual performing the duties of the Administrator, the Employer may designate a successor.

If the Employer elects, the Employer shall appoint one or more Administrators. Any person, including, but not limited to, the Employees of the Employer, shall be eligible to serve as an Administrator. Any person so appointed shall signify acceptance by filing written acceptance with the Employer. An Administrator may resign by delivering a written resignation to the Employer or be removed by the Employer by delivery of written notice of removal, to take effect at a date specified therein, or upon delivery to the Administrator if no date is specified. The Employer shall be empowered to appoint and remove the Administrator from time to time as it deems necessary for the proper administration of the Plan to ensure that the Plan is being operated for the exclusive benefit of the Employees entitled to participate in the Plan in accordance with the terms of the Plan and the Code.

The operation of the Plan shall be under the supervision of the Administrator. It shall be a principal duty of the Administrator to see that the Plan is carried out in accordance with its terms, and for the exclusive benefit of Employees eligible to participate in the Plan. The Administrator shall have full power and discretion to administer the Plan in all of its details and determine all questions arising in connection with the administration, interpretation, and application of the Plan. The Administrator may establish procedures, correct any defect, supply any information, or reconcile any inconsistency in such manner and to such extent as shall be deemed necessary or advisable to carry out the purpose of the Plan. The Administrator shall have all powers necessary or appropriate to accomplish the Administrator's duties under the Plan. The Administrator shall be charged with the duties of the general administration of the Plan as set forth under the Plan, including, but not limited to, in addition to all other powers provided by this Plan:

(a) To make and enforce such procedures, rules and regulations as the Administrator deems necessary or proper for the efficient administration of the Plan;

(b) To interpret the provisions of the Plan, the Administrator's interpretations thereof in good faith to be final and conclusive on all persons claiming benefits by operation of the Plan;

(c) To decide all questions concerning the Plan and the eligibility of any person to participate in the Plan and to receive benefits provided by operation of the Plan;

(d) To provide Employees with a reasonable notification of their benefits available by operation of the Plan and to assist any Participant regarding the Participant's rights, Benefits or elections under the Plan;

(e) To keep and maintain the Plan documents and all other records pertaining to and necessary for the administration of the Plan;

(f) To appoint such agents, counsel, accountants, consultants, and other persons or entities as may be required to assist in administering the Plan.

Any procedure, discretionary act, interpretation or construction taken by the Administrator shall be done in a nondiscriminatory manner based upon uniform principles consistently applied and shall be consistent with the intent that the Plan shall continue to comply with the terms of Code Section 125 and the Treasury regulations thereunder.

## **6.2 EXAMINATION OF RECORDS**

The Administrator shall make available to each Participant, Eligible Employee and any other Employee of the Employer such records as pertain to their interest under the Plan for examination at reasonable times during normal business hours.

## **6.3 PAYMENT OF EXPENSES**

Any reasonable administrative expenses shall be paid by the Employer unless the Employer determines that administrative costs shall be borne by the Participants under the Plan or by any Trust Fund which may be established hereunder. The Administrator may impose reasonable conditions for payments, provided that such conditions shall not discriminate in favor of highly compensated employees.

## **6.4 INSURANCE CONTROL CLAUSE**

In the event of a conflict between the terms of this Plan and the terms of an Insurance Contract of an independent third-party Insurer whose product is then being used in conjunction with this Plan, the terms of the Insurance Contract shall control as to those Participants receiving coverage under such Insurance Contract. For this purpose, the Insurance Contract shall control in defining the persons eligible for insurance, the dates of their eligibility, the conditions which must be satisfied to become insured, if any, the benefits Participants are entitled to and the circumstances under which insurance terminates.

# **ARTICLE VII AMENDMENT OR TERMINATION OF PLAN**

## **7.1 AMENDMENT**

The Employer, at any time or from time to time, may amend any or all of the provisions of the Plan without the consent of any Employee or Participant. No amendment shall have the effect of modifying any benefit election of any Participant in effect at the time of such amendment, unless such amendment is made to comply with Federal, state or local laws, statutes or regulations.

## **7.2 TERMINATION**

The Employer reserves the right to terminate this Plan, in whole or in part, at any time. In the event the Plan is terminated, no further contributions shall be made. Benefits under any contract shall be paid in accordance with the terms of the contract.

## **ARTICLE VIII MISCELLANEOUS**

### **8.1 PLAN INTERPRETATION**

All provisions of this Plan shall be interpreted and applied in a uniform, nondiscriminatory manner. This Plan shall be read in its entirety and not severed except as provided in Section 8.11.

### **8.2 GENDER AND NUMBER**

Wherever any words are used herein in the masculine, feminine or neuter gender, they shall be construed as though they were also used in another gender in all cases where they would so apply, and whenever any words are used herein in the singular or plural form, they shall be construed as though they were also used in the other form in all cases where they would so apply.

### **8.3 WRITTEN DOCUMENT**

This Plan, in conjunction with any separate written document which may be required by law, is intended to satisfy the written Plan requirement of Code Section 125 and any Treasury regulations thereunder relating to cafeteria plans.

### **8.4 EXCLUSIVE BENEFIT**

This Plan shall be maintained for the exclusive benefit of the Employees who participate in the Plan.

### **8.5 PARTICIPANT'S RIGHTS**

This Plan shall not be deemed to constitute an employment contract between the Employer and any Participant or to be a consideration or an inducement for the employment of any Participant or Employee. Nothing contained in this Plan shall be deemed to give any Participant or Employee the right to be retained in the service of the Employer or to interfere with the right of the Employer to discharge any Participant or Employee at any time regardless of the effect which such discharge shall have upon him as a Participant of this Plan.

### **8.6 ACTION BY THE EMPLOYER**

Whenever the Employer under the terms of the Plan is permitted or required to do or perform any act or matter or thing, it shall be done and performed by a person duly authorized by its legally constituted authority.

### **8.7 NO GUARANTEE OF TAX CONSEQUENCES**

Neither the Administrator nor the Employer makes any commitment or guarantee that any amounts paid to or for the benefit of a Participant under the Plan will be excludable from the Participant's gross income for federal or state income tax purposes, or that any other federal or state tax treatment will apply to or be available to any Participant. It shall be the obligation of each Participant to determine whether each payment under the Plan is excludable

from the Participant's gross income for federal and state income tax purposes, and to notify the Employer if the Participant has reason to believe that any such payment is not so excludable. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the rights of Participants under this Plan shall be legally enforceable.

## **8.8 INDEMNIFICATION OF EMPLOYER BY PARTICIPANTS**

If any Participant receives one or more payments or reimbursements under the Plan that are not for a permitted Benefit, such Participant shall indemnify and reimburse the Employer for any liability it may incur for failure to withhold federal or state income tax or Social Security tax from such payments or reimbursements. However, such indemnification and reimbursement shall not exceed the amount of additional federal and state income tax (plus any penalties) that the Participant would have owed if the payments or reimbursements had been made to the Participant as regular cash compensation, plus the Participant's share of any Social Security tax that would have been paid on such compensation, less any such additional income and Social Security tax actually paid by the Participant.

## **8.9 FUNDING**

Unless otherwise required by law, contributions to the Plan need not be placed in trust or dedicated to a specific Benefit, but may instead be considered general assets of the Employer until the Premium Expense required under the Plan has been paid. Furthermore, and unless otherwise required by law, nothing herein shall be construed to require the Employer or the Administrator to maintain any fund or segregate any amount for the benefit of any Participant, and no Participant or other person shall have any claim against, right to, or security or other interest in, any fund, account or asset of the Employer from which any payment under the Plan may be made.

## **8.10 GOVERNING LAW**

This Plan is governed by the Code and the Treasury regulations issued thereunder (as they might be amended from time to time). In no event shall the Employer guarantee the favorable tax treatment sought by this Plan. To the extent not preempted by Federal law, the provisions of this Plan shall be construed, enforced and administered according to the laws of the State of California.

## **8.11 SEVERABILITY**

If any provision of the Plan is held invalid or unenforceable, its invalidity or unenforceability shall not affect any other provisions of the Plan, and the Plan shall be construed and enforced as if such provision had not been included herein.

## **8.12 CAPTIONS**

The captions contained herein are inserted only as a matter of convenience and for reference, and in no way define, limit, enlarge or describe the scope or intent of the Plan, nor in any way shall affect the Plan or the construction of any provision thereof.

**8.13 CONTINUATION OF COVERAGE (COBRA)**

Notwithstanding anything in the Plan to the contrary, in the event of any benefit under this Plan subject to the continuation coverage requirement of Code Section 4980B becomes unavailable, each Participant will be entitled to continuation coverage as prescribed in Code Section 4980B, and related regulations. This Section shall only apply if the Employer employs at least twenty (20) employees on more than 50% of its typical business days in the previous calendar year.

**8.14 FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE ACT (FMLA)**

Notwithstanding anything in the Plan to the contrary, in the event any benefit under this Plan becomes subject to the requirements of the Family and Medical Leave Act and regulations thereunder, this Plan shall be operation in accordance with Regulation 1.125-3.

**8.15 UNIFORMED SERVICES EMPLOYMENT AND REEMPLOYMENT RIGHTS ACT (USERRA)**

Notwithstanding anything in the Plan to the contrary, contributions, benefits and service credit with respect to qualified military service shall be provided in accordance with the Uniform Services Employment And Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA) and the regulations thereunder.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, this Plan document is hereby adopted this 13<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2023.

ESPARTO FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

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Curtis Lawrence, Board Secretary

**APPENDIX A**  
**Affiliated Employers**

As of the date this Plan was approved, there are no Affiliated Employers.