



Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

Lobbyist Definitions

“**Lobby**” or “**Lobbying**” means any communication with Commissioners, Officers or Employees for the ultimate purpose of **influencing** any **Executive, Legislative or Administrative Action**, as well as the conduct described in the definition of “Lobbyist” below.

“**Lobbyist**” means any Person who undertakes to influence any Executive, Legislative or Administrative Action, including but not limited to: the introduction, passage or other action to be taken on an ordinance, resolution, motion, order, appointment or other matter before the Board of Commissioners; the preparation of contract specifications; the solicitation, award or administration of a contract or permit; the award or administration of a grant, loan, or other agreement involving the disbursement of public monies; or any other determination made by a Commissioner, Officer or Employee with respect to the procurement of goods, services or construction; provided, however, that a Person shall not be deemed to have undertaken to influence any Executive, Legislative or Administrative Action solely by submitting an application for a District permit or license or by responding to a District request for proposals or qualifications.

The term “Lobbyist” shall include, but is not limited to, any attorney, accountant, or consultant engaged in the above-described activities; provided, however, that an attorney shall not be considered a Lobbyist while representing Clients in a formal adversarial hearing.

“**Administrative Action**” means the execution or rejection of any rule, regulation, legislative rule, standard, fee, rate, contractual arrangement, purchasing agreement or other delegated legislative or quasi-legislative action to be taken or withheld by the District, including any decision on, or any proposal, consideration, enactment or making of any rule, regulation, or any other official nonministerial action or non-action by the District.

“**Compensation**” as used in Article IV, means any money, thing of value or financial benefits received or to be received in return for services rendered or to be rendered, for Lobbying as defined in subsection 25 of this Section.

“**Executive Action**” means the proposal, drafting, development, consideration, amendment, adoption, approval, promulgation, issuance, modification, rejection or postponement by the District of a rule, regulation, order, decision, determination, contractual arrangement, purchasing agreement or other quasi-legislative or quasi-judicial action or proceeding.

“**Expenditure**” means a payment, distribution, loan, advance, deposit, gift of money or anything of value, and includes a contract, promise or agreement, whether or not legally enforceable, to make an expenditure, for the ultimate purpose of influencing Executive, Legislative or Administrative Action, other than Compensation as defined in subsection 11 of this Section.

“**Influencing**” means any communication, action, reportable expenditure as prescribed in Article IV, Section F, or other means used to promote, support, affect, modify, oppose or delay any Executive, Legislative or Administrative Action or to promote goodwill with Commissioners, Officers or Employees.

“**Legislative Action**” means the development, drafting, introduction, consideration, modification, adoption, rejection, review, enactment, or passage or defeat of any ordinance, amendment, resolution, motion, report, nomination, administrative rule or other agenda item by the Board of Commissioners or a committee thereof, or by a Commissioner. Legislative Action also means the action of the President in approving or vetoing any agenda item or portion thereof, and the action of the President or any Commissioner, Officer or Employee in the development of a proposal for presentation before the Board of Commissioners.

“Person” means any individual, entity, corporation, partnership, firm, association, union, trust, estate, as well as any parent or subsidiary of any of the foregoing, whether or not operated for profit.

The following are representative situations where a person is generally NOT lobbying. This is not an exhaustive list. In any specific situation, all facts relevant to the Ethics Ordinance Article I definitions and Article IV exemptions should be reviewed and considered to determine whether registration and reporting are required. Please note that this publication is not intended to constitute legal advice.

- Citizens who speak on their own behalf during a Public Comment period about odor in their neighborhood near a Water Reclamation Plant.
- An attorney who submits a WMO permit application on behalf of a client and responds to questions or requests for information in support of the permit.
- A supplier of goods who responds to an RFP (Request for Proposals).
- A property owner who submits an eComment against a proposed building project in her neighborhood.
- An engineering consulting firm that seeks a status report from Employees on a client’s project or permit application.
- A citizen who, without Compensation or Expenditures, speaks on behalf of a neighborhood group during a Public Comment period to urge adoption of a flood control project to benefit the neighborhood. The citizen states his name and identifies the neighborhood group he represents.