
Cameron Park Community Services District

POLICY HANDBOOK

POLICY TITLE: Cameron Park Lake Entry Fee & Religious Use Policy

POLICY NUMBER: 3245

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that the Cameron Park Community Services District (CPCSD) applies all parking and entry fees at Cameron Park Lake in a fair, neutral, and consistent manner that complies with the U.S. Constitution, California Constitution, and applicable state laws.

This policy affirms the District's commitment to equal access for all members of the public, regardless of religious belief, affiliation, or viewpoint.

POLICY STATEMENT

Cameron Park Lake is a public park owned and operated by CPCSD for the enjoyment and benefit of the community. A uniform parking and entry fee per vehicle is charged to support park operations and maintenance.

This fee applies equally to all visitors, without regard to purpose, affiliation, or belief. No visitor is entitled to a fee waiver or free entry solely based on the nature of their visit, including visits for religious or expressive purposes.

PROCEDURE

Equal Access for Expressive and Religious Activities

CPCSD welcomes a wide variety of expressive activities at Cameron Park Lake, including religious gatherings, ceremonies, and assemblies. Religious uses of the park are treated the same as secular expressive uses.

If CPCSD provides a fee waiver or reduced rate for certain secular expressive uses, such as community service events, nonprofit educational programs, or civic gatherings, the same waiver or reduction shall be made available on equal terms to religious organizations and groups engaging in comparable activities.

All waivers must be approved by the General Manager or designee and must be based on objective, content-neutral criteria established by District policy.

Neutral Application and Non-Discrimination

District staff shall apply all parking and entry fees **uniformly**.

Staff are prohibited from:

- Varying or waiving fees based on the content of speech, the identity or viewpoint of participants, or anticipated public reaction to a message;
- Imposing additional requirements or conditions on religious or expressive users that do not apply to others;
- Making ad-hoc or discretionary decisions that could create unequal treatment.

Requests for fee adjustments outside of existing policy shall be referred to the General Manager for review.

Legal Authority

This policy is grounded in the following authorities:

- **U.S. Constitution, First Amendment** – Free Exercise and Free Speech Clauses
- **California Constitution, Article I, Section 4** – Free exercise of religion “without discrimination or preference”
- **California Government Code §11135** – Prohibiting religious discrimination in state-funded or administered programs
- **Relevant Case Law:**
 - *Forsyth County v. Nationalist Movement*, 505 U.S. 123 (1992)
 - *Long Beach Area Peace Network v. City of Long Beach*, 574 F.3d 1011 (9th Cir. 2009)

Implementation

1. **Fee Collection:** Staff shall collect the Board established parking fee uniformly from all park visitors.
2. **Waiver Requests:** All requests for fee waivers, including those for religious or expressive activities, must be submitted in writing to the General Manager.
3. **Public Information:** The District shall post a clear FAQ and signage summarizing this policy at the park entrance and on the District website.
4. **Training:** CPCSD staff and seasonal personnel assigned to the lake shall receive training on the neutral application of entry and parking fees and handling of public inquiries consistent with this policy.

Public FAQ Language

Do I have to pay the parking fee if I'm visiting for religious purposes?

Yes. The parking fee applies to all visitors, regardless of purpose or affiliation. Cameron Park Community Services District treats all uses, religious and secular, equally under state and federal law. If the District offers fee waivers for certain community or nonprofit activities, those same waivers are equally available to religious organizations upon request.

Review and Updates

This policy shall be reviewed every **two years** or as needed to ensure compliance with current constitutional and statutory requirements.

Approved by the Board of Directors x/xx/xx