

ETHICAL STANDARDS AND RELATIONSHIPS

I. NATIONAL PURCHASING INSTITUTE, CODE OF ETHICS

As a member in good standing of the National Purchasing Institute (NPI), the SJRA Purchasing Department shall adhere to the Code of Ethics as adopted and published by that organization:²

- *Seeks or accepts a position as head (or employee) only when fully in accord with the professional principles applicable thereto and when confident of possessing the qualifications to serve under those principles to the advantage of the employing organization.*
- *Believes in the dignity and worth of the service rendered by the organization, and the societal responsibilities assumed as a trusted public servant.*
- *Is governed by the highest ideals of honor and integrity in all public and personal relationships in order to merit the respect and inspire the confidence of the organization and the public being served.*
- *Believes that personal aggrandizement or personal profit obtained through misuse of public or personal relationships is dishonest and not tolerable.*
- *Identifies and eliminates participation of any individual in operational situations where a conflict of interest may be involved.*
- *Believes that members of the Institute and its staff should at no time, or under any circumstances, accept directly or indirectly, gifts, gratuities, or other things of value from suppliers, which might influence or appear to influence purchasing decisions.*
- *Keeps the governmental organization informed, through appropriate channels, on problems and progress of applicable operations by emphasizing the importance of the facts.*
- *Resists encroachment on control of personnel in order to preserve integrity as a professional manager.*
- *Handles all personnel matters on a merit basis, and in compliance with applicable laws prohibiting discrimination in employment on the basis of politics, religion, color, national origin, disability, gender, age, pregnancy and other protected characteristics.*
- *Seeks or dispenses no personal favors. Handles each administrative problem objectively and empathetically, without discrimination.*
- *Subscribes to and supports the professional aims and objectives of the National Institute of Governmental Purchasing, Inc.*

II. ETHICAL STANDARDS OF SAN JACINTO RIVER AUTHORITY

The Purchasing Department is dedicated to uphold ethical standards of the SJRA and will always endeavor to defend the Constitution, laws, and ordinances of the United States, State of Texas, and the SJRA, and shall strive to be:

- A. Honest and trustworthy in all professional relationships.*
- B. Dedicated to providing quality services by being cooperative and constructive, and by making the best and most efficient use of available resources.*

² <http://www.nigp.org/eweb/StartPage.aspx?Site=NIGP&webcode=abt-codeofethics-> accessed 10-7-2010

- C. Fair and considerate in the treatment of fellow employees and citizens, addressing concerns and needs with equity, granting no special favors.*
- D. Committed to accomplishing all tasks in a superior manner, and abstaining from all job behavior that may tarnish the image of the SJRA.*
- E. Aware that public and political policy decisions are ultimately the responsibility of SJRA Board of Directors.*

This Code of Ethics requires hard work, courage, and difficult choices. In the long run, however, employees and citizens will always be better served by doing what is right, rather than what is expedient.