

|   |  |                                     |
|---|--|-------------------------------------|
|  | <b>EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY (EEO) POLICY STATEMENT</b> |                                     |
|   | <b>Policy Effective Date: January 28, 2020</b>             | <b>Revised on: January 28, 2020</b> |
|   | <b>Approved by: Board of Directors</b>                     |                                     |
|   | <b>Date Approved: July 25, 2017</b>                        | <b>Page 1 of 3</b>                  |

The Antelope Valley Transit Authority (AVTA) is an Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) employer. It is the policy of the AVTA to provide equal employment opportunity for all persons and prohibits discrimination based on race, color, creed, national origin, sex, age, disability, religion, marital status, sexual preference or veteran status or any other class as prohibited by federal and/or state law.

AVTA recruits, hires, trains, and promotes employees without regard to race, religion, color, creed, national origin, ancestry, physical or mental disability, medical condition, marital status, sex or gender (including sexual harassment, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical conditions), age (40 and older), sexual orientation, gender identity, veteran status, genetic characteristics, or other legally protectable class as defined in Title VII of the California Fair Employment and Housing Act ("FEHA"), and any other applicable provisions of federal and/or state law. AVTA remains in compliance with the provisions of the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) and FEHA regarding persons with disabilities.

This policy applies to all employment practices and conditions, including recruitment and selection, promotions, terminations, transfers, layoffs, compensation decisions, discipline, separations, training, and benefits.

AVTA is committed to implementation of an affirmative action policy, which includes development of goals and timetables, which is designed to overcome the effects of past discrimination on minorities and women.

Executive oversight of AVTA's EEO policy is the responsibility of the AVTA Executive Director/CEO. Oversight and implementation, which includes dissemination, understanding and enforcement of the EEO policy is the responsibility of the appointed EEO Compliance Officer. The appointed EEO Compliance Officer is responsible for updating AVTA's EEO policies, monitoring compliance with the affirmative action plan, goals, providing training, and implementing programs that promote the AVTA's policy of promoting diversity, equal employment opportunities and affirmative action.

All applicants for employment and employees have the right to file complaints alleging discrimination with AVTA's EEO Compliance Officer. Any employee who contends that he/she has been subjected to unlawful discrimination, harassment or retaliation in violation of federal or state law, may use the internal complaint procedure set forth in AVTA's Harassment-Free Workplace policy. Employees can

raise concerns and make reports without fear of reprisal. Anyone found to be engaging in any unlawful discrimination will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal from employment.

### **EMPLOYEE AND MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITIES**

All AVTA directors, managers and supervisors with hiring authority share in the responsibility of ensuring agency compliance through understanding, communicating and active involvement in support of AVTA's EEO policies and affirmative action plans.

AVTA Managers and Supervisors will be evaluated on their actions taken to ensure successful implementation and compliance with the agency's EEO policy the same way as their performance on other agency's goals in accordance with FTA circular 4704.1, [Page III-2 a. (6)].

Successful achievement of AVTA's EEO policy goals will provide benefits to the recipient/sub-recipient/contractor through fuller utilization and development of previously underutilized human resources in accordance with FTA circular 4704.1, [Page III- 2 a. (7)].

AVTA is committed to maintaining an environment that values diversity in which all employees are free from illegal discrimination and harassment.

Nothing herein is intended to modify the at-will status of all employees of AVTA.

### **CONTRACTOR COMPLIANCE**

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) requires recipients to document their review of EEO Programs for sub-recipients or contractors that meet the EEO Program threshold. As per the FTA EEO Circular 4704.1A, AVTA must review and monitor sub-recipients or contractors' EEO programs and policies which verify that they contain these seven elements:

1. Statement of Policy;
2. Plan for dissemination both internally and externally;
3. Designation of appropriate personnel responsible for carrying out the EEO; Program, including the designation of an EEO Officer;
4. Utilization analysis;
5. Goals and timetables to correct identified areas of underutilization or concentration;
6. Assessment of an agency's employment practices; and
7. Plan for monitoring and reporting on the EEO Program.

### **ANNUAL REVIEW OF POLICY**

This EEO Policy Statement and contractor's EEO Plan will be reviewed, updated and reaffirmed by the Board of Directors annually. Per current operator contract, this review must be accomplished no later than thirty (30) days after the end of each calendar year. The review will include a submittal to AVTA of an EEO report/plan that meets all of the requirements of FTA EEO Circular 4704.1A and documents any/all deficiencies and required corrective actions. Inquiries concerning this policy can be directed to AVTA's EEO appointed Compliance Officer, as appointed by the AVTA Executive Director/CEO.