

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Programs, Projects & Operations Subcommittee

FROM: Amanda Grint, Assistant General Manager

SUBJECT: Papio NRD Policy Manual Appendix K Revisions

DATE: July 2, 2024

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District staff and legal counsel have reviewed and updated the District Policy Manual, Appendix K. The following revision and justification are presented for consideration:

### Appendix K – Rules and Regulations for District Recreation Areas

- Section 7. Closures, E. Elkhorn River Access Sites will be closed when the Waterloo/Highway 64 river gauge reads a stage height of 4 feet or greater.

Based on stage height versus discharge, cubic feet per second (cfs), the Elkhorn River has degraded at least two feet over the past five years. This is likely due the large flood events that have occurred in the past several years. When the closure for the Elkhorn River Access sites was set in 2013, the stage height of 5 ft corresponded to a discharge of about 3,200 cfs. Currently a stage height of 5 ft is approximately 6,000 cfs. Higher flows and no visible sandbars are apparent at a current stage height of 5 ft, making recreation more dangerous. District staff have consulted with USGS to confirm the degradation and increased flows at river stages. The concurrence is that a stage height of 4ft is safer and sandbars are either visible or just below the surface making recreation activities more conducive. The outfitters that have permits to utilize the District recreation areas have been notified of the change.

**Staff recommends that the Subcommittee recommend to the Board of Directors that the proposed revisions to the Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District Directors Policy Manual, Appendix K, be adopted and be incorporated into the District Policy Manual.**