



Federal Legislative Update January 13, 2021

Clark Mather, Community & Government Relations Mgr.
Paul Hoover, GTH Government Affairs



Elections/Overview of federal legislation

U.S. Senate control changing

- **Democrats win both GA runoffs**

\$2.3 trillion, 5,593 page legislation

- **Funds federal agencies through Sept. 2021**
- **Provides additional federal resources and makes policy changes on COVID programs**
- **Water Resources Development Act**
- **Energy Act of 2020**



Assistance for customers

Means-tested direct payments

- \$600 to individuals with incomes under \$75k
- \$1,200 to families with incomes under \$150k

Additional unemployment benefits

- Additional \$300/week through March 14, 2021

No additional “CARES-like” state and local aid

- Deadline for spending existing CARES Act funding extended to December 31, 2021



Assistance for customers

\$3.75 billion -- Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

- **Same as FY '20 funding level**

\$638 million -- new water customer assistance

- **Federal dollars distributed to States and Tribes and then to operators of public water systems**

\$25 billion -- rental assistance

- **Utility assistance payments is an eligible use**



Summary of other items of interest

Rail

- **45G Tax Credit permanently extended**
 - 50% tax credit through 2022
 - 40% tax credit beginning in 2023
- Funding for CRISI, BUILD, Sec. 130 grants

Water

- **Howard Hanson on 'expedited completion' list**
- **\$1.126 billion for Drinking Water SRF**
- **\$65 million for WIFIA**



Summary of other items of interest

Power

- **Hydropower Incentive Program funded**
- **Willamette project deauthorization study**
- **Columbia River Treaty report language**
 - *“Not later than 60 days after enactment...the Secretary of State, in coordination with other relevant Federal agencies, shall submit a report...on the benefits the Columbia River Treaty has facilitated for Canada.”*



Summary of other items of interest

Energy Act of 2020

- **‘Murkowski/Manchin’ melded with House legislation**
 - Authorizes R&D for renewable energy/hydropower
 - Reauthorization of Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy
 - Research, Design & Development on Energy Storage
 - Reauthorization of Hydropower Incentive Program
 - Reauthorization of Weatherization Program
 - Authorizes broader grid modernization/Smart Grid Regional Demonstration Initiative



Summary of other items of interest

Department of Energy Appropriations

- **Non-Defense DOE funding \$12.44 billion (15% less)**
 - Hydro/Marine power R&D funded at \$150 million, record high level
 - Report language on information sharing and secure data anonymization – prioritize partnerships with rural and municipally-owned utilities
 - Report language directs Energy Information Agency for report in 2021 on city-level data on electricity consumption and emissions



Next steps

Track customer assistance program developments

- **Water customer assistance, rental assistance**

Continue engagement on existing and potential funding opportunities

- **2020 Advanced Meter grant**
- **Grid modernization, hydrogen R&D, storage**
- **Rail infrastructure**



Contacts

Clark Mather

Community & Government Relations Manager

cmather@cityoftacoma.org

W: 253-260-0440

