



APPROVED 9/24/25

MINUTES
City of Tacoma
Public Utility Board Study Session
September 10, 2025
3:00 p.m.

Chair O'Loughlin called the Public Utility Board study session to order at 3:00 p.m. in the third-floor conference room (LT1) of the Public Utilities Administration Building.

Present: John O'Loughlin; Elly Claus-McGahan; Devin Hampton

Excused: Anita Gallagher; William Bridges

Tacoma Water: Forecast Informed Reservoir Operations (FIRO) Update

Marty Ralph, Director for the Center of Western Weather and Water Extremes at the University of San Diego, presented the information in this presentation. FIRO is a reservoir-operations strategy that better informs decisions to retain or release water by integrating additional flexibility in operation policies and rules with enhanced monitoring and improved water and weather forecasts. FIRO is a research and operations partnership. The data and science behind FIRO were summarized; including viability assessment process, concepts, examples, project locations, atmospheric rivers, and storm trajectories.

Approximately 325,000 people are directly served by Tacoma Water; 95 percent from the Green River. Howard Hanson Dam reservoir relies on spring rains and the previous winter's snowpack for refill. The refill season begins as early as mid-February and is completed around late May or early June. In the summer, reservoir drawdown begins when necessary. FIRO coordinates reservoir releases with stakeholders. Tacoma Water works with the US Army Corp of Engineers. A main concern is how water is managed for water supply and conservation without running out of water before autumn rain returns. In the winter, by November 1 the reservoir must be empty for winter flood risk management.

Notable weather events in the Pacific Northwest and impacts of climate change were summarized. Data and science about how improved forecasts of landfalling atmospheric rivers and associated precipitation and runoff can be used at Howard Hanson Dam were reviewed.

Mr. Ralph concluded the presentation by reviewing progress and next steps. These include extending establishing meteorological analyses and verification procedures in the Pacific Northwest; exploring collaborative and streamlined project management practices and tools to foster transparency; collaborating with project partners on network analysis of existing observations; developing a simulation plan for processing and evaluating the streamflow hindcasts across a range of possible operational alternative for reservoir management at Howard Hanson Dam; and planning for the next steering committee meeting in late September to be held in Tacoma.

Stuart Vaughan, Engineering Division Manager, shared that Water is in the preliminary viability assessment now and the water control manual will be updated. FIRO provides the ability to increase the likelihood of having full storage behind Howard Hanson Dam. It also enables Water to utilize existing infrastructure and not build new infrastructure.

Tacoma Power: Hydro Unit Modernization Program

Adam Davis, Project Delivery Manager, provided an overview of Generation's investment portfolio which includes the relicensing program, fisheries program, dam safety program, unit modernization program, and other projects/programs driven by asset management and business needs. The state and performance of the hydro fleet were reviewed. The hydro unit modernization program exists to support financial stewardship, improved resourcing, effective planning and optimization of the supply chain. The program planning process, timeline, costs, supporting projects, and the future state of the hydro fleet were detailed. Program projects for the next two years were summarized.

Utility Technology Modernization:

Kalyan Kakani, CIO, and Tyler Swartz, Chief Enterprise Architect, provided the information in this presentation. The technology roadmap for utility modernization from 2019 was reviewed. The sections of this roadmap are equitable customer service, economic development, environmental stewardship, and reliability and resiliency. All elements of this roadmap, except for work with commercial/industrial customers, have been accomplished. A review of the AMI project, customer experience portal, geographic information system, enterprise/cross domain platforms, grid modernization, generation/power management, smart water transformation, was provided. Technology disrupters, such as AI/machine learning and cybersecurity were reviewed. Next steps for utility modernization were reviewed.

Board/Director Comments/Updates

Director Flowers reported that the Elk Plain substation that was damaged in the December 2022 sabotage, has been reenergized.

Director Flowers reported that the HR Director position has been posted and will remain open for one month. The hope is to have the position hired in December.

Director Flowers Reported Power's Reliability and Compliance section, led by Byron Williamson, received a clean regulatory compliance audit.

Board Member Claus-McGahan reported that Power received a clean Energy Independence Act audit.

Chair O'Loughlin made positive remarks about the United Way kick-off event.

The Board briefly discussed having a repository of onboarding processes and documents on the Board's web folders.

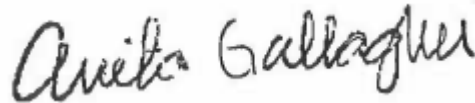
Adjournment

The study session was adjourned at 6:01 p.m.

Approved:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'John O'Loughlin', with a stylized, cursive script.

John O'Loughlin, Chair

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Anita Gallagher', with a cursive script.

Anita Gallagher, Secretary