



APPROVED 4/22/26

MINUTES
City of Tacoma
Public Utility Board Study Session
April 8, 2026
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; Anita Gallagher; William Bridges; Devin Hampton

Energy Northwest Overview (ENW)

Ray Johnson, Power Manager, made introductory remarks and introduced Tracy Yount, Strategy and Development Mgr, and Jackie Eutsey, Strategy Outreach Mgr, for Energy Northwest. Energy Northwest's members, service area, and generation projects were reviewed. Energy Northwest's authorities are captured under RCW 43.52.300. An overview of ENW's Cascade 1 small modular reactor project, regional energy infrastructure strategy, and the new energy portfolio (geothermal and gravity energy storage) was provided.

Atmospheric River After Action Report

Courtney Rose, Chief Emergency Manager, and Risk Managers Ken Clark and Kristy Baker, provided the information in this presentation. TPU activated emergency response to the prolonged atmospheric river events that impacted Washington from December 3 – 22, 2025 that had sustained rainfall, flooding, landslides, and wind. This After-Action Report (AAR) helps TPU emergency management to understand performance during the incident, learn what worked well, identify areas of improvement, and strengthen response for and respond to future incidents. Emergency Management program maturity was then summarized. This included building a more coordinated response program, clearer command structure and communication, continued investment in response tools, establishing clearer roles, and aligning TPU practices with citywide response. The FEMA reimbursement process, payment thresholds, and TPU reimbursable losses were summarized.

2023 Management Review Follow-Up

Director Flowers reviewed City Charter Section 4.15 which dictates a management review of TPU every 10 years; last done in 2023. The executive summary stated that the consultant's review found that TPU consistently maintains its position as one of the nation's leading public utility departments, demonstrating a commendable record of accomplishment compared to benchmarked peers. The findings within the consultant's report collectively affirm TPU's dedication to delivering exceptional service and driving innovation in utilities industries. There were 16 total suggestions in the categories of operations, safety, strategy/governance, and workforce culture. Director Flowers then provided the status of each of the consultant recommendations.

Board Budget Discussion

The Board reviewed and discussed its budget for the next biennium.

Board/Director Comments/Updates

Water Superintendent, Keri Burchard-Juarez, reported that the Department of Ecology has made a statewide drought determination. This is the first time it has been done four years in a row and the earliest for such a declaration. This year, Everett, Seattle, and Tacoma were not named exceptions to the declaration.

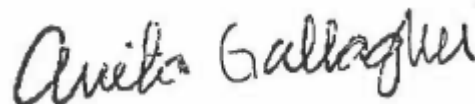
Adjournment

The study session was adjourned at 5:33 p.m.

Approved:



John O'Loughlin, Chair



Anita Gallagher, Secretary