



RESOLUTION NO. U-11374

1 A RESOLUTION authorizing the establishment of a special project of
2 limited duration for Tacoma Power, Network Communications
3 Systems group within Utility Technology Services, for technology
4 upgrades and designating general salary classifications and
5 benefits for the person employed on the project, pursuant to
6 Tacoma Municipal Code Sections 1.12.140, 1.12.155, 1.24.187,
7 1.24.980-986, and 1.30.300, and Section 6.1(h) of the Tacoma
8 City Charter.

9 WHEREAS the City of Tacoma, Department of Public Utilities, Light
10 Division (d.b.a. "Tacoma Power"), Network Communications Systems group
11 within Utility Technology Services ("UTS") requests Public Utility Board approval
12 for a special project of limited duration involving support of technology upgrades
13 ("Project"), and

14 WHEREAS the Project will support the replacement of the aging
15 Synchronous Optical Networking ("SONET") communications technology with
16 Multi-Protocol Label Switching ("MLPS") technology, and

17 WHEREAS Tacoma Power has been using SONET for data
18 communications for over 25 years and it has reached the end of its lifecycle,
19 and

20 WHEREAS MPLS technology was deployed in phase 1 of the Wide Area
21 Network upgrade during the last biennium, and

22 WHEREAS the current capital project is expected to run through the end
23 of 2024, and includes deploying and transitioning network data services at each
24 of the 70 Tacoma Power Distribution Substations on five communication
25 network rings, and
26



1 WHEREAS the project schedule has been impacted due to resource
2 attrition and an expected leave of absence, and therefore, with Board approval,
3 this resolution will enable UTS to hire a special project Communication Systems
4 Technician II, ensuring the project team has sufficient resources to complete
5 the remaining work on schedule within the budget included for the project in the
6 Capital budget for 2023/2024, and

8 WHEREAS, pursuant to the provisions of Sections 1.12.155 and
9 1.24.187 of the Tacoma Municipal Code and Section 6.1(h) of the Tacoma City
10 Charter, employees who are not regular employees and are hired as special
11 project employees are paid as provided for by ordinance or resolution of the
12 City Council, and

14 WHEREAS it is in the best interests of the Department of Public Utilities
15 to establish a Special Project of Limited Duration and to hire a full-time
16 temporary position to support the required activities for the duration of the
17 Project; Now, therefore,

19 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE PUBLIC UTILITY BOARD OF THE CITY OF TACOMA:

20 Section 1. That the Project for Tacoma Power, Network
21 Communications Systems group within Utility Technology Services, for support
22 of technology upgrades, be designated as a special project of limited duration,
23 and is hereby approved and established as a special project of limited duration.

25 Section 2. That in accordance with the applicable provisions of
26 TMC 1.12.140 and 1.12.155, the salaries and classes set forth in the



1 Compensation Plan for regular City employees shall be applied, contingent
2 upon funding, to similar project positions of the Project.

3 Section 3. That in accordance with TMC 1.24.187 and 1.30.300,
4 employees who have been hired or may be hired for positions expected to be of
5 limited duration shall be designated unclassified special project employees as
6 of the date of hire.

7 Section 4. That the special project employee who has been hired or may
8 be hired to work on the special project as identified in this resolution, shall
9 receive benefits, all in accordance with and pursuant to the provisions of the
10 compensation plan of the City of Tacoma. The employee shall be given a one-
11 time binding and irrevocable election to participate in the City's Retirement
12 System, pursuant to the retirement provisions of TMC 1.30.300.

13 Section 5. That because the position to be filled pursuant to this
14 resolution is of a temporary nature and is unique in that it pertains only to the
15 aforementioned special project, it is deemed a temporary position, and the
16 person so employed in such position shall have no claim to further or continued
17 employment with the City after cessation of such special project or after
18 cessation of activities funded by said programs, except pursuant to their
19 obtaining status as a regular City employee under the provisions of the Tacoma
20 Municipal Code or pursuant to further action of the City Council relating to this
21 special project.
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Section 6. That all acts by agents or employees of the City consistent with the intent of this resolution taken prior to the effective date of this resolution are hereby ratified.

Section 7. That the term of this special project shall not exceed the expiration of December 31, 2024, unless extended by appropriate action.

Section 8. That the Director of Utilities is hereby authorized to direct the appropriate City officers to proceed with the necessary actions for project completion including the hiring of a special project position to support the required activities for the duration of the Project.

Approved as to form:

_____	_____
<i>/s/</i>	Chair
Chief Deputy City Attorney	_____
_____	Secretary
Clerk	Adopted _____



Board Action Memorandum

TO: Jackie Flowers, Director of Utilities
COPY: Charleen Jacobs, Director and Board Offices
FROM: Chris Robinson, Power Superintendent/COO
MEETING DATE: March 22, 2023
DATE: March 2, 2023

STRATEGIC DIRECTIVE ALIGNMENT (select as many that apply):

Please indicate which of the Public Utility Board's Strategic Directives is supported by this action.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SD1 – Equity & Inclusion | <input type="checkbox"/> SD8 – Telecom |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SD2 – Financial Sustainability | <input type="checkbox"/> SD9 – Economic Development |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SD3 – Rates | <input type="checkbox"/> SD10 – Government Relations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SD4 – Stakeholder Engagement | <input type="checkbox"/> SD11 – Decarbonization/Electric Vehicles |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SD5 – Environmental Leadership | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SD12 – Employee Relations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SD6 – Innovation | <input type="checkbox"/> SD13 – Customer Service |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SD7 – Reliability & Resiliency | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SD14 – Resource Planning |

SUMMARY: The Utility Technology Services of Tacoma Power recommends that the Public Utility Board approve the special project request pursuant to Tacoma Municipal Code Sections 1.12.140, 1.12.155, 1.24.187, 1.24.980-986, 1.30.300, and Section 6.1 (h) of the Tacoma City Charter which will allow project employees in Tacoma Power, Tacoma Water and Customer Services across all phases of the project. Briefly, the roles and services provided are described:

- Communication Systems Technician II: performs skilled and technical duties in the installation, repair, maintenance, and operation of a wide variety of equipment and devices related to communication systems; operate a variety of specialized tools and test equipment. Planned work for the remaining 35+ sites is estimated around 2000 hours.

Work activities:

- Preliminary site survey; photos, drawings, and notes of current state
- Identify site activities; HFC, power upgrades needed, rack moves
- Pre-stage equipment in lab, preliminary configuration assistance and testing
- Site installation, configuration assistance and commissioning
- Final site survey to include photos, drawings, and notes
- Work with Engineering Tech to update as-built drawings
- Support critical services cutover activities on 70 sites
- Assist with decommissioning
- Other capital activities as identified

BACKGROUND: The Network Communication Systems group, in Tacoma Power's Utility Technology Services division is currently replacing the aging Synchronous Optical Networking (SONET) communications technology with Multi-Protocol Label Switching (MPLS) technology. Tacoma Power has been using SONET for data communications for over 25 years and it has, unfortunately, reached its end of



Board Action Memorandum

lifecycle. MPLS technology was deployed in phase 1 of the Wide Area Network upgrade during the last biennium. The current capital project is expected to run through the end of 2024 and includes deploying and transitioning network data services at each of the 70 Tacoma Power Distribution Substations on five communication network rings.

The project schedule has been impacted due to resource attrition and an expected leave of absence. This resolution will give UTS the authority to hire a project Communication Systems Technician II thereby ensuring the project team has sufficient resources to complete the remaining work on schedule and within project budget. Final project close out is expected to complete in December 2024.

Funding has been included in the projects Capital budget for 2023/2024.

ARE THE EXPENDITURES AND REVENUES PLANNED AND BUDGETED? Yes

IF THE EXPENSE IS NOT BUDGETED, PLEASE EXPLAIN HOW IT IS TO BE COVERED.

Not applicable. Expense is budgeted under existing capital project WAN 2.0 PWR-01113-15.

IF THE ACTION REQUESTED IS APPROVAL OF A CONTRACT, INCLUDE LANGUAGE IN RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING \$200,000 INCREASE IN ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY TO DIRECTOR? No

ATTACHMENTS: None.

CONTACT:

Primary Contact: Aaron Anderson, Technology Manager, (253) 502-8912

Supervisor's Name: Rick Munson, Sr Technology Manager, (253) 502-8565

Additional staff requiring a Zoom presentation link: Megan Davis, Sr IT Project Manager, (253) 502-8827