



RESOLUTION NO. U-11293

A RESOLUTION authorizing the advocacy of certain state and federal legislative agenda items for Tacoma Public Utilities for 2022.

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WHEREAS the Department of Public Utilities, Public Affairs & Communications Division, has proposed a legislative agenda of items they plan to advocate for at state and federal levels during 2022, and

WHEREAS, attached as Exhibit A, are specific agenda items that reflect certain proactive policy objectives that are consistent with TPU's legislative policies and that will be advocated for at the state and federal levels, Now, Therefore,

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

That the Public Affairs & Communications Division's proposed state and federal legislative agenda items for Tacoma Public Utilities that are listed in Exhibit A are approved for advocacy in 2022.

Approved as to form:

	Chair
/s/ _____	_____
Chief Deputy City Attorney	Secretary
_____	Adopted _____
Clerk	



Board Action Memorandum

TO: Jackie Flowers, Director of Utilities
COPY: Charleen Jacobs, Director and Board Offices
FROM: Clark Mather, Community & Government Relations Manager
MEETING DATE: November 17, 2021
DATE: November 4, 2021

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

SUMMARY: A resolution approving TPU's state and federal legislative agenda.

BACKGROUND: TPU's legislative agenda includes some of the proactive policy objectives, consistent with TPU's legislative policies, that TPU staff will advocate for at the state and federal levels. TPU's legislative agenda was last approved by the Public Utility Board via Resolution U-11219 on November 18, 2020. Following PUB approval, TPU's legislative agenda will be presented to the Tacoma Mayor and City Council for approval as part of the City's Legislative Agenda before the end of the 2021 calendar year.

ARE THE EXPENDITURES AND REVENUES PLANNED AND BUDGETED? No

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

N/A

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

ATTACHMENTS: List any attachments (contracts, policies, agreements, etc.).

- 'Exhibit A' to accompany resolution: Tacoma Public Utilities 2022 Legislative Agenda

CONTACT:

Primary Contact: Clark Mather, Community & Government Relations Manager, 253-260-0440

Supervisor's Name: Jim Sant, Deputy Director – MSO & PAC

Presenter (if different from primary contact): Clark Mather

Additional staff requiring a Zoom presentation link: Logan Bahr, State Relations Manager

EXHIBIT A

Tacoma Public Utilities 2022 Legislative Agenda

TPU-Wide

- **Infrastructure financing tools:** TPU supports legislation that promotes the availability of tax-exempt municipal bonds and will support proposals that revoke changes made in 2017 relating to advance refunding. TPU supports providing comparable tax incentives to consumer-owned utilities. TPU also supports restoring Build America Bond payments back to their originally-enacted levels.
- **TPU supports programs to assist limited-income residents:** TPU supports policies and additional funding for programs that provide assistance to limited-income residents.

Tacoma Power – Federal

- **Support proposals that maintain and improve BPA’s competitiveness:** TPU will continue to support federal proposals to maintain and improve BPA’s cost competitiveness.
- **Carbon reduction policies:** TPU will actively engage in and seek to support proposals that decarbonize the economy at reasonable costs to customers and that appropriately acknowledge and credit hydropower as a carbon-free generating resource.
- **Support investment in zero-emission transportation infrastructure and programs that advance the development of clean fuels:** TPU will support additional funding for zero-emission transportation infrastructure and policies that advance the development and production of clean fuels, including electrolytic hydrogen.
- **Provide funding for the Hydropower Incentive Program:** Tacoma Power continues to support federal appropriations for the Department of Energy’s Hydropower Incentive Program. The program provides payments to hydropower utilities, including Tacoma Power, for hydroelectric production added to an existing dam or conduit.
- **Support legislation to maintain municipal utility control over poles and pole attachment rate setting:** TPU supports legislation that would ensure that municipally-owned utilities maintain their historic authority to safely manage pole attachments on utility poles.

Tacoma Water – Federal

- **Support implementation of the Howard Hanson Dam – Additional Water Storage Project:** Tacoma Water continues to support federal authorization, appropriations, and actions necessary to complete the Howard Hanson Dam – Additional Water Storage Project. Any federal action must respect federal/non-federal cost share agreements already in place. TPU believes Howard Hanson Dam fish passage and the Additional Water Storage Project are critical to salmon and orca recovery as a construction-ready project with broad impact.
- **Support funding of the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA):** Tacoma Water supports appropriations to fully fund the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA).
- **Support funding of the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund:** Tacoma Water supports adequate appropriations for the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund.

Tacoma Rail – Federal

- **Explore opportunities for infrastructure funding:** Tacoma Rail intends to pursue funding opportunities to make investments in rolling stock, track, and other infrastructure.

Tacoma Power -- State

- **Carbon reduction policies:** Washington lawmakers have indicated that they will continue to focus on legislative solutions aimed at decarbonizing Washington State's economy. TPU will actively engage in and seek to support proposals that decarbonize the economy at reasonable costs to customers and that appropriately acknowledge and credit hydropower as a carbon-free generating resource and align with existing and emerging regional organized markets.
- **Building decarbonization policies:** TPU will support reasonable policies to decarbonize the state's residential and commercial building sector, including proposals to provide municipal electric utilities the authority to adopt beneficial electrification plans. Any comprehensive building decarbonization policy must be based on sound cost/benefit analysis to understand the impacts on energy capacity and reliability.
- **Support investment in zero-emission transportation infrastructure and programs that advance the development of clean fuels:** TPU will support additional funding for zero-emission transportation infrastructure and policies that

advance the development and production of clean fuels, including electrolytic hydrogen.

- **Support equal treatment of hydropower:** Tacoma Power customers have invested in renewable, carbon-free hydroelectric generating facilities for decades. These facilities will continue to require significant reinvestment to ensure their future safe and reliable operation. During the 2019 Legislative Session, other renewable generating resources were given special tax treatment. TPU will continue to advocate for consistent tax treatment or alternative approaches that support equal treatment of all renewable, carbon-free resources.

Tacoma Water – State

- **Support the Public Works Trust Fund:** Tacoma Water supports funding for the Public Works Trust Fund (PWTF). It is a critical program for many public water systems by providing low-interest loans to maintain and preserve their infrastructure. TPU supports public water systems and city partners in their request to restore and protect the existing funding of the PWTF.

Tacoma Rail – State

- **Explore opportunities for infrastructure funding:** Tacoma Rail intends to pursue funding opportunities to make investments in rolling stock, track, and other infrastructure.