



RESOLUTION NO. U-11419

1 A RESOLUTION authorizing the advocacy of certain state and federal
2 legislative agenda items for Tacoma Public Utilities for 2024.

3 WHEREAS the Department of Public Utilities, Public Affairs &
4 Communications Division, has proposed a legislative agenda of items they plan
5 to advocate towards at the state and federal levels during 2024, and
6

7 WHEREAS TPU's legislative agenda includes some of the proactive
8 policy objectives that staff will advocate towards at the state and federal levels;
9 the staff-recommended legislative agenda covers positions on policies related
10 to supporting programs for limited-income customers, carbon reduction policies,
11 seeking infrastructure funding, and other items, as presented and discussed at
12 the Board's Study Session on October 11, 2023 and at a Joint Study Session
13 with the Board and City Council on November 7, 2023, and
14

15 WHEREAS, following Board approval, TPU's 2024 Legislative Agenda
16 will be presented to the City Council for approval and incorporation into the
17 City's Legislative Agenda for 2024; Now, Therefore,

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

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20 That the Public Affairs & Communications Division's proposed state and
21 federal legislative agenda items for Tacoma Public Utilities are approved for
22 advocacy in 2024, as set forth in the TPU 2024 Legislative Agenda on file with
23 the Board Clerk, and the City Council is requested to concur in the approval of
24 TPU's 2024 Legislative Agenda and to incorporate TPU's 2024 Legislative
25 Agenda into the City's 2024 Legislative Agenda.
26



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 15, 2023
DATE: October 23, 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 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 staff will advocate for at the state and federal levels. The staff-recommended legislative agenda covers positions on everything from supporting programs to assist limited-income customers, to carbon reduction policies, to seeking infrastructure funding, and other items.

As we shared at the October 11 PUB Study Session, these aren't the only items that we will engage on at the state and federal levels – but are the priority or expected policy objectives for staff.

TPU's legislative agenda was last approved by the Public Utility Board via Resolution U-11362 on November 16, 2022. 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 2023 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.).

- 'Tacoma Public Utilities 2024 Legislative Agenda'

CONTACT:

Primary Contact: Clark Mather, Community & Government Relations Manager, 253-260-0440
Supervisor's Name: LaTasha Wortham, Deputy Director of Utilities



Board Action Memorandum

Presenter (if different from primary contact): Clark Mather

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

Tacoma Public Utilities 2024 Legislative Agenda

TPU-Wide

- **Actively pursue available funding:** TPU will actively monitor federal and state funding opportunities and apply for funding consistent with current and emerging capital and operating needs.
- **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 direct-pay 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.
- **Support policies that address supply chain impacts:** TPU supports policies that adequately address supply chain issues that affect service to customers and utility operations.

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:** TPU will support additional funding for zero-emission transportation infrastructure.
- **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. TPU will continue to advocate for consistent tax treatment or alternative approaches that support equal treatment of all renewable, carbon-free resources.

- **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.
- **Protecting Tacoma Water from PFAS treatment liability:** Tacoma Water supports legislation that clearly and explicitly exempts drinking water systems from CERCLA liability related to PFAS, in situations when the water system has disposed of the contaminants in accordance with all applicable laws.

Tacoma Rail – Federal

- **Explore opportunities for infrastructure funding:** Tacoma Rail intends to pursue funding opportunities for investments in locomotive modernization, track upgrades, decarbonization projects, and other infrastructure improvements.

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 state funding for limited-income customer fuel conversion and proposals for municipal electric utilities 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:** TPU will support additional funding for zero-emission transportation infrastructure.
- **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. 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 for infrastructure funding:** Tacoma Water supports funding for maintaining and preserving critical water system infrastructure. This includes funding for the Public Works Trust Fund, state revolving loan funds, grant funding, and other state resources. Low-interest loans and grants are vital for the long-term protection of many public water systems.

Tacoma Rail – State

- **Explore opportunities for infrastructure funding:** Tacoma Rail intends to pursue funding opportunities for investments in locomotive modernization, track upgrades, decarbonization projects, and other infrastructure improvements.