RESOLUTION NO. U-11643

A RESOLUTION relating to the Department of Public Utilities, approving the Department's 2027 Federal and State Legislative Agenda, and requesting that the City Council concur in such approval and incorporate the Department's 2027 Federal and State Legislative Agenda into the City's 2027 Federal and State Legislative Agenda.

WHEREAS the Department of Public Utilities, Customer Experience and External Affairs Division, requests that the Public Utility Board confirm and approve the federal and state legislative agenda for Tacoma Public Utilities ("TPU"), and

WHEREAS TPU's 2027 Federal and State Legislative Agenda includes the proactive policy objectives that staff will advocate for at the federal and state levels and provides guidance on issues such as enhancing carbon reduction policies, infrastructure funding, and other items, as presented and discussed at the Board's Study Session on October 28, 2026, and

WHEREAS, upon approval by the Board, TPU's 2027 Federal and State Legislative Agenda will be presented to the City Council for approval and incorporation into the City's Federal and State Legislative Agenda for 2027; Now, Therefore,

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

That the Customer Experience and External Affairs Division's proposed 2027 Federal and State Legislative Agenda is approved, as set forth in the 2027 TPU Federal and State Legislative Agenda on file with the Clerk of the Board,

and the City Council is requested to concur in the approval of TPU's 2027 Federal and State Legislative Agenda and to incorporate TPU's 2027 Federal and State Legislative Agenda into the City's 2027 Federal and State Legislative Agenda.

Approved as to form:

_____
Chief Deputy City Attorney

_____
Chair

_____
Secretary

_____
Clerk

Adopted_____

TACOMA POWER | TACOMA WATER | TACOMA RAIL
TACOMA PUBLIC UTILITIES

Board Action Memorandum

TO:	Jackie Flowers, Director of Utilities
COPY:	Charleen Jacobs, Director and Board Offices
FROM:	Logan Bahr, Community and Government Relations Manager
MEETING DATE:	November 18, 2026
DATE:	November 9, 2026

GUIDING PRINCIPLE ALIGNMENT (select as many that apply):
Please indicate which of the Public Utility Board's Guiding Principle(s) is supported by this action.

☒Customer and Community
☒Resource Sustainability and Stewardship
☒Employees and Culture

SUMMARY: A resolution approving TPU's 2027 Federal and State Legislative Agenda

BACKGROUND: Provide information that is required to orient the Board.

TPU's legislative agenda is annually adopted to provide staff guidance on how to direct TPU's advocacy resources and give external partners clarity on TPU's priorities. The agenda is developed with input from staff, senior leaders, and Board members. As shared at the October 28th Study Session, the agenda addresses a wide range of positions, including support for carbon reduction policies, infrastructure funding, and additional key items.

ARE THE EXPENDITURES AND REVENUES PLANNED AND BUDGETED? Yes

IF THE ACTION REQUESTED IS APPROVAL OF A CONTRACT, INCLUDE LANGUAGE IN RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING $200,000 INCREASE IN ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY TO DIRECTOR? Choose an item.

ATTACHMENTS: TPU 2027 Federal and State Legislative Agenda

CONTACT:
Primary Contact: Logan Bahr, Community and Government Relations Manager, 253-439-8128
Supervisor's Name: LaTasha Wortham, Deputy Director for Customer Experience and External Affairs

2027 TPU Federal & State Legislative Agenda

Federal Agenda Items

TPU-Wide

- **Affordability:** Advance policies that keep utility service affordable for customers, including measures that reduce cost pressures. Protect and expand funding for programs that provide utility assistance to limited-income customers.
- **Federal Disaster Relief Funds and Reform:** Support policies that would dramatically speed up the delivery of critical disaster relief funds from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to customer-owned utilities (COU) impacted by natural disasters. Support efforts to ensure COUs are reimbursed by FEMA for interest paid on loans needed to perform emergency work prior to receiving disaster relief funds.
- **Infrastructure Financing:** Protect and expand opportunities for federal infrastructure support, including restoring the tax-exempt status of advance refund bonds, broadening tax credit eligibility, and releasing previously awarded grant funds. Advocate for policies that adequately fund legally binding infrastructure clean-up requirements to reduce the financial burden on customers.
- **Supply Chain Solutions:** Support policies that adequately address supply chain issues that impact utility operations.

Tacoma Power

- **Bonneville Power Administration (BPA):** Support proposals to maintain and improve BPA's cost competitiveness. Advocate for legislation to compensate BPA staff at competitive market wages.
- **Carbon Reduction:** Support proposals that decarbonize the economy at reasonable costs while maintaining reliability. Support policies that recognize hydropower as a carbon-free generation resource.
- **Hydropower Relicensing Policies:** Support legislation to streamline the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's hydropower relicensing policies, as well as regulatory and administrative procedures.
- **Maintain Pole Attachment Authority:** Support legislation that ensures municipally-owned utilities maintain their historic authority to safely manage attachments on utility poles.
- **Private Use Tax Reform**: Support Internal Revenue Service code reform that establishes a safe harbor or exception to allow extended public power contract limits with retail customers.

Tacoma Water

- **Drinking Water State Revolving Fund:** Support proposals and appropriations to fully fund the program.

- **Howard A. Hanson Dam and Additional Water Storage Project:** Support, expand, and protect federal funding for the project while ensuring current cost-sharing agreements are honored.
- **PFAS Liability:** Support legislation that exempts drinking water systems from the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) as it relates to PFAS liability.
- **Water Infrastructure Funding**: Support proposals and appropriations to fully fund the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) and the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA).

Tacoma Rail

- **Infrastructure Funding:** Support funding opportunities for investments in locomotive modernization projects, track upgrades, and other improvements.

State Agenda Items

TPU-Wide

- **Affordability**: Advance policies that help keep utility service affordable for customers, including measures that reduce cost pressures, provide targeted assistance to customers in need. Support expanding the state's Connecting Housing to Infrastructure Program (CHIP).

Tacoma Power

- **Carbon Reduction**: Advocate for enhancements to the state's carbon reduction policies, including the Clean Energy Transformation Act and the Climate Commitment Act, that reduce administrative burden, align with developing energy markets, and reflect utility infrastructure and operational constraints.
- **Resource Adequacy**: Advance policies that maintain a reliable and affordable electric system as regional demand grows, including policies that preserve utility flexibility, support regional resource adequacy efforts, and enable development of sufficient generation and transmission capacity.
- **Building Decarbonization**: Support reasonable policies to decarbonize the state's residential and commercial building sector, including additional funding for low-income customer fuel conversion.

Tacoma Water

- **Water Infrastructure Funding**: Advocate for continued and expanded state funding for critical water infrastructure, including the Public Works Trust Fund, revolving loan funds, and grant programs.
- **Water Supply and Resilience**: Support policies and funding that protect water supplies, promote small water system consolidation, and improve long-term system reliability.
- **Safe Drinking Water**: Support funding and reasonable requirements for drinking water quality, including PFAS and other emerging contaminants, while minimizing impacts on customer rates.

Tacoma Rail

- **Rail Infrastructure Investments**: Support efforts to maintain and enhance investments in track upgrades, locomotive modernization projects, and other infrastructure improvements through loans, grants, and tax credits.