



## Board Action Memorandum

**TO:** Jackie Flowers, Director of Utilities  
**COPY:** Charleen Jacobs, Director and Board Offices  
**FROM:** Chris Robinson, Power Superintendent/COO  
Scott Dewhirst, Water Superintendent/COO  
**MEETING DATE:** August 12, 2020  
**DATE:** July 31, 2020

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**SUMMARY:** Tacoma Public Utilities requests a resolution to adopt proposed revisions to the Tacoma Municipal Code, Title 12-Utilities. These revisions are essential for implementation of the Advanced Metering Infrastructure Project, provide clarity around demand meter billing for applicable electric meters, clarify physical disconnects related to unauthorized water usage, and include updates to TMC Chapter 12.06A for compliance with the 2020 edition of the National Electric Code.

**BACKGROUND:** Tacoma Public Utilities (TPU) plans to deploy Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) across its entire water and electric service territories, replacing or upgrading all non-communicating power and water meters with advanced two-way communicating technology. Advanced metering is a foundational element of Tacoma Public Utilities' Utility Modernization Strategy and will deliver customers new key benefits over time related to their power and water usage. Advanced metering technology will capture interval data, enable two-way communications, include remote capabilities, and provide advanced outage/issue detection, and verification. Advanced metering will modernize utility operations and be a cornerstone to deliver customers improved services and benefits.

As a transformative initiative, the Advanced Metering Project has and continues to require a significant effort across TPU to implement the new processes, applications, technologies, and integrations needed to fully enable the functions and features of the solution. As part of this initiative, TPU has reviewed existing utility policies, procedures, and practices for essential changes required to implement advanced metering or to make other essential updates as needed.

Proposed revisions to the Tacoma Municipal Code, Title 12-Utilities (attached, with explanatory comments) include removing four references in TMC Chapter 12.06 to a demand meter being reset monthly. This reflects the more accurate metering capabilities of advanced metering, which uses more granular interval data for billing calculations. In addition, numerous revisions within TMC Chapter 12.06A are proposed to update references and bring the code into compliance with the 2020 National Electric Code. Lastly, the proposed revision to 12.10.110 B adds specificity that unauthorized water use is describing a physically disconnected service. This proposed addition is required to account for the future state of advanced metering when a water meter will be virtually disconnected; turned off for billing purposes but left physically on in the field.



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**ARE THE EXPENDITURES AND REVENUES PLANNED AND BUDGETED?**

N/A.

**IF THE EXPENSE IS NOT BUDGETED, PLEASE EXPLAIN HOW THEY ARE 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?**

N/A.

**ATTACHMENTS:** Proposed Tacoma Municipal Code Revisions and Explanatory Comments

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