



APPROVED 3/23/22

MINUTES
City of Tacoma
Public Utility Board Study Session
March 9, 2022
5:00 p.m.

Chair Patterson called the Public Utility Board study session to order at 5:00 p.m. at the auditorium of the Public Utilities Administration Building.

Present: Mark Patterson, Christine Cooley, Carlos Watson, Holland Cohen, John O'Loughlin

Covid Protocols and Meeting Format

Courtney Rose, Emergency Manager, updated the Board on current Covid protocols. It is anticipated that the Governor will lift the state mask mandate on March 12. The City will be following the guidance from the local health jurisdiction and L&I. The State guidance does not change federal mask mandates as it relates to Rail and Fire.

Tom Morrill, Chief Deputy City Attorney, summarized the Board's meeting format. As of this meeting, the Board has reconvened its normal schedule of an afternoon study session followed by a regular business meeting in the evening. In accordance with Emergency Rule No. 5, the meeting format is now hybrid. For public comment during the evening meeting, the Board's Government Processes are in affect and no longer suspended, so public comment will be held at the beginning of the meeting for items not on the agenda and the public will also be provided an opportunity to comment on each item as it is considered by the Board.

Tacoma Power: Cushman Dam Valve Repair

Toby Brewer, Chief Dam Safety Manager, stated the Cushman Dam Valve Repair project is needed to replace the current system in a way that safely and economically meets dam safety, fish passage, and power management requirements. The low-level outlet valves are original to the dam built in 1924. The valve is unsafe to operate and piping upstream of the butterfly guard valve is severely corroded and leaking. A failure within the low-level outlet valve system could result in life and dam safety concerns. Mr. Brewer shared illustrations of the plan to replace the entire low-level outlet works and of the new valves for intake and piping controls. Mr. Brewer concluded by outlining the project schedule and status. The design consultants were hired in the fall of 2019.

Underwater video inspection and 60-percent design phase have been completed. One hundred percent design phase is expected in June 2022 along with a submittal to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for approval. Specifications, bidding, and procurement is expected in the fall of 2022. Installation of the temporary plug is expected in the fall of 2023 and installation of the new valve systems in 2024/2025. Board Members, Director Flowers, and Power Superintendent Robinson all expressed appreciation for the many contributions of Mr. Brewer to TPU as he plans to retire after 25 years of service; 10 of which as the Chief Dam Safety Engineer.

Adjournment

The study session was adjourned at 5:34 p.m. until the next regularly scheduled study session on Wednesday, March 23, 2022 at 3:00 p.m. followed by a regular meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Approved:



Mark Patterson, Chair

Carlos Watson, Secretary