



RESOLUTION NO. U-11159

1 A RESOLUTION related to increasing the funding for the Emergency
2 Assistance Program during the period of the state of emergency
3 declared by the City of Tacoma in response to COVID-19 in order to
4 allow more households to qualify for assistance.

5 WHEREAS effective December 22, 1982, the City of Tacoma,
6 Department of Public Utilities, pursuant to Board Resolution U-6645 created the
7 Project Need Program which would encourage Tacoma Power customers to
8 donate to a special fund to be used and applied for the benefit of assisting
9 eligible low income customers with Power bill payments; and

10 WHEREAS the City Council appropriated funding for the administration
11 of the Project Need Program, and

12 WHEREAS the Project Need Program was renamed the Family Need
13 Program and, ultimately, renamed the Bill Credit Assistance Program (BCAP),
14 and

15 WHEREAS subsequent to, and in addition to the funding appropriated by
16 the City Council and the ongoing donations from customers, the Tacoma Public
17 Utilities budgets have consistently funded the program now known as BCAP
18 through moneys in a fund for low income assistance and a fund for Water Utility
19 operations, and

20 WHEREAS as a result of the impacts of COVID-19 and the state of
21 emergency that has been declared to respond to COVID-19, it was anticipated
22 that more Tacoma Public Utilities customers may be in need of the utility credit
23 than is available through the existing the BCAP program, and



1 WHEREAS in response to the state of emergency that has been
2 declared to respond to COVID-19, a new Emergency Assistance Program
3 (“Program”) was created on March 17, 2020, pursuant to Second Amended
4 Resolution No. U-11149 and Res. No. 40575 with up to one million dollars of
5 the fund used for Power low income assistance and the fund used for Water
6 Utility operations, and
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8 WHEREAS the Director of Utilities was authorized to develop more
9 flexible eligibility criteria for the Program than the eligibility requirements for
10 BCAP, and
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12 WHEREAS it was estimated that changing the eligibility guidelines would
13 result in a significant number of additional households becoming potentially
14 eligible to be assisted through the Program in response to the state of
15 emergency, and
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17 WHEREAS the requests for assistance through the Program from TPU
18 customers have demonstrated a need for additional funding of the Program,
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21 WHEREAS TPU requests that an addition amount of up to one million
22 dollars of the fund used for Power low income assistance and the fund used for
23 Water Utility operations be added to the original one million dollars used to
24 create the Program, and
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26 WHEREAS TPU requests that in addition to supplementing the
Program’s funding with an extra one million dollars from the original funds, that



1 the Board recommend that the City Council approve the use of up to four
2 hundred thousand dollars of Environmental Services Department funds to
3 supplement the Program, and that the Council give the Director and the City
4 Manager authority to determine the appropriate allocation of moneys from the
5 different funds to ensure that an additional up to one million four hundred
6 thousand dollars may be added to the Program; Now, therefore,

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

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10 Section 1. That to allow for more households to qualify for assistance in
11 this time of emergency, the Public Utility Board of the City of Tacoma hereby
12 concurs and approves the recommendation for increasing the funding of the
13 Emergency Assistance Program in response to the state of emergency
14 declared by the City of Tacoma concerning COVID-19 with up to an additional
15 one million dollars of the fund used for Power low income assistance and the
16 fund used for Water Utility operations.
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18 Section 2. That the Board recommends that the City Council approve the
19 use of up to four hundred thousand dollars of Environmental Services
20 Department funds for the Program.
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22 Section 3. That the Board recommends that the City Council authorize
23 the Director of Utilities and the City Manager to determine the appropriate
24 allocation of moneys from the different identified funds to ensure that an
25 additional one million four hundred thousand dollars may be made available for
26 the Emergency Assistance Program.



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Section 4. That the Board finds that this Resolution is necessary, routine,
and consistent with Governor Inslee's emergency proclamation issued March
24, 2020, suspending portions of the Open Public Meetings Act.

Approved as to form:

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