



APPROVED 2/26/25

MINUTES  
City of Tacoma  
Public Utility Board Study Session  
February 12, 2025  
3:00 p.m.

Chair O’Loughlin called the Public Utility Board study session to order at 3:00 p.m. in the third-floor conference room (LT1) of the Public Utilities Administration Building.

**Present:** John O’Loughlin, William Bridges, Elly Claus-McGahan, Anita Gallagher

**Excused:** Carlos Watson

**Tacoma Water: Cascade Water Alliance Update**

Ray Hoffman, Cascade Water Alliance (CWA) CEO, made opening comments, provided the history of this partnership, and made positive remarks about CWA collaboration with Tacoma Water and the regional benefits. Sean Senescall, Water Division Manager, shared a map of this proposed future infrastructure and made positive remarks about this partnership as did Melina Thung, CWA Chief of Staff.

**Tacoma Water: Howard Hanson Dam Additional Water Storage**

Jeff Dillon, of the US Army Corp of Engineers (USACE), and Tacoma Water’s Carol Rhodes, presented the information in this presentation. TPU is a sponsor of the additional water storage project, a multi-purpose project for municipal and industrial water supply and ecosystem restoration. This project can benefit Puget Sound salmon and orca recovery without negatively impacting other user groups and supports recovery of Puget Sound fall chinook. It also provides increased municipal and industrial resiliency to the Puget Sound region. The project validation process and fish passage features were then summarized. A review of completed tasks in 2024 and anticipated completion in 2025 were reviewed; construction is scheduled to take place 2025 – 2030.

**Tacoma Streets Initiative II**

Mayor Woodards made opening remarks. Ramiro Chavez, Public Works Director, provided background on Tacoma Streets Initiative I, which voters approved in 2015 and funded street repair, maintenance, and safety improvements which focused on residential streets. The ballot language for Tacoma Streets Initiative II was reviewed. Goals include arterial improvements, repair/maintenance, pedestrian priority, and residential improvements. Funding mechanisms were summarized. This proposition will appear on the April 22, 2025, special election ballot.

### **Federal Legislative Update**

LaTasha Wortham, Deputy Director for Customer Experience and External Affairs, shared that the Board will be asked to vote on TPU's legislative priorities at the February 26 Board meeting. Ms. Wortham provided an overview of main topics at the federal level, including examining impacts of the President's budget cuts and layoffs of federal workers.

### **Board/Director Comments/Updates**

Joe Wilson, T&D Manager, and Val Sherman, Environmental Health and Safety Manager, reported on an incident that occurred on February 20. A pad-mounted transformer located behind the old Hobby Lobby building was vandalized and that vandalism resulted in mineral oil leaking. Site cleanup is continuing. Sheen on the Foss Waterway was reported and testing points to the oil coming from this incident; cleanup efforts on the water have been activated and the oil is completely contained at this time. The Department of Ecology is on site and are satisfied with Tacoma Power's response.

### **Adjournment**

The study session was adjourned at 5:22 p.m.

Approved:



John O'Loughlin  
Chair



Elly Claus-McGahan  
Secretary