



PUBLIC UTILITY BOARD POLICY

Category: Strategic Directive	Title: Government Relations
Date of Adoption:	Policy Number: SD-10
Resolution No.:	Reporting Frequency:
Revision Date:	Reporting Method:

I. Purpose

1. Tacoma Public Utilities (TPU) is committed to building and strengthening respectful and mutually-productive relationships with tribal, federal, state, and other local units of government in order for public policy to benefit TPU customers and to foster the outcomes set out in TPU’s Strategic Directives.

II. Values

1. TPU values the relationship it has with tribal, federal, state, and other local units of government.
2. TPU recognizes the sovereign status of Tribal Nations and is committed to consulting with those Nations on a government-to-government basis.
3. TPU will develop, preserve and enhance government-to-government relationships through building trust, being responsive, proactive communication of relevant information and services, and collaboration based on mutual interests.
4. TPU is committed to strong collaboration and proactive communication with the City of Tacoma’s General Government.
5. TPU is committed to working with tribal and local government partners to proactively share and communicate about TPU programs that benefit their communities.
6. TPU is committed to communicating and working with tribal and government partners near outlying TPU facilities and lands.

III. Outcomes

1. Ongoing government-to-government consultation with sovereign Tribal Nations will ensure long term stewardship of TPU managed resources in mutually beneficial ways.
2. TPU's policy initiatives are developed with the goal of alignment with the City of Tacoma's General Government. TPU and General Government staff collaborate and actively communicates on a regular basis to seek alignment. Where interests diverge, active communication and collaboration fosters understanding and mitigates negative impacts,
3. Policy decisions at the federal, state and local level protect the long-term investment that the residents of Tacoma and TPU customers have made in the infrastructure, operational capacity, financial stability and intellectual capital of TPU.
4. TPU is seen as a leader locally, regionally, and nationally in strategically developing policy positions and initiatives that benefit TPU, and the industries and communities in which it operates.
5. TPU's ongoing relationship with franchise cities ensures collaboration and smooth negotiation on franchise agreements and issues of mutual concern.
6. TPU will consistently engage in regular, proactive outreach with its government partners with the intention of listening, sharing relevant information, and identifying opportunities for collaboration when possible.
7. When full alignment is not possible, TPU will transparently acknowledge differences, communicate challenges and seek to maintain strong, trusting relationships with government partners.
8. TPU will endeavor to avoid litigation with other government entities, except where necessary to protect vital interests or to determine precedent, and seek solutions through negotiation.

IV. Measurement

1. TPU staff will internally track government relations activities, including necessary follow-up.
2. TPU staff will provide consistent updates to government partners regarding projects, rates, and programs and regularly seek feedback from government partners on the effectiveness of TPU's government relations efforts.
3. TPU staff will regularly provide the Public Utility Board, TPU executives, and staff with information about government relations activities and any potential recommended policy changes and/or impacts relating to a government partner.

V. Reporting

Frequency: Quarterly

1. Staff will report on active policy initiatives and significant policy issues at the Federal, state and local level to the Board on a quarterly basis.
2. Once before, once during, and once after the Washington State legislative session.

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