

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON  
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND  
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION,

Complainant,

v.

CASCADE NATURAL GAS  
CORPORATION,

Respondent.

DOCKETS UG-210755

THE ENERGY PROJECT  
PROPOSED BUDGET

1 Pursuant to RCW 80.28.430, the Washington Interim Participatory Funding Agreement (Funding Agreement) approved by the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission),<sup>1</sup> and Order 05 in this docket, The Energy Project (TEP) hereby submits its Proposed Budget for this matter, pursuant to Section 6.3 of the Funding Agreement.

**Statement of Work for Which Funding is Sought**

2 The Energy Project also intends to request a Fund Grant to offset the expense of retaining counsel to represent TEP on all matters related to its participation in this docket. TEP's focus in this proceeding is on the impacts to low-income and vulnerable customers of Cascade Natural Gas Corporation's (Cascade's) proposals in this docket.

**General Areas To Be Investigated**

3 Based on its review of Cascade's rate filing to date, TEP is investigating or may investigate all matters which have an impact on Cascade's low-income and vulnerable customers, including but not limited to the following: low-income assistance program funding and design, low-income weatherization, billing, credit and collection issues, arrearage management, COVID-19 impacts and costs, reporting requirements, and Cascade's revenue requirement. The Energy Project

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<sup>1</sup> Docket U-210595, Order 01 (February 24, 2022).

reserves the right to investigate and address additional issues not stated here as the case progresses.

**Specific Fund/Available Funds**

4 As stated in its Request for Case Certification and Notice of Intent to Request Fund Grant, TEP intends to request a Fund Grant from the Customer Representation Sub-Fund of the Customer Access Fund for Cascade.<sup>2</sup> At this time, TEP does not have information upon which to base an estimate of the amount of available funds in the account. Section 4.2 of the Funding Agreement provides for a Customer Representation Fund of \$177,008 for all parties for all Cascade proceedings in 2022. TEP is coordinating its request with the other case-certified parties as required under Article 6.6 of the IFA.

**Budget**

5 As reflected in Exhibit A attached hereto, TEP estimates its budget in this matter to consist of \$30,250 for attorney fees.

DATED: April 21, 2022

By: /s/ Yochanan Zakai  
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<sup>2</sup> See Funding Agreement § 4.2.

\* Mr. Zakai is not a member of the State Bar of California.

**EXHIBIT A**

**The Energy Project's Proposed Budget for UG-210755**

Personnel	Hours	Rate	Cost
<i>Attorney Fees</i> <sup>3</sup>			
Associate Attorney	70	\$275	\$19,250
Fellow	50	\$220	\$11,000
<b>Total Request</b>			<b>\$30,250</b>

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<sup>3</sup> Attorney fees do not represent Shute, Mihaly, and Weinberger LLP's market rates. In support of The Energy Project's representation of vulnerable populations and low-income customers, and the firm's commitment to equity, Shute, Mihaly, and Weinberger LLP represents The Energy Project at discounted rates.