

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION,

Complainant,

v.

CASCADE NATURAL GAS
CORPORATION,

,

Respondent.

DOCKET UG-240008

THE ENERGY PROJECT'S
PROPOSED BUDGET

1 Pursuant to RCW 80.28.430, the Washington Extended Interim Participatory Funding Agreement (Funding Agreement) approved by the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission),¹ The Energy Project (TEP) respectfully 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 TEP intends to request a Fund Grant to offset the expense of retaining counsel and expert witnesses to represent TEP in this docket. TEP's emphasis will be on the low-income and vulnerable customer impacts of Cascade's proposals in this docket. TEP expects to address performance-based ratemaking issues, including performance metrics.

General Areas to be Investigated

3 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 multiyear rate plan, low-income assistance program funding and design, low-income weatherization, billing, credit and collection issues, arrearage management, performance based regulation and performance measures, cost of service, rate spread, rate design, and the use of deferrals. The Energy Project

¹ Docket U-210595, Order 02 (February 9, 2023).

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. Section 4.2 of the Funding Agreement provides a Customer Representation Sub-Fund of \$177,008 for parties to all Cascade proceedings in 2024. At this time, TEP does not have definitive information upon which to base an estimate of the amount of available funds in the account. TEP believes that the Alliance for Western Energy Consumers and TEP intend to submit budgets for grants from Cascade’s 2024 Customer Representation Sub-Fund in this case. TEP is coordinating its request with the other case-certified parties as required under section 6.6 of the Funding Agreement.

Budget

5 As reflected in Exhibit A, TEP submits an \$70,000 estimated budget for its requested Fund Grants in this matter. This amount represents partial reimbursement of expenses and does not include hours for in-house or professional staff. TEP projects that its total expenses for this case will exceed the amounts stated.

DATED: June 14, 2024

By: /s/ Yochanan Zakai
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* Mr. Zakai is not a member of the State Bar of California.

EXHIBIT A

The Energy Project's Calendar Year 2024 Proposed Budget for UG-240008

Personnel	Estimate of Hours	Rate	Cost
<i>Attorney Fees²</i>			
Attorney	200	\$230-330	\$64,000
Paralegal	40	\$125-200	\$6,000
<i>Expert Consultant/Witness Fees</i>			
Total Request			\$70,000

This budget represents a partial reimbursement of expense; The Energy Project projects that its total expenses for this case will exceed the amounts stated.

² 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.