

## **Staff Report**

For City Council Meeting - 10/04/2017

Subject - New Business - Pacific Power request for support

Synopsis: Please see the attached email and example letter from Pacific Power.

**Recommendation:** The staff does not have any issues or concerns with supporting Pacific Power regarding this topic.

Legal Analysis:

**Financial Analysis:** 

**Proposed Motion:** I move that the council support Pacific Powers Integrated Resource Plan and that city staff and Pacific Power draft a letter of support for the Mayor to sign.

Respectfully submitted,

Chad

**Dunlap, Alisa** to Cam, Brett, Linda, me, mwinstanley@cityofseaside.us, Jason, Colleen, Bob Hi County and City Partners,

Sep 14

Pacific Power is currently working on our 2017 integrated resource plan (IRP). This document guides how our utility makes investments over the next several years. Currently, we are proposing a significant investment (\$3.5B) in new renewable energy resources. As part of our investment, we are looking to build new wind facilities, additional transmission capacity and also "repower" some of our existing wind facilities with upgraded technology that will increase energy output. Meanwhile, as you all received our rate pledge letter in the spring, we are making these investments without requesting a general rate case. These investments are the most economic investments for our customers (cheaper than adding gas plants, making market purchases, or other options).

We are asking our communities to help support us at the Public Utility Commission. By supporting us, communities are also taking a step to realize your own vision of increased renewable energy by your utility. In speaking with most of you about the North Coast Blue Sky challenge I know that each of your jurisdictions cares about supporting renewable energy. You may be wondering why are we doing this now? We are working hard on increasing our renewable portfolio now to take advantage of the time-limited federal tax credits that are set to expire in 2020. For a reference point, I have attached a letter sent jointly by Multnomah County and the City of Portland. We are happy to assist in drafting a similar letter if you are interested in supporting us.

We know the North Coast supports renewable energy. We can see it through the commitment by your cities and the county to the North Coast Blue Sky Challenge. A quick update on the challenge, our goal was 500 new participants and as of August we had reached over 600 participants AND Clatsop County now qualifies for the EPA Green Power Community designation. Clatsop County will be the first county in Oregon and only the second nationwide to achieve this designation. The County has also won the challenge prize of a 1kw solar installation, location is TBD.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Best, Alisa

Alisa M. Dunlap
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Jessica Vega Pederson

Multnomah County Commissioner

Commission Chair Lisa Hardie Commissioner Stephen Bloom Commissioner Megan Decker

Public Utility Commission of Oregon PO BOX 1088 Salem, OR 97308

Dear Commissioners,



Office of Mayor Ted Wheeler

City of Portland

Multnomah County and the City of Portland are aware that you are currently considering PacifiCorp's 2017 Integrated Resource Plan (IRP), particularly the proposed investment of approximately \$3.5 billion in new renewable energy resources. Respectfully, the County and City request that you consider acknowledgement of this element of PacifiCorp's IRP.

There is no denying that the climate is changing in dramatic and costly ways, and that the primary driver of this change is human emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases (GHG). Every year we continue to pump GHG into our atmosphere, the crisis grows, and the costs of adaptation increase. In order to prevent the most devastating possible impacts, it is critical that our society act swiftly to transition to a renewable energy future.

Our residents are experiencing the negative impacts of climate change. That is why in June of this year, the County and City jointly committed to transitioning our community to 100 percent renewable electricity by 2035, and 100 percent renewable energy across our economy by 2050. Multnomah County ratepayers want to see decisive action taken to combat climate change and eliminate our reliance on fossil fuels as soon as possible. Our utility partners - and the sources of the energy they supply - are critical to that effort. PacifiCorp's desire to act early to secure renewable resources is commendable. It shows a level of responsiveness to the message they are hearing from their customers, and it shows they recognize the part they must play in contributing to the fight against climate change.

We acknowledge the Public Utility Commission's role in balancing multiple interests. It is our duty as community leaders to advocate for the policy objectives of those who call Multnomah County and Portland home. As we have made clear in our joint resolution, and as the state legislature made clear with the Clean Electricity and Coal Transition Act, Oregonians want decisive action to transition to a renewable energy future. Your support of this element of PacifiCorp's IRP is a valuable contribution to that effort.

Sincerely,

Jessica Vega Pederson

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**Multnomah County Commissioner** 

Ted Wheeler Mayor of Portland