



CITY LIGHT REVIEW PANEL MEETING

Wednesday, June 18, 2025

9:00 – 11:00 A.M.

In Person - SMT

—or—

Microsoft Teams Meeting

Proposed Agenda

<u>Item</u>	<u>Lead</u>
1. Welcome (5 min.)	Julie Ryan, Facilitator
2. Public Comment (5 min.)	
3. Standing Items: (5 min.)	
a. Chair's Report (Leo Lam)	
b. Review of agenda (Julie Ryan)	
c. Action: Review and approval of meeting minutes of May 21, 2025	
d. Communications to Panel (Leigh Barreca)	
4. General Manager Update (30 min.)	Dawn Lindell
5. Legislative Update (30 min.)	Maura Brueger & Cierra Holland
6. Large Load Policy (30 min.)	Kirsty Grainger, Susan Gunn, and Jeff Wolf
7. 10 Year Strategic Roadmap Update (15 min.)	Angela Bertrand
8. Adjourn	

Next meeting: July 16

Draft Agenda Items: Clean Energy Implementation Plan



City Light Review Panel Meeting Meeting Minutes

Date of Meeting: May 21, 2025 | 9:00 – 11:00 AM
Meeting held in SMT 3204 and via Microsoft Teams

MEETING ATTENDANCE					
Panel Members:					
Leo Lam	√	Thien-Di Do	√	Oksana Savolyuk	
Joel Paisner		Ryan Monson	√	Bruce Flory	√
Kerry Meade	√	Toyin Olowu	√	Louis Ernst	√
Dawn Lindell (GM)		Leigh Barreca	√	Julie Ryan (Consultant /RP Facilitator)	√
Mike Haynes	√	Andrew Strong	√	Craig Smith	
Kirsty Grainger	√	DaVonna Johnson		Maura Brueger	√
Julie Moore	√	Chris Ruffini	√	Angela Bertrand	√
Greg Shiring	√	Carsten Croff		Brian Taubeneck	
Eric McConaghy	√	Caia Caldwell		Bridget Molina	√
Jeff Wolf		Karin Estby	√	Brittney Garcia Stubbs	√
Siobhan Doherty	√	Hina Arai	√	Tanya Panomvana	√
James Vrow – Public	√	Austin Brown – Public	√	Adam Day – Public	√

Welcome and Introductions. The meeting was called to order at 9:02 a.m.

Public Comment. There was no public comment.

Standing Items:

Chair's Report. Leo Lam welcomed everyone and opened the meeting.

Review Agenda. Julie Ryan reviewed the agenda.

Approval of April 16, 2025, Meeting Minutes. Minutes were approved.

Communications to Panel.

- Leigh Barreca is the new Chief of Staff for Seattle City Light.
- Angela Bertrand & Bridget Molina will now handle the Review Panel coordination.
- Louis Ernst was approved by the city council.
- Greg Shiring is retiring in June 2025 after serving as the Review Panel liaison for the past ten years. His replacement will be introduced at next meeting.

General Manager's Update. Chief of Staff Leigh Barreca presented.



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1. Network follow-up

In response to the Network investigation and findings, we have begun some actions to clarify expectations and to begin reshaping City Light's workplace culture.

1. **Safety standdown** – A few weeks ago we held a mandatory "Safety Stand Down" for all employees in operations at all our facilities. The stand-down was focused on safety, particularly about the hazards associated with alcohol in the workplace. Crews heard from me, our People & Culture Officer, DaVonna Johnson, our Director of Safety, Charlotte Dorrity, and Rob Santoff, our T&D Operations Director, who has leadership of the Network crews. This first part was held as a Teams meeting followed by smaller group break-out sessions where supervisors led culture discussions. The smaller groups had an open discussion and some of the discussion was prompted with questions like- what do you want your culture to look like? What do you enjoy about your culture?
2. **Network Crew specific actions** - The Network group is working with a leadership consulting group to provide crews with training aimed at increasing transparency, accountability and making the changes needed to prevent future misconduct
3. **FAQ and hub site** - We launched an internal website that includes the FAQs resulting from employee meetings about the investigation as well as other resources available to employees.
4. **Monday Messages** – We have kicked off a 3-month series of weekly, all employee messages related to creating a positive workplace culture. These messages will be authored by members of the executive team, SCL officers, and will focus on topics such as the values of teamwork, continuous improvement, peer coaching & mentorship, and cross-departmental collaboration.
5. **Team culture discussions** – We have asked supervisors and managers to meet with their teams in May and June to define the characteristics of the culture that they seek to establish and practice. A framework for leading these discussions has been provided on our internal web site. This work will ultimately lead to the development of culture statements and a revision of our current SCL value statements.

In today's fast-changing world of work, a thriving organizational culture isn't just a nice-to-have—it's essential. Companies that invest in their culture see higher engagement, lower turnover, stronger collaboration, and better performance. But one common mistake organizations make is trying to mandate culture change from the top down. While leadership plays a key role, lasting and authentic culture transformation usually starts at the ground level.

Staff might wonder: *How can I help change the organization if I'm not in charge?* It's true—they can't control the behaviors of people you don't directly work with. But they can shape the environment around them.

Simon Sinek, a well-known author and speaker on leadership, talks about how teams can



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create “pockets of magic” within an organization—spaces where people feel safe, supported, and inspired. These pockets of magic tend to spread as people move between teams, collaborate across divisions, and model what’s possible. You can explore more of his insights here: [Simon Sinek – Pockets of Magic](#). This is part of the messaging that we are sharing with all employees as we work to make positive changes to workplace culture for us all.

2. City Light in the Community

- a. On Wednesday, May 14, City Light hosted four members of the regional media community at the Skagit Hydroelectric project. Representatives from Seattle Times, News Data, and Cascadia Daily joined Director of Natural Resources and Licensing Chris Townsend and Media Relations Manager Jenn Strang for a tour of the project’s environmental and operations assets while discussing the dam relicensing and the utility’s plans for the future. No stories are expected immediately but will likely follow the settlement agreements have been finalized.
- b. Director of Transmission & Distribution Field Operations Rich Johnson spoke with David Kroman, Seattle Times, earlier this week about streetlights. David reached out after hearing CM Rinck mention streetlights during a Council briefing where they were discussing public safety and a recent shooting in West Seattle. We provided him with reports for 2022-2024 and 2025 YTD that show overall numbers of streetlight tickets opened and closed per month. Rich talked through how we triage and prioritize repairs, challenges we’ve seen (e.g., copper theft), and our strategy for reducing the backlog of tickets. David did not have plans for an immediate story.
- c. Dawn joined SPD Chief Barnes, CPSO Walton-Anderson, and Parks Superintendent AP Diaz on a panel at CM Saka’s Community Safety Forum Townhall in West Seattle on Wednesday, May 14th. She shared our plans to upgrade existing residential-grade streetlights on SW Brandon Street between 26th Ave SW and 30th Ave SW. These targeted upgrades involve installing 10’ longer bracket arms with higher-output collector arterial-grade luminaires (135W LEDs vs. 52W LEDs), designed to significantly improve nighttime visibility in this residential stretch. Work should begin on June 2 with tree trimming and then installation of the bracket arms and lights should be completed between June 9-13

Links –

https://www.newsdata.com/clearing_up/environment/settlement-to-relicense-skagit-river-projects-expected-soon/article_06f8caac-d230-457b-99f8-dc09cc529ba4.html

<https://westseattleblog.com/2025/05/speeches-promises-frustration-at-community-safety-forum-for-north-delridge-high-point-snake-hill/>

Service Connection Updates. Andy Strong and Hina Arai presented. Materials are in the packet.

Engineering Updates.



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Q: What are ESR's?

A: "ESR" is our acronym for Electric Service Representative.

Q: If the goal is to create more housing, are there going to be additional resources allocated to Seattle City Light?

A: The Pilot has improved the accuracy and quality of those submitted requests, which shortens the time needed to respond to them. In addition, for the short term, we are moving resources around to address the backlog. We are offering overtime for all eligible engineers, irrespective of their focus areas. For example, we are asking some system engineers, some network engineers etc. to assist us in bringing down the backlog via overtime work. And then we hope to get additional resources down the road as well.

Early Design Guidance.

Q: Given the current backlog and lack of upfront information, how will you cut time?

A: Having information early helps developers plan and be prepared and that will bring down the timeline.

Q: Does the developer receive conflicting information from different city departments?

A: Yes, however, we are getting better at coordinating. Early plan reviews are helping identify inconsistencies sooner. While no system is perfect, we continue to refine our processes.

10 Year Roadmap Updates. Angela Bertrand presented. Materials are in the packet.

Q: This approach looks better than the earlier draft to be "to best in the Nation".

A: We have looked at a few different options here. We landed on American Public Power Association (APPA) because it's nationwide. This covers 324 utilities, giving us the best combination of a broad, nationwide ranking while balancing what information we have access to and variation in the industry.

Q: Are our current outage statistics worse than the national average, but better than the western average? Does the western region have more trees and less dense service territory than the east?

A: Yes, that is correct.

Q: What are the stars indicating in the graphic?

A: These represent Dawn Lindell's top 12 priorities. She will share more about her top priorities with the Review Panel at next month's meeting.

Q: Just to clarify, does the Focus Area in Customers apply to both residential and business customers?



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A: Yes, it applies to both.

Q: Does the Customer focus area include EV chargers and home energy. Was there any discussion about customer side batteries?

A: Yes, demand side resources, including batteries, are included in the Power Supply focus area as “inside the meter” strategies.

June Agenda. In June we will have an update on the Clean Energy Implementation Plan, an update on the 2025 legislative session, and continue the topic of 10 Year Roadmap.

Adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

Next meeting: June 16, 2025, 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

2025 Washington Legislative Session Summary

Presenters:

Cierra Holland, Strategic Advisor

Maura Brueger, Director of Government & Legislative Affairs

State Legislative Session Overview



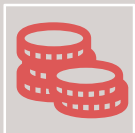
105-day session concluded April 27, 2025



2,535 bills introduced, 432 passed



SCL reviewed & tracked 158 bills and 43 SCL staff participation in bill reviews



Historic tax package and energy/climate milestones

City Light Top Priority Bills – 2025 Wins



SHB 1253 – Enables joint use agreements for distributed energy resources & transmission access



EHB 1329 – Clarifies Clean Energy Transformation Act compliance for BPA energy purchases



2SHB 1409 – Expands WA Clean Fuels Program: boosts credit revenue & transparency

Key Themes of Bills Reviewed by City Light



Clean energy & decarbonization: CFP, CCA, DER acceleration



Infrastructure safety: wildfire, excavation, refrigerants



Affordability: rent caps, connection fee relief, building policy



Unpassed bills forecast future pushes in solar, storage, transmission

Clean Energy & Climate Policy Bills

- 2SHB 1409 – Clean Fuels Program reform (SCL credit upside)
- 2SHB 1975 – Climate Commitment Act (CCA): auction guardrails, market linkage rules
- SB 5036 – Annual statewide Green House Gas (GHG) reporting required



Distributed Energy & Grid Expansion Bills

- SHB 1253 – Joint use for Distributed Energy Resource (DER) and transmission access
- ESSB 5445 – DER priority siting + State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) exemption
- E2SSB 5175 – Solar panel stewardship rules expanded



Transportation Electrification Bills

- SSB 5528 – Certified Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Training Program (EVITP) for state & public works Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment (EVSE) installs
- SHB 2077 – 'Tesla tax' on Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV) credit sales
- EV rebate program expired October 2024 – funding not extended



Safety & Resilience Bills



ESHB 1522 – Wildfire plans required Investor-Owned Utilities (IOUs)



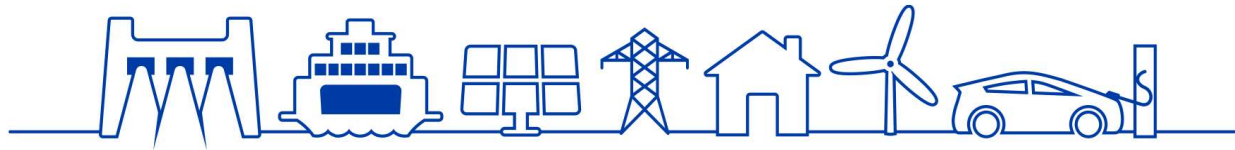
SHB 1539 – Consumer-Owned Utilities (COUs) included in wildfire standards workgroup



ESSB 5627 – Dig Law enforcement strengthened

Operations & Public Works Bills

- EHB 1461 – Streamlines Joint Operating Agreement (JOA) procurement
- 2SHB 1462 – Hydrofluorocarbons (HFC) refrigerant phase-down timeline
- HB 1633 – Requires subcontractor disclosure at bid time for public works projects
- SHB 1967 – Waives bonding for design-only phases for public works projects



Housing and Affordability Bills

- HB 1217 – Rent increase cap (7% + Consumer Price Index (CPI))
- SHB 1543 – Clean buildings compliance relief
- 2SHB 1788 – Workers' comp payment updates
- ESB 5662 – Allows City of Spokane to waive utility connection fees



State Two-Year Budget Recap

- Clean Energy Fund: \$26M (grants/innovation)
- Operating Budget: \$77.9B (B&O and capital gains revenue expanded)
- Capital Budget: \$7.6B including \$2B for natural resources



Unsuccessful 2025 Bills – Might be back in 2026



HB 1804 – Would expand access to community solar



2SHB 1847 – Would require distributed energy targets



2SHB 1871 – Proposed residential energy storage incentives



2SHB 1303 – Would expand environmental justice requirements



ESSB 5466 – Proposed transmission corridor planning & permitting reform



ESHB 1819 – Proposed expanded siting authority for transmission projects

Next Steps for City Light's State Relations

1

Hire & onboard new
State Government
Relations Manager

2

Coordinate with teams on
implementation &/or
rule-making for new laws

3

Develop 2026 state
legislative priorities to
submit to the City's Office
of Intergovernmental
Relations by mid -August

4

Participate in committee
work session, schedule
tours & briefings with
legislators. Collaborate
with peer utilities, trade
associations & coalitions

THANK YOU



Seattle City Light



New Large Load Policy Ordinance

Review Panel Meeting
June 18, 2025



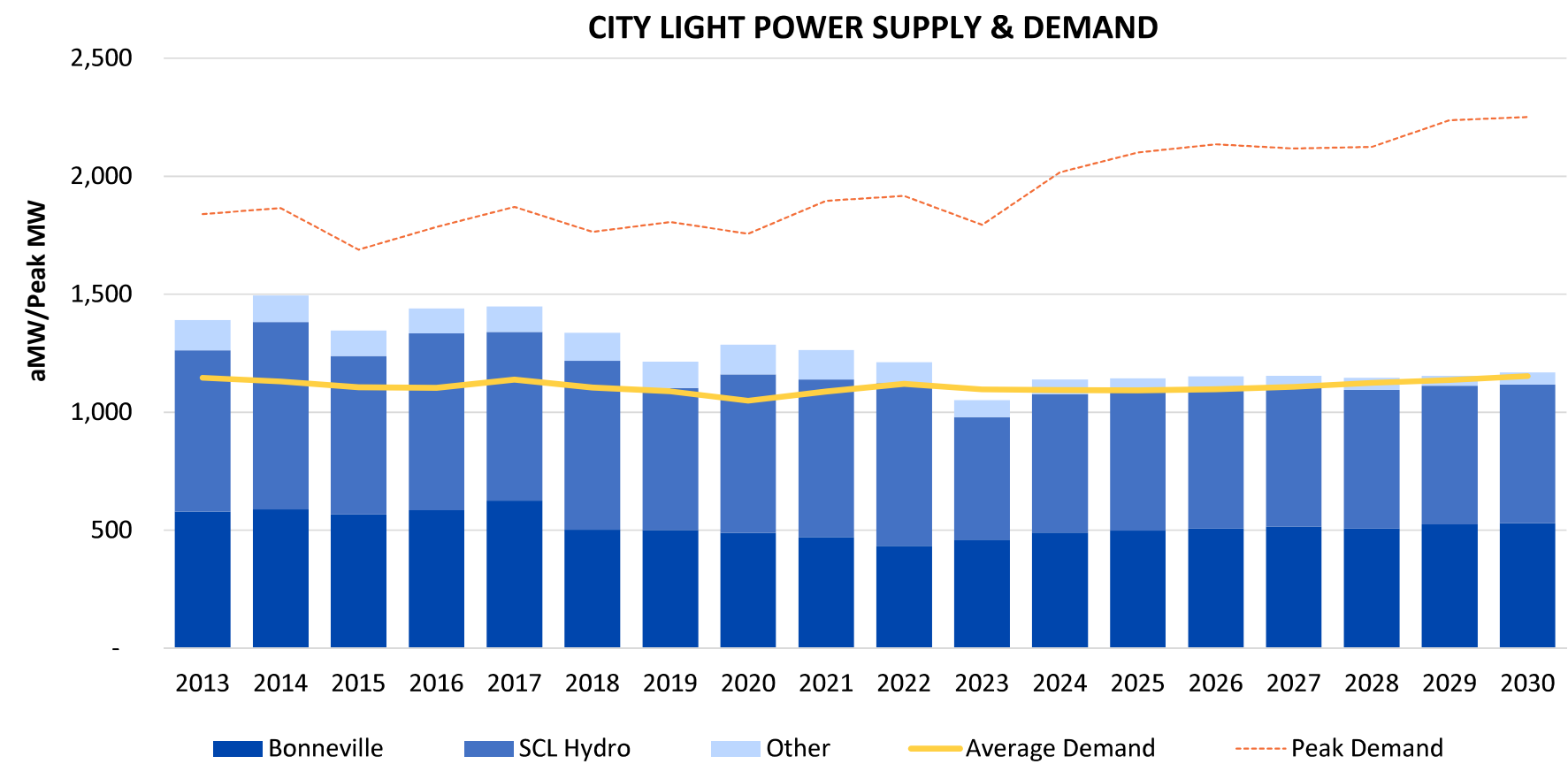
Seattle City Light

WE POWER SEATTLE

Purpose of Ordinance

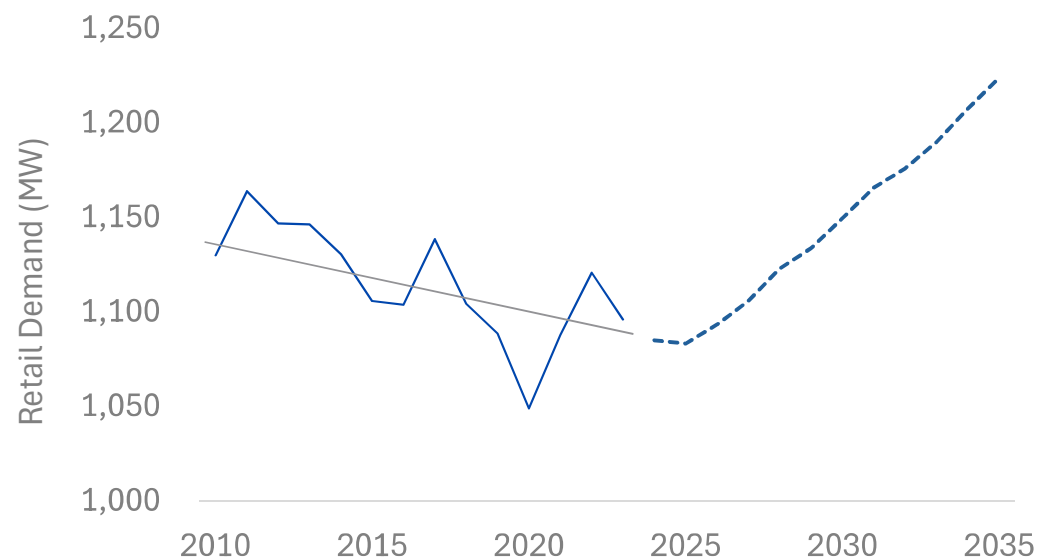
- Establishes a new rate class for **New Large Load (NLL)**
- An NLL is a new or existing customer adding
 - electric service of **10 megavolt-amperes (MVA)** or
 - demand of **10 MW** (megawatts)
- 10 MVA/MW is equivalent to about **2,000 homes**

Supply and Demand



What has changed?

- Steady growth in demand expected from new homes, businesses, electric vehicles, AC/heat pumps, etc.
- Emergent added demand for data processing and major electrification efforts
- Large rise in new large interconnection inquiries last year
 - 2002-2023: **0**
 - 2024: **11**



Grant County PUD Example

- Low electricity rates and ample real estate, attracting tech load for over 20 years.
- New large customers cannot access same rates as local, established customers.
 - **“New Large Load”** rate based on max of regular industrial rate or Mid-C market price
 - **“Evolving Industry”** (for crypto miners) rate is even higher
- New large customers placed in queue and must pay upfront for infrastructure upgrades.

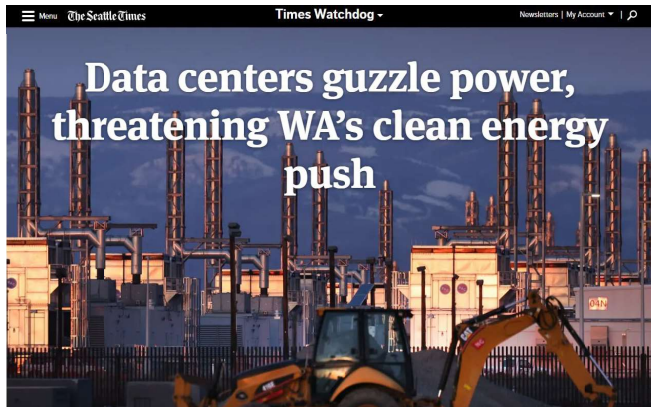


Photo credit: Seattle Times

Tacoma Power Example

- Tacoma Power introduced NLL rate class (2020) and VLL rate class (2024) in response to a rise in interconnection requests
 - **New Large Load (NLL)** rate applies to 8-10 aMW additions. Separate rate schedule, requirements, and penalties for over-run
 - **Very Large Load (VLL)** rate for 10 aMW+ additions. It requires all NLL provisions plus customer pays all costs for new power purchase agreement (PPA)
- NLL/VLL customer **pays all infrastructure costs upfront**, including substation

Rising Demand is an Emergent Industry-Wide Issue



LPPC Op-ed: Growing Demand for Electricity Requires New Policy Solutions

March 11, 2025

News Mentions

Generation

Infrastructure

LPPC CEO

CONSUMER Data centers, not homeowners, fueling Arizona's steep energy demand

Many experts worry residential customers are vulnerable to shouldering costs incurred by data centers.

"...political leaders who wanted economic growth ... from **these data centers** are now realizing **it can come at a cost** of increased customer bills."

ENERGYWIRE

State lawmakers grapple with energy demand for data centers

By Jason Plautz, Jeffrey Tomich | 03/03/2025 06:54 AM EST

Legislation from Texas to Georgia could impose fees and rules to safeguard the electric grid and keep a lid on household utility bills.

South Carolina DAILY GAZETTE

CRIMINAL JUSTICE ECONOMY EDUCATION ENVIRONMENT & HEALTH STATEHOUSE

COMMENTARY

SC can prevent data centers from increasing power bills

TOM ERVIN

APRIL 15, 2025 11:14 AM

Twitter X Facebook LinkedIn Email Print



NLL Policy at Public Power Neighbors

Utility	Threshold	Pay for Upgrades?	Terms	Other Large Load Rates
Tacoma	10 aMW+	Yes	Rate based on PPA, move to regular schedule after 10 years	• Large Load for 8-10 MW
Snohomish	10 aMW+	Yes	Contract rates likely based on PPA	
Grant County	10 aMW+	Yes	Max of regular rate+5% or market	• "Evolving Industry"
Chelan County	5 aMW+	Yes	Rates based on contract with customer, upfront capital charge at cost	• "High Density Load" • "Data Center & Similar Loads"
Phoenix (SRP)	20 MW+	Yes	Large upfront CIAC fee, high demand charge	
Austin	20 MW+	Yes	CIAC 100% upfront costs, High Load Factor may be market based	• 3-20MW, "High Load Factor" rates

Proposed NLL Rate Policy

- Applies to any new load larger than **10 MVA** or growth of **10 MW+**
- Customer signs a **Power Service Agreement** with SCL:
 - Upfront payment of all costs of building new infrastructure
 - New Power Purchase Agreements (PPA) to meet customer's need
 - Customer is held responsible for all costs until the expiration of the PPA
- Customer's billed rates are based on **marginal cost to serve their new load**
- Customer **waits in queue** until SCL sources power (PPA) to serve new load and completes interconnection requirements

New load growth can be beneficial or detrimental

Good policy enables...

- **Partnership** with customers in planning for Seattle's energy future
- **Protection** for all ratepayers against financial and reliability risks

And avoids...

- **Unfair shifting of costs** from new growth to other residents/businesses



THANK YOU



Seattle City Light