



**City Light Review Panel Meeting  
Meeting Minutes**

**Date of Meeting: November 22, 2021 | 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM**  
**| Meeting held via Microsoft Teams “Final”**

<b>MEETING ATTENDANCE</b>					
<b>Panel Members:</b>					
<b>Names</b>		<b>Name</b>		<b>Name</b>	
Anne Ayre		Leo Lam	√	John Putz	√
Mikel Hansen	√	Kerry Meade	√	Tim Skeel	√
Scott Haskins	√	Joel Paisner	√		
<b>Staff and Others:</b>					
Debra Smith	√	Jen Chan		Karen Reed (Consultant /RP Facilitator)	√
Kirsty Grainger	√	Mike Haynes	√	Craig Smith	√
Jim Baggs		DaVonna Johnson		Michelle Vargo	√
Kalyana Kakani	√	Emeka Anyanwu		Maura Brueger	√
Julie Moore	√	Chris Ruffini	√	Chris Tantoco	√
Greg Shiring	√	Carsten Croff		Leigh Barreca	√
Eric McConaghy	√	Toby Thaler	√	Angela Bertrand	√
Robert Cromwell	√	Paul Nissley	√	Cierra Holland Purcell	√
Brian Taubeneck	√	Catherine Morrison (guest)	√	Samantha Stork (guest)	√
Jennifer Finnigan	√				

**Welcome.** The meeting was called to order at 10:02 a.m.

**Public Comment.** There was no public comment.

**Standing Items:**

**Review Agenda.** Karen Reed reviewed the agenda.

**Approval of October 26, 2021 Meeting Minutes.** Minutes were approved as presented

**Chair’s Report.** Karen provided the panel with an overview of Panel roles and responsibilities as defined by ordinance.

**Communications to Panel.** There were no communiques to the panel.

**Panel Member Recruitment.** Leigh Barreca reported that she has contacted an individual working for the Atlantic Street Center-- a Seattle non-profit social service agency that serves children and families—who may be interested in applying for the Low-Income Advocate position on the Panel. Leigh is scheduling time to meet with this person; she thanked Scott Haskins for the



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referral to this individual.

**General Manager's update.** Debra Smith presented.

- Skagit Dam Relicensing –
  - Packet includes an open letter to Skagit partners. The goal of the letter was to reiterate our commitments to doing what is right for the environment and the people of the region impacted by our relicensing process.
  
- Council Legislation -
  - RSA (Rate Stabilization Account) legislation is going before City Council in December to request at transfer of funds into our RSA account. This action is designed to prevent a rate surcharge from going into effect in 2022.
  - A number of other proposals will be before Council in December. Maura Brueger shared what is coming up.
    - The Conservation Potential Assessment which sets our conservation targets for 2022 and 2023.
    - A property transfer to the Parks Department near the Georgetown Flume for the creation of a dog park. This will be done as the public benefit requirement associated with a street vacation request.
  
- Renewable Hydrogen Study –
  - There is an article in the packet about SCL's Renewable Hydrogen Study. A lot of exciting work is being done and we are grateful to work with our regional partners on this effort.
  
- Covid Update and Return to Office –
  - We have roughly 17 people who have separated/intend to, and 11 that intend to retire. We believe some of these folks would have separated regardless of the vaccination policy.
  - Of the exemptions we have moved through, we have 8 temporary accommodations that expire on January 19, 2022 – this gives the employees extra time to make decisions regarding their vaccination and work status. Many of the folks who have left/are leaving are in operations.
  - 1,588 employees have been fully vaccinated with 7 who are in process.
  - We have not identified *any* positions that can be completed entirely remotely.
  
- Emergency Assistance Programs
  - We made changes to our assistance program (ELIA – Emergency Low Income Assistance) during COVID--- we increased the benefit to \$500 and removed the requirement to have children in the household for a second payment. These changes will stay in place through 2022. We also removed the requirement for customers to have received a disconnect notice in order to qualify for these funds. This program is an important component of our Road to Recovery work. These changes are consistent with the SPU program guidelines.
  - Some of the federal rental assistance money the City received was directly allocated to City Light. We have applied nearly \$1M directly to offset customer bills.



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- City Light is doing both an internal & external campaign for Project Share. This is a donation fund anyone can donate to, but it was challenging to donate to in the past. Earlier this year we added a credit card option to collect donations. Ten thousand dollars is already committed; some folks have added recurring donations in their bills. The utility has paid social media spots, including on KUOW. Our internal campaign has a goal of \$12,500 – we achieved 10% of the goal on the 1<sup>st</sup> day!
  - Staff will bring update stats in December.
  - \$3,645 has been contribute by City Light employees to date.
- Long Term Debt Planning
  - The past two months the Panel has had presentations on long- term debt planning. Given that this is a role and responsibility of this group, we plan to continue this discussion at the conclusion of the next strategic planning cycle. We would like to see the work that City Light is doing be reflected in and consistent with the Review Panel work plan.

### **Clean Energy Transformation Act (CETA) compliance.**

Robert Cromwell presented. The presentation is in the Review Panel packet.

**Q:** In the 90% mix that is considered clean, what energy sources are considered clean? **A:** There are different definitions. For I-937 it included biomass, landfill gas, and renewable things – not hydro. For CETA, hydro is included as ‘non-emitting’. The two statutes overlap, giving us different views. This will bring on new wind and solar options in the coming years.

**Q:** On the RTO (Regional Transmission Organization) topic, what is developing? What do you predict will happen? **A:** I would give a 90% chance that something will happen. I can’t predict if CAISO (California Independent System Operator) will expand beyond California. If CAISO doesn’t take action, the SPP (Southwest Power Pool) is likely to grow and serve the rest of the west. I would give a low probability for an independent RTO.

- Debra’s comment: SCL is all in on this. We are very involved and would be happy to brief you on progress. Jim Baggs is leading that effort.

**Q:** There are resource adequacy concerns coming up in the short to mid-term. How will SCL manage that? Are you making purchases or building new facilities? If you are building things, is it just wind and solar? **A:** The idea of resource adequacy is that we have the resources needed to meet a customer need throughout the year (including weather events.) Our resource planning team has identified summer and winter peak needs. We will need to bring on additional resources to meet those expected needs. As a hydro utility, most of our power is generated in Q2. We manage this by selling excess in Q2 and buying throughout the remainder of the year. We’ll need to buy additional power to meet customer needs.

**Q:** How hard will it be to find those resources? **A:** I expect it will be easy to identify the resources, but difficult to acquire transmission of that resource to our load. This is driving the need for the regional transmission operator.



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### Strategic Planning

Leigh presented a summary of the 2022 – 2026 Strategic Plan in preparation for 2023 – 2028 planning. Karen led the panel through a discussion of possible modifications to the current Business Strategies, project, initiatives, and activities identified in the 2022 plan.

#### Panel Member Comments:

- Debt strategy and rate design
- Encouraging economic development is on my mind – how can we encourage green development?
- Regional approach: working with PSE was great news
- Impressed with dashboards
- Interested in learning about the We Power portion of the plan.
- Agree the Panel should align its work with the work plan of the utility.
- Debt strategy remains a priority.
- AMI – how can we further leverage the technology and really make use of this information. What are the next steps in deployment?
- Continuation of what's being done – particularly electrification
- Is there a way, in light of cost of service & debt, encourage customers to participate more in cost signals, e.g. installation of batteries or electrification of buildings to manage rates?
- Debt and rates challenge
- Preparing for green energy and clean energy requirements coming our way. Teaming up with peers will be a necessity.
- Attention to rigorous decision-making processing—evaluating risk and the cost/benefit to customers. Balance value to customers with risks.
- Would like to know more about the City Light organization, including what is on the General Manager's work plan, including understanding debt policy and how that is working, who are our regional partners, what metrics are we using, what are our targets for performance
- Understanding the plan for Distribution Energy Resources Management (DEM)
- Looks good. Most interested in customer experience and clean energy future business strategies and how they come together.

Eric McConaghy, Council Committee staff, offered items on which he anticipates continued Council interest: rates and rate path, adjusting the RSA to prevent bill surcharges, the move back to regular billing and shut-off practices and how these are communicated to customers. Eric is also interested in using census and other data to understand more about our customers.

### Data Tools for Management

Angela Bertrand presented. The presentation is in the Review Panel packet.

**Adjourn:** Meeting adjourned at 12:04.

**Next meeting:** December 13, 2021.