

# PORTLAND UTILITY BOARD

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To: Mayor Ted Wheeler, Commissioner Mingus Mapps, Commissioner Carmen Rubio, Commissioner Dan Ryan, Commissioner Rene Gonzalez, Auditor Simone Rede

Cc: Dawn Uchiyama, Farshad Allahdadi, Anthony Martin, Aaron Abrams, Tim Grewe

Re: PUB Support for BES Rate Study Recommendations

Date: October 31, 2023

The Portland Utility Board (PUB) serves as a community advisory board for the Bureau of Environmental Services (BES) and the Portland Water Bureau (PWB). Please accept this letter of support from the PUB for the BES Rate Study Recommendations planned for Council consideration on November 8, 2023.

Over the past several years, the PUB has engaged with BES staff and consultants regarding the sewer and stormwater rate study to understand challenges and share feedback at each stage in the project. In July 2019, BES provided board members with an overview of sewer and stormwater rates, priorities for the rate study and a project plan. In July 2021, BES provided an update on the Rate Study including Phase I due diligence and environmental scan and Phase II planned outputs and progress. In April 2022, BES shared a preliminary report regarding the Rate Study results and received feedback from Board members. In April 2023, the PUB engaged with BES in a technical discussion and feedback session regarding preliminary recommendations.

Finally at the PUB's October 3, 2023 Board meeting, BES returned to provide a summary of feedback received and presented the final Rate Study Recommendations. The PUB centers equity in our considerations and recognizes the value of ensuring that costs are recovered in proportion to the demands on the system. The Board has advocated for and is supportive of the more equitable tiered rate approach proposed. The Board commends BES' work to balance the impacts on all Portlanders with the bureau's capacity to implement cost effective changes. The PUB unanimously supported the final Rate Study Recommendations and wished to document that support in this letter.

The PUB greatly appreciates your consideration of these comments and looks forward to continuing to work with you during the annual utility rate setting process.