

MINUTES

WATER BOARD PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED NEW COST OF POWER ADJUSTMENT CLAUSE

October 26, 2021

Via Zoom/Host Location: Department of Water Supply, 345 Kekūanaō‘a Street, Suite 20, Hilo, HI

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. William Boswell, Jr., Chairperson
Mr. Eric Scicchitano, Vice-Chairperson
Mr. Michael Bell
Mr. David De Luz, Jr.
Mr. Steven Hiramami
Ms. Julie Hugo
Mr. Benjamin Ney (9:46 a.m.)
Mr. Keith K. Okamoto, Manager-Chief Engineer, Department of Water Supply
(ex-officio member)

ABSENT: Mr. Kenneth Sugai, Water Board Member

OTHERS PRESENT: Ms. Diana Mellon-Lacey, Deputy Corporation Counsel

Department of Water Supply Staff

Mr. Kawika Uyehara, Deputy
Ms. Candace Gray, Waterworks Controller
Mr. Kurt Inaba, Engineering Division Head
Mr. Warren Ching, Energy Management Analyst

(Chairperson Boswell called the Public Hearing to order at 9:45 a.m.)

Chairperson Boswell: Good morning. Will the public hearing of the Water Board on the proposed new cost of Power Adjustment Clause please come to order. I am William Boswell, Jr., Chairperson of the Water Board; and I'd like to have the Secretary take a roll call for who is in attendance from the Board.

(Secretary took take roll call. Present were Mr. Bell, Mr. De Luz, Mr. Hiramami, Ms. Hugo, Mr. Scicchitano, and Chairperson Boswell. NOTE: Mr. Ney joined the meeting after the roll call.)

Chairperson Boswell: Thank you, Doreen. Notice of this public hearing was published in the Hawai'i Tribune-Herald and in the West Hawai'i Today on October 5, 2021. The Department of Water Supply is operated and controlled by this Water Board as provided by the Hawai'i County Charter. Section 63 of Part III, Chapter 54, Hawai'i Revised Statutes, reads as follows:

“The Board of Water Supply may fix and adjust rates and charges for the furnishing of water and for water services so that the revenues derived therefrom shall be sufficient to make the waterworks and water systems self-supporting and to meet all expenditures authorized by this part; the Board may establish variable rates among the several districts of the County, or among the areas served by the individual water systems

within the County, for the purpose of establishing charges as closely as possible to the necessary amount required for the maintenance and operation of the particular individual water systems; provided no rates and charges shall be fixed or adjusted prior to the holding by the Board of a public hearing, public notice of which shall have been given not less than twenty days before the date set for the hearing. The notice shall state the time and place for the hearing and the proposed rates and charges to be considered thereat. The time within which the notice shall be given shall be computed by including the first day (the day of notice) and excluding the last day.”

We are here to receive comments or testimony on the proposed amendment to the Power Cost Charge. The Department recommends increasing the Power Cost Charge from \$1.85 to \$2.15 per thousand gallons to reflect the increase in power costs. As stated in the hearing notice, all comments or testimony were to be filed in writing before the time of the hearing or register to have testimony included via web conference application. We would like to follow this format as closely as possible; however, because there may be some of you who do not have any written statements but would like to testify or comment, we would like to afford you this opportunity to do so but would like to limit such presentations to three minutes because of the time limit. The hearing is now open for comments from the floor. Doreen, is there anyone registered to provide oral testimony or is there any written testimony?

Secretary: No, Mr. Chair.

Chairperson Boswell: At this time, I would like to entertain a Motion that this Public Hearing be closed. Motion please?

B. Ney: So move.

D. De Luz: Second, David.

Chairperson Boswell: It has been moved and seconded that the public hearing is closed. All those in favor say aye.

Secretary: Roll call, please.

Chairperson Boswell: Sorry, Doreen, would you please have a roll call vote?

(Secretary took a roll call. Motion to close the public hearing was carried by 7 Ayes (Mr. Bell, Mr. De Luz, Mr. Hirakami, Ms. Hugo, Mr. Ney, Mr. Scicchitano, and Chairperson Boswell; and one Absent: Mr. Sugai.)

Chairperson Boswell: Thank you.

(Public Hearing adjourned at 9:50 a.m.)

Recording Secretary

APPROVED BY WATER BOARD
NOVEMBER 23, 2021