

# **Board Policy Committee Meeting and Special SMUD Board of Directors Meeting**

**Date:** Wednesday, February 19, 2025

**Time:** Immediately following the Energy Resources & Customer Services Committee Meeting and Special SMUD Board of Directors Meeting scheduled to begin at 6:00 p.m.

**Location:** SMUD Headquarters Building, Auditorium  
6201 S Street, Sacramento, CA

# **AGENDA BOARD POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING AND SPECIAL SMUD BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

**Wednesday, February 19, 2025  
SMUD Headquarters Building, Auditorium  
6201 S Street, Sacramento, California  
Immediately following the Energy Resources & Customer Services Committee  
and Special SMUD Board of Directors Meeting  
scheduled to begin at 6:00 p.m.**

This Committee meeting is noticed as a joint meeting with the Board of Directors for the purpose of compliance with the Brown Act. In order to preserve the function of the Committee as advisory to the Board, members of the Board may attend and participate in the discussions, but no Board action will be taken. The Policy Committee will review, discuss and provide the Policy Committee's recommendation on the following:

## *Virtual Viewing or Attendance:*

Live video streams (view-only) and indexed archives of meetings are available at:  
[http://smud.granicus.com/ViewPublisher.php?view\\_id=16](http://smud.granicus.com/ViewPublisher.php?view_id=16)

**Zoom Webinar Link:** [Join Board Policy Committee Meeting Here](#)

**Webinar/Meeting ID:** 160 168 8366

**Passcode:** 134886

**Phone Dial-in Number:** 1-669-254-5252 or 1-833-568-8864 (Toll Free)

## *Verbal Public Comment:*

Members of the public may provide verbal public comment by:

- Completing a sign-up form at the table outside of the meeting room and giving it to SMUD Security.
- Using the "Raise Hand" feature in Zoom (or pressing \*9 while dialed into the telephone/toll-free number) during the meeting at the time public comment is called. Microphones will be enabled for virtual or telephonic attendees when the commenter's name is announced.

## *Written Public Comment:*

Members of the public may provide written public comment on a specific agenda item or on items not on the agenda (general public comment) by submitting comments via email to [PublicComment@smud.org](mailto:PublicComment@smud.org) or by mailing or bringing physical copies to the meeting. Email is not monitored during the meeting. Comments will not be read into the record but will be provided to the Board and placed into the record of the meeting if received within two hours after the meeting ends.

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

1. Alcides Hernandez      Discuss the monitoring report for **Strategic Direction SD-2, Competitive Rates**.  
Presentation: 5 minutes  
Discussion: 3 minutes
2. Jon Anderson      Discuss the monitoring report for **Strategic Direction SD-3, Access to Credit Markets**.  
Presentation: 8 minutes  
Discussion: 5 minutes

## **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

3. Gregg Fishman      Board Work Plan.  
Discussion: 5 minutes
4. Public Comment
5. Heidi Sanborn      Summary of Committee Direction.  
Discussion: 1 minute

*Members of the public shall have up to three (3) minutes to provide public comment on items on the agenda or items not on the agenda, but within the jurisdiction of SMUD. The total time allotted to any individual speaker shall not exceed nine (9) minutes.*

*Members of the public wishing to inspect public documents related to agenda items may click on the Information Packet link for this meeting on the [smud.org](http://smud.org) website or may call 1-916-732-7143 to arrange for inspection of the documents at the SMUD Headquarters Building, 6201 S Street, Sacramento, California.*

*ADA Accessibility Procedures: Upon request, SMUD will generally provide appropriate aids and services leading to effective communication for qualified persons with disabilities so that they can participate equally in this meeting. If you need a reasonable auxiliary aid or service for effective communication to participate, please email [Toni.Stelling@smud.org](mailto:Toni.Stelling@smud.org), or contact by phone at 1-916-732-7143, no later than 48 hours before this meeting.*



SSS No.  
RS25-001

BOARD AGENDA ITEM

STAFFING SUMMARY SHEET

Committee Meeting & Date  
Policy – 02/19/25

Board Meeting Date  
February 20, 2025

TO					TO						
1.	Scott Martin				6.						
2.	Brandy Bolden				7.						
3.	Farres Everly				8.						
4.	Suresh Kotha				9.	Legal					
5.					10.	CEO & General Manager					
Consent Calendar		X	Yes	No If no, schedule a dry run presentation.		Budgeted		X	Yes	No (If no, explain in Cost/Budgeted section.)	
FROM (IPR) Alcides Hernandez				DEPARTMENT Revenue Strategy				MAIL STOP B256		EXT. DATE SENT 6397 01/16/25	

NARRATIVE:

Requested Action:

Accept the monitoring report for Strategic Direction SD-2, Competitive Rates.

Summary:

As of December 31, 2024, SMUD is in compliance with the SD-2 Competitive Rates, continuing to have rates at least 18 percent below Pacific Gas & Electric Company’s (PG&E’s) system average rates and at least 10 percent below PG&E’s published average rates for each customer class. As of December 31, 2024, SMUD’s Energy Assistance Program Rate (EAPR) & EAPR/Medical Rate Discount (MED) programs average rates were 50.9 percent below PG&E’s average published California Alternate Rates for Energy (CARE) program.

Board Policy:  
(Number & Title)

Strategic Direction SD-2, Competitive Rates

Benefits:

As of December 31, 2024, SMUD system average rates are 52.2 percent below PG&E’s system average rates.

Cost/Budgeted:

Contained in budget for internal labor.

Alternatives:

Provide via written report through the Chief Executive Officer and General Manager.

Affected Parties:

Executive Office, Revenue Strategy, Internal Audit Services, and Legal

Coordination:

Executive Office, Revenue Strategy, Internal Audit Services, and Legal

Presenter:

Alcides Hernandez, Manager, Revenue Strategy

Additional Links:

SUBJECT	Monitoring Report – Strategic Direction SD-2, Competitive Rates	ITEM NO. (FOR LEGAL USE ONLY)
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ITEMS SUBMITTED AFTER DEADLINE WILL BE POSTPONED UNTIL NEXT MEETING.

# SACRAMENTO MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT

## OFFICE MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Board of Directors

**DATE:** January 28, 2025

**FROM:** Claire Rogers *CR 1/28/25*

**SUBJECT: Audit Report No. 28007860  
Board Monitoring Report; SD-2: Competitive Rates**

Internal Audit Services (IAS) received the SD-2 *Competitive Rates* 2024 Annual Board Monitoring Report and performed the following:

- Selected a sample of statements and assertions in the report for review.
- Interviewed report contributors and verified the methodology used to prepare the statements in our sample.
- Validated the reasonableness of the statements in our sample based on the data or other support provided to us.

During the review, nothing came to IAS' attention that would suggest the items sampled within the SD Board Monitoring report did not fairly represent the source data available at the time of the review.

**CC:**

Paul Lau

# Board Monitoring Report 2024 SD-2, Competitive Rates

## 1. Background

Strategic Direction 2, Competitive Rates states that:

Maintaining competitive rates is a core value of SMUD.

Therefore:

- a) The Board establishes a rate target of 18 percent below Pacific Gas & Electric Company's published rates on a system average basis. In addition, the Board establishes a rate target of at least 10 percent below PG&E's published rates for each customer class.
- b) SMUD's rates shall be competitive with other local utilities on a system average basis.
- c) In addition, SMUD's rates shall be designed to balance and achieve the following goals:
  - i) Reflect the cost of energy when it is used or exported to the SMUD grid;
  - ii) Reduce consumption during periods of high system demand;
  - iii) Encourage energy efficiency, conservation, and carbon reduction;
  - iv) Encourage cost effective and environmentally beneficial Distributed Energy Resources (DERs) (examples of DERs include but are not limited to rooftop solar, battery storage, and energy reduction applications);
  - v) Minimize the rate of change in the transition from one rate design to another;
  - vi) Provide customers flexibility and choices;
  - vii) Be as simple and easy to understand as possible;
  - viii) Address the needs of people with low incomes and severe medical conditions; and
  - ix) Equitably allocate costs across and within customer classes.

## 2. Executive summary

### a) SMUD is in compliance with SD-2, Competitive Rates.

As of December 31, 2024, SMUD's rates remain among the lowest in the state and on a system average rate basis are 52.2% below Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) Company's, which is better than the SD-2 target of at least 18% below on a system average rate basis. Residential average rates are at least 50.1% below PG&E's residential average rates. See Figure 1 below for details.

There were two rate increases to SMUD's rates in 2024. Rates for all customers were increased by 2.75% on January 1, 2024 and 2.75% on May 1, 2024, as adopted by the Board on September 21, 2023. The overall rate advantage between SMUD and PG&E remains well above the SD-2 target of at least 18% on a system average basis.

Metric	2024 performance	2023 performance	5 year average
<b>System average rates 18% below PG&amp;E rates</b>	52.2% below PG&E on a system average rate basis	50.1% below PG&E on a system average rate basis	44.1% below PG&E on a system average rate basis

2024 marked the continuation of several rate developments that balance the SD-2 requirements and help SMUD maintain our critical financial performance and metrics. In September 2023, the Board approved Rate Resolution 23-09-09 which included a rate increase and an additional discount for low-income customers, allowing SMUD to continue to meet California mandates, while addressing the impacts of the current economy and inflation. Despite these rate changes SMUD anticipates continuing to meet SD-2 requirements in the future.

In September 2023 the board approved four 2.75% rate increases through 2025 with rate increases going into effect on January 1, 2024 and May 1, 2024. These approved increases are, on average, lower than those of other electric utilities in the state of California. These increases are driven by commodity price increases, compliance requirements and inflation, among other things as described in Section 4 below.

Beginning in January 2024, the EAPR Rate Stabilization fund began providing an additional discount to customers in the 0-50% Federal Poverty Level, providing extra relief to those customers who need it most. SMUD will be proposing a new optional rate for low usage customers with small electrical panels (125 amp or less) that will be presented to the board in January 2025 and included in the rate process in early 2025.

The Time-of-Day (TOD) rate continues to encourage residential customers to shift usage out of the 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. peak time-period. On average, TOD rates deliver approximately 132MW, or 7.4% of reduced load during SMUD's system peak.

### 3. Additional supporting information

#### a) The Board establishes a rate target of 18% below PG&E's published rates on a system average basis. In addition, the Board establishes a rate target of at least 10% below PG&E's published rates for each customer class.

SMUD continues to maintain average rates that are lower than PG&E's, both at a system level and by rate class. Figure 1 provides a detailed picture of the difference between SMUD's and PG&E's average rates by rate class in 2024 as well as the difference between rates in 2023.

**Figure 1 – Summary of SMUD and PG&E Rate Comparison in \$/kWh**

Customer		Rate Categories		Average Annual Rate		Difference Below PG&E*	Difference Below PG&E*
				PG&E	SMUD		
Class	Description	PG&E	SMUD	2024	2024	2024	2023
Residential	Standard	E-1	TOD	\$0.4269	\$0.1898	-55.5%	-53.0%
	Low Income	CARE***	EAPR & EAPRMED**	\$0.2702	\$0.1328	-50.9%	-48.6%
<b>All Residential</b>				<b>\$0.3610</b>	<b>\$0.1800</b>	<b>-50.1%</b>	<b>-46.8%</b>
Small Commercial	<= 20 kW	B-1	GFN, CITS-0	\$0.4262	\$0.1833	-57.0%	-52.2%
	21 - 299 kW	B-6	CITS-1	\$0.4227	\$0.1698	-59.8%	-55.0%
Medium Commercial	300 - 499 kW	B-10	CITS-2, CITP-2	\$0.3822	\$0.1594	-58.3%	-55.7%
	500 - 999 kW	B-19	CITS-3, CITP-3, CITT-3	\$0.3286	\$0.1493	-54.6%	-51.9%
Large Commercial	=> 1 MW	B-20	CITS-4, CITP-4, CITT-4	\$0.2351	\$0.1330	-43.4%	-47.8%
Lighting	Traffic Signals	TC-1	TS	\$0.4224	\$0.1445	-65.8%	-61.5%
	Street Lighting	various	SLS,NLGT	\$0.4635	\$0.1573	-66.1%	-67.6%
Agriculture	Ag & Pumping	AG	ASN/D,AON/D	\$0.3803	\$0.1591	-58.2%	-53.9%
<b>System Average</b>				<b>\$0.3493</b>	<b>\$0.1670</b>	<b>-52.2%</b>	<b>-50.1%</b>

Notes:

\* Projected 2024 average prices for SMUD with the rate increases effective 1-1-24 and 5-1-24. PG&E average prices in 2024 reflect rates effective 10-1-24, per Advice Letter 7382-E. The rate difference in year 2023 reflects PG&E average rates as of 9-1-23, per Advice Letter 7009-E dated 8-25-23, and SMUD rates effective 1-1-23.

\*\* CARE vs EAPR includes EAPR & EAPRMED customers.

\*\*\* There is no indication from PG&E that their CARE rates include customers who have a medical allowance only.



As seen in Figure 1, the rate competitiveness by rate class varies for the different customer classes and is at least 43.4% below comparable PG&E class average rates. Since the creation of this annual monitoring report, SMUD has consistently maintained rates that were more than 18% below PG&E. See Appendix A for more details.

**b) SMUD's rates shall be competitive with other local utilities on a system average basis**

SMUD's system average rate is competitive with other local utilities as shown in detail in Appendix B. In general, we are seeing large rate increases across the other local utilities. Even with our approved rate increases in 2024 and 2025, SMUD's rates remain competitive. For example, Modesto Irrigation District approved a rate increase of 7.5% for 2024 and 5.5% in 2025; in addition to an already adopted cumulative rate increase of 10.5% for 2023 and 2024. In November 2024, Turlock Irrigation District approved rate increases of 5.6%, 5.6% and 5.5% for 2025, 2026 and 2027 respectively. Compounded, this equates to a 17.6% rate increase over the next 3 years. PG&E rates increased by a total of 12% in 2024.

**c) Reflect the cost of energy when it is used or exported to the SMUD grid**

SMUD's TOD and restructured commercial rates were designed to more closely reflect the cost of energy when it is used, with prices highest during the peak time periods when the cost of energy is highest. We continually assess our rates as markets and our costs change to determine if any structural changes are needed, which is why we implemented TOD rates in 2018 and restructured our commercial rates in 2021.

**d) Reduce consumption during periods of high system demand**

Both the residential and commercial TOD rates send signals to customers to reduce their on-peak usage. The Peak time for residential customers is 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. while the Peak time for commercial customers is 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. These Peak time periods reflect the highest \$/kWh price to encourage customers to shift their energy usage outside of the Peak time period to reduce system load and help with carbon reduction goals.

The optional residential Critical Peak Pricing (CPP) rate charges a premium on energy delivered during those few critical times during the summer with highest demand, which reduces energy consumption and carbon emissions when the grid is most stressed. Additionally, customers on the CPP rate receive a discount on energy delivered during the summer Off-Peak and Mid-Peak time periods, encouraging them to shift their energy use to times when the grid is less stressed and clean energy is more abundant. The CPP rate is part of SMUD's portfolio of load flexibility programs that support load reduction and state regulations.

**e) Encourage energy efficiency, conservation, and carbon reduction**

SMUD continues to encourage energy efficiency, conservation and carbon reduction through the residential and non-residential TOD rates and a variety of programs, such as incentives to install storage, and offering a variety of rebates for energy-efficient appliances, heating and cooling systems, and energy-efficient LED lighting. TOD rates encourage customers to shift energy use from peak times when energy is more costly and is produced by a larger portion of carbon-emitting generation plants to off-peak times, when there is often excess carbon-free solar generation on our system. By shifting usage to times when non-carbon emitting resources are plentiful, customers not only save money, but they also contribute to reducing carbon emissions and help SMUD achieve our carbon reduction goals. The residential and restructured commercial TOD rates were designed to be

revenue neutral, so customers can save money if they shift or reduce their usage from peak hours. More detailed information about rebates and energy savings tips can be found on [smud.org](http://smud.org).

**f) Encourage cost effective and environmentally beneficial Distributed Energy Resources (DERs) (examples of DERs include but are not limited to rooftop solar, battery storage, and energy reduction applications)**

The Solar and Storage Rate (SSR) was designed to work with a series of programs and incentives to help SMUD reach its 2030 Zero Carbon Plan. SMUD started the My Energy Optimizer (MEO) program with expanded storage incentives to encourage customers to invest in battery storage, which could enable the customer to gain additional value from their investment. The CPP rate provides customers with solar and storage even more of an opportunity to increase the value of their system, by providing a significantly larger incentive to send power to the grid during critical events. The CPP rate also encourages customers to adopt smart thermostats, as they may be able to save money on the CPP rate if they use the thermostats to adjust their energy usage.

Customers that live in low-income, multi-family affordable housing are able to receive the benefits of solar through the Virtual Solar option. In the Virtual Solar option, the building owner may install solar, and the benefits of that solar is allocated to the residents, providing an avenue for customers to adopt solar even though they do not own their own home.

**g) Minimize the rate of change in the transition from one rate design to another**

SMUD follows this principle through gradualism and balance between rate implementation and customer satisfaction when making rate structure changes in combination with rate increases. For example, the Commercial Rate Restructure is being phased in over an 8-year period to mitigate bill impacts.

**h) Provide customers flexibility and choices**

SMUD provides flexibility and rate options to its customers. Residential customers may select custom due dates, budget billing, and net energy metering customers can choose between monthly or annual settlement options. Residential customers are placed on TOD, but they may select the fixed rate or the CPP rate. All customers may make online payments and set up billing alerts. In addition, qualified commercial customers moving to SMUD's service area may choose between two different Economic Development Rate discount structures, selecting the option that best suits their needs.

SMUD incentivizes two different technologies for customers to enroll in the My Energy Optimizer (MEO) program. MEO Partner is for customers that want to participate with their smart thermostat, and upon enrollment, can voluntarily adopt the CPP rate. There are currently over 29,000 thermostats enrolled in the program. MEO Partner+, is for customers that want to participate with their battery storage system. The enrollment incentive was increased to \$5,000 per battery with a maximum of \$10,000 per customer in hopes to expand the program and support the battery market. After a brief pause, caused by the vendor going out of business, the program relaunched in November and will still reach the goal of enrolling 1,500 new batteries in the program by June 1, 2025. There are currently 227 batteries enrolled in the program.

**i) Be as simple and easy to understand as possible**

SMUD works to make sure its many programs and rates are simple and easy to understand. For example, staff designed the TOD rate and restructured commercial rates to balance simplicity while still reflecting the cost of energy when it is used. Ongoing customer outreach and education assists customers in understanding new rate designs, pilots and programs.

#### **j) Address the needs of people with low incomes and severe medical conditions**

SMUD continues to address low-income customers and those with medical conditions. The Energy Assistance Program Rate (EAPR) and our Medical Equipment Discount Rate (MED Rate) offer customers a discount on their monthly energy costs for those that qualify. The discount for EAPR is determined by Federal Poverty Level (FPL) with the largest discount going to those that need the most assistance. An additional discount is provided to those low-income customers with the greatest need using the EAPR Rate Stabilization Fund. The fund is maintained on an annual basis using discretionary, non-retail rate revenue, as to not have an impact on any future required rate changes. Additionally in 2024, through the EAPR and MED Rate discount program we have assisted more than 1,500 customers with energy education, energy efficient improvements and repairs, and moved them towards our Clean Energy Vision with building and transportation electrification improvements. These programs improve or /reduce their overall energy burden and increase the comfort of their homes. In 2024, staff continued the recertification of EAPR customers to ensure those on the program still qualify.

#### **k) Equitably allocate costs across and within customer classes**

To ensure costs are equitably allocated across and within customer classes, staff updates SMUD's marginal cost study and performs rate costing studies and value of solar studies prior to recommending rate structure changes, such as with TOD, the Commercial Rate Restructure and SSR.

### **4. Challenges**

#### **Rate Pressures**

SMUD continues to face cost pressures for compliance and risk mitigation requirements, as well as technology and grid investments to support the safe and reliable operation of the grid. Commodity costs to meet our Renewable Portfolio Standards requirements continue to increase, along with an increase of capital spending to fund new generation, storage projects, substation and line capacity projects in 2024 and 2025. In addition, increased costs for wildfire management, reliability of our hydro facilities, customer programs to support our clean energy vision, and inflation all added pressure to maintaining SMUD's bottom line. These rate pressures were the drivers and detailed in the 2023 GM Report.

### **5. Recommendation**

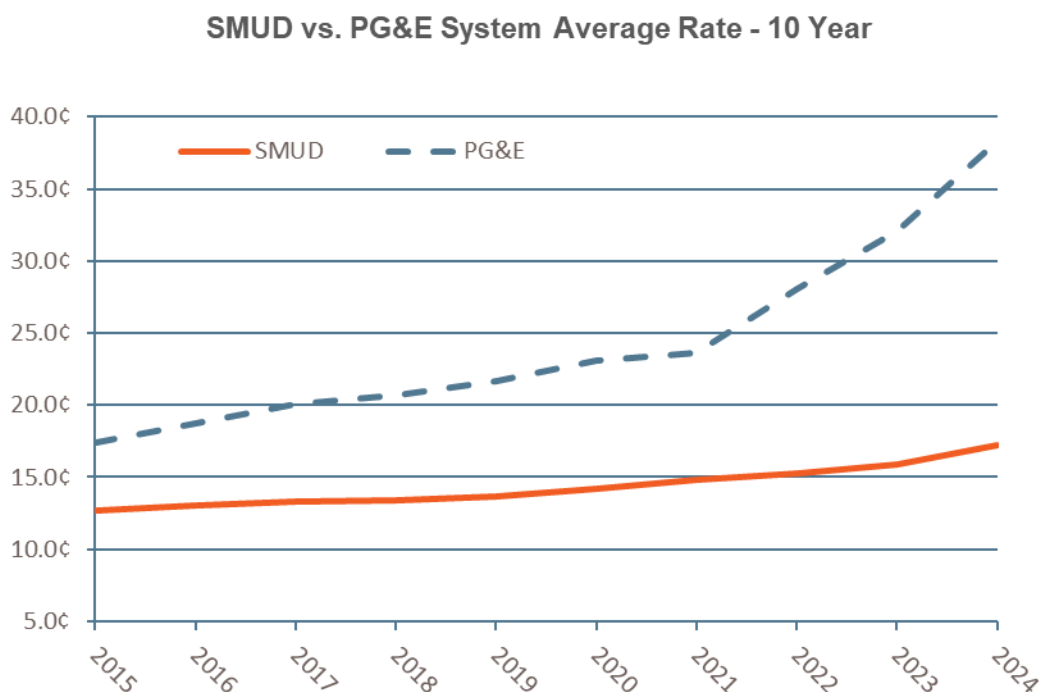
It is recommended that the Board accept the Monitoring Report for SD 2, Competitive Rates.

## Appendices

### Appendix A: Historical Rate Comparison with PG&E

Figure 2 compares SMUD and PG&E's system average rates for the past 10 years. SMUD's system average rates have averaged 37% below PG&E since 2015.

**Figure 2 – SMUD and PG&E Historical System Average Rate Comparison**



### Appendix B: Local Utility Rates

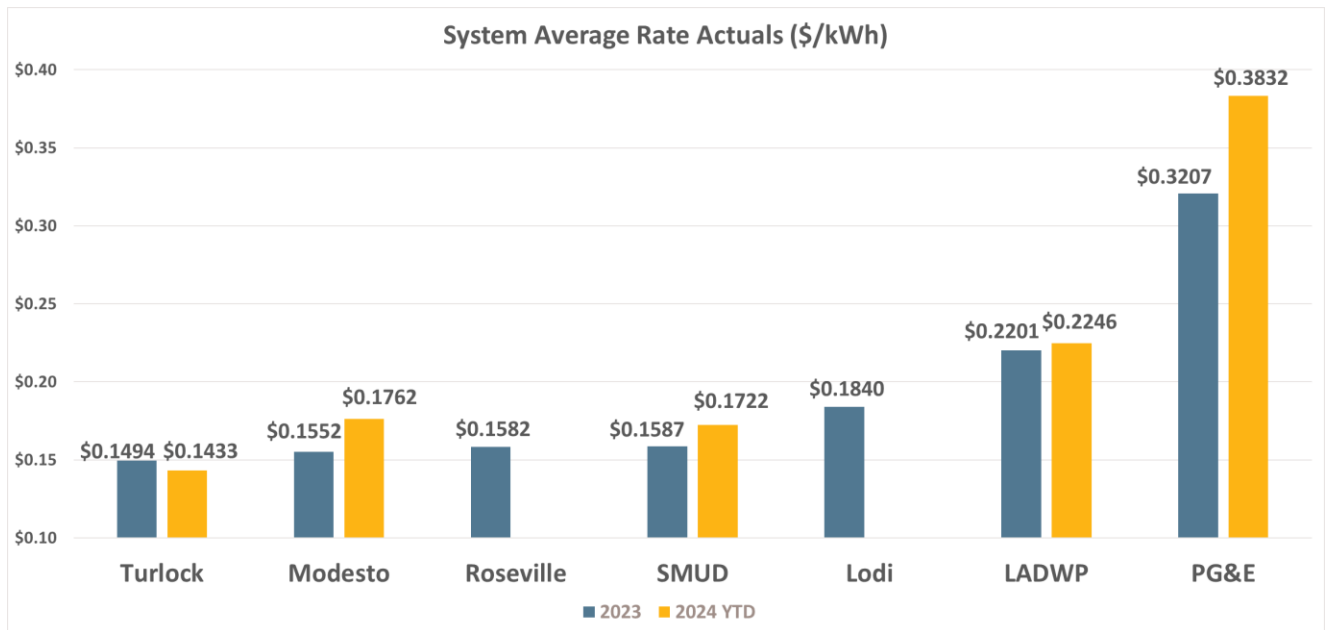
- **Modesto Irrigation District (MID):** On November 15, 2022, MID approved rate increases of 7.4% effective January 2023 and an additional 3.5% effective January 2024. On November 14, 2023, the MID Board of Directors approved another round of rate increases of an additional 7.5% for January 2024, and a subsequent 5.5% increase for 2025 to cover costs and power supply cost pressure. A Power Cost Adjustment designed to reflect fluctuating power supply costs was also adopted and will be calculated and applied monthly to customer bills in 2025.
- **Turlock Irrigation District (TID):** TID's board recently approved rate increases of 5.6% in both 2025 and 2026, and 5.5% in 2027. In 2024, the Power Supply Adjustment, which is reviewed twice a year on June 1 and December 1, changed from a \$0.05/kWh charge to a \$0.05/kWh credit.
- **Roseville Electric:** Roseville Electric increased their rates by 9% on June 1, 2024 and will increase them another 9% on January 1, 2025. The utility stated that the increases were necessary to cover rising fuel costs and to ensure the utilities financial stability. Beginning on

January 1, 2025, Roseville Electric's temporary 8% energy surcharge, enacted in February 2023, became permanent.

- Lodi Electric: On June 7, 2023, the Lodi City Council adopted a rate increase of 2% effective August 2023 and 2% effective July 2024. The staff report describes that the additional needed revenue is being collected through an increase to the monthly customer charge which is intended to cover the fixed costs of the utility. In July 2024, Lodi increased their residential monthly fixed charge 34% from \$14.50/month to \$19.50/month. Lodi also has a monthly energy cost adjustment that adjusts as power costs increase or decrease. The range of the energy cost adjustment for Fiscal Year 2023/2024 was \$0.0055/kWh to \$0.0598/kWh.
- Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP). LADWP did not have a base rate increase in fiscal year 2023-2024. LADWP does have a pass-through rate mechanism that adjusts quarterly with costs, outside of any base rate increases. This Energy Cost Adjustment (ECA) ranged between \$0.09214 and \$0.09611 for 2024

SMUD's system average rate remains competitive, as shown in Figure 3. Figure 3 uses 2023 data from the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA), which is the most recent actual yearly data available. 2024 values are based on averaged monthly figures through September 2024. Roseville and Lodi do not participate in the reporting of monthly data. System average rates in dollars per kWh is a typical benchmark used in the industry to compare rates and are calculated by taking total electric revenue and dividing it by total kWh retail sales.

**Figure 3 – Utility System Average Rate Comparison (\$/kWh)**



Including pass-through mechanisms in rates is a common utility practice, allowing utilities to collect enough revenue to cover their costs without having to increase rates in a formal rate proceeding. SMUD has the Hydro Generation Adjustment, which allows for a small additional charge on customer bills in the event of less than median precipitation. Any pass-through mechanisms that utilities have are included in

Figure 3. Figure 4 details the pass-through mechanisms some of SMUD's neighboring utilities have as part of their rate structures.

**Figure 4 – Utility Pass-through Mechanisms**

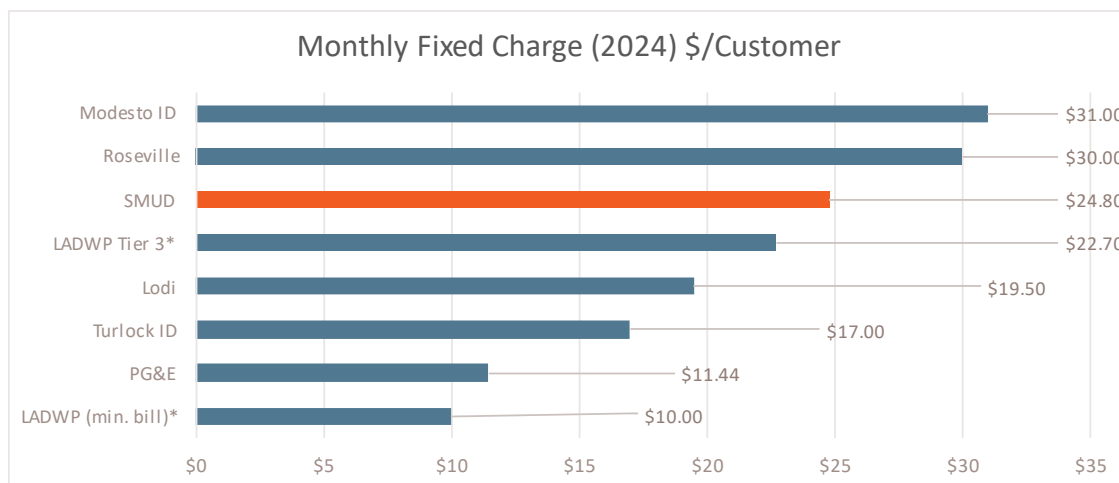
Utility	Pass through
<b>SMUD</b>	Hydroelectric Generation Adjustment
<b>Modesto Irrigation District</b>	Capital Infrastructure Adjustment
	Environmental Energy Adjustment
	Power Cost Adjustment*
<b>Turlock Irrigation District</b>	Power Supply Adjustment
	Environmental Charge
	Public Benefits Surcharge
<b>Roseville Electric</b>	Renewable Energy Surcharge
	Greenhouse Gas Surcharge
	Hydroelectric Adjustment
<b>Lodi Electric</b>	Energy Cost Adjustment
<b>LADWP**</b>	Energy Cost Adjustment
	Electric Subsidy Adjustment
	Reliability Cost Adjustment

\* Modesto's Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) is in effect starting January 1, 2025.

\*\* LADWP has other adjustments to reflect approved rate increases.

Including a fixed charge amount on residential customers bills is also a common utility practice. The fixed charge allows for revenue collection for fixed assets that do not vary with electricity consumption. Figure 5 below outlines the fixed charge amount of SMUD's neighboring utilities and SMUD's System Infrastructure Fixed Charge (SIFC).

**Figure 5 – Monthly Residential Fixed Charge Amount**



\* LADWP's Tier 1 fixed charge is \$2.30 and Tier 2 fixed charge is \$7.90 but they have a minimum bill of \$10 per month.

\* MID's customer charge increased to \$31 in 2024

## Appendix C: PG&E Updates

### Overview of PG&E's recent rate proceedings

In 2024 PG&E had six rate changes, increasing the system average rate in \$/kWh from \$0.3133 in 2023 to \$0.3493 in 2024 as shown in Figure 6.

**Figure 6 – PG&E 2023-2024 Rate Changes**

	PG&E Rate Changes in 2023					Annual
	January	March	June	July	September	2023
<b>Rate Change (%)</b>	3.30%	4.40%	-1.80%	5.30%	1.50%	13.19%
<b>System Rate (\$/kWh)*</b>	\$ 0.2858	\$0.2983	\$0.2931	0.3087	\$ 0.3133	

	PG&E Rate Changes in 2024						Annual
	January	March	April	July	September	October	2024
<b>Rate Change (%)</b>	17.10%	0.10%	1.30%	-9.00%	0.70%	2.90%	11.97%
<b>System Rate (\$/kWh)*</b>	\$0.3657	\$ 0.3661	\$ 0.3708	\$ 0.3373	\$ 0.3395	\$ 0.3493	

\*Includes California Climate Credit

### PG&E Rate Increase Process

In 2024, the CPUC approved a plan for PG&E to convert part of consumers electric bills to a flat rate based on their income. The fixed charge will be \$24.15 starting in January 2026 and accompany a reduction in energy costs. For customers enrolled in low-income qualified programs the fixed charge will be \$6 or 12 per month.

Every three years PG&E files a request with California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) with their proposed general rate increases. Per the most recent filing dated 12/30/2024, which reflects the annual electric true-up submittal, PG&E will decrease its rates by 0.7% on average effective January 2025. For 2025, most of the increase is driven by the GRC which supports the continued implementation of the utility's wildfire mitigation plan, safety and reliability investments, capacity upgrades and climate and clean energy goals.

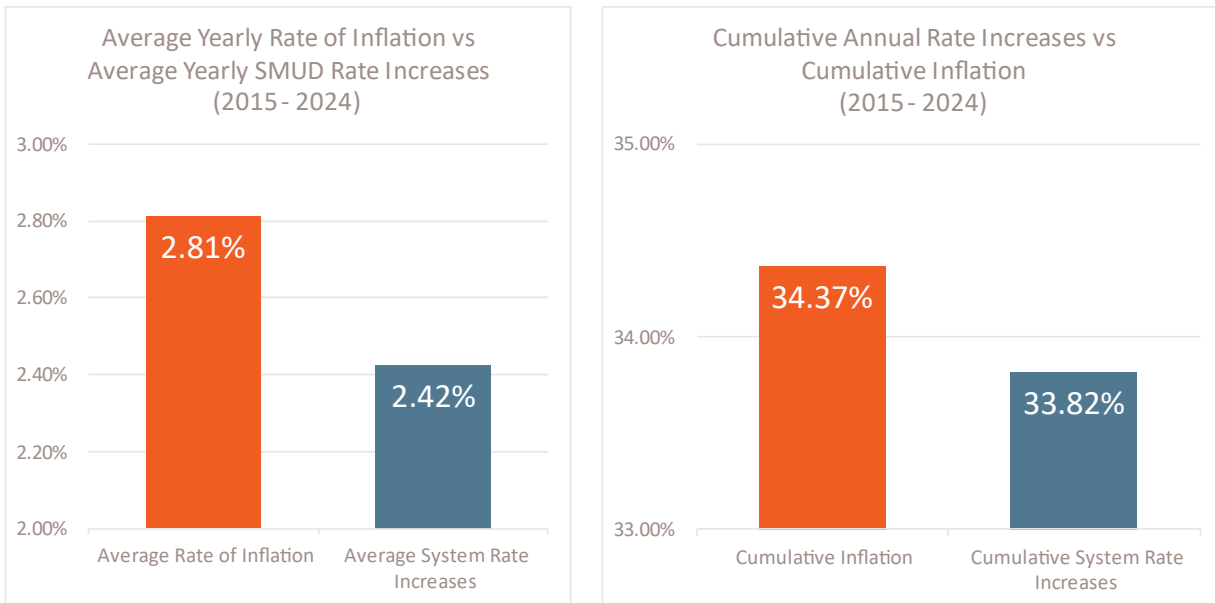
### PG&E Residential Time-of-Use Rate

PG&E offers its residential customers a default time-of-use rate (E-TOU-C) that has a peak time-period from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. every day. Customers may choose from a selection of alternative rates, including an optional E-TOU-D (5-8 p.m.) rate which has a shorter 3-hour Peak time-period during weekdays only.

## Appendix D: Historical Rate Increases

Figure 7 shows that SMUD's historical rate increases have been below inflation which is based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) over the past 10 years.

**Figure 7 – 2015–2024 Rate Increases vs Inflation\***



\*Cumulative totals are calculated using compounded inflation and rate increases.



Figure 8 shows SMUD's rate increases by year since 2000.

**Figure 8 – Residential vs. Non-Residential Rate Increase and Energy Surcharge by Year'-**

Year	Rate Increase		Energy Surcharge	Hydro Generation Adjustment
	Residential	Non-Residential		
2000	0.00%	0.00%	N/A	N/A
2001	13.00%	21.00%*	N/A	N/A
2002	0.00%	0.00%	-2.60%	N/A
2003	0.00%	0.00%	N/A	N/A
2004	0.00%	0.00%	-2.70%	N/A
2005	6.00%	6.00%	N/A	N/A
2006	0.00%	0.00%	N/A	N/A
2007	0.00%	0.00%	N/A	0.00%
2008	7.00%	7.00%	N/A	0.00%
2009	5.50%	5.50%	N/A	0.00%
2010	5.50%	5.50%	N/A	0.034%
2011	2.25%	2.25%	N/A	0.00%
2012	0.00%	0.00%	N/A	0.00%
2013	0.00%	0.00%	N/A	0.00%
2014	2.50%	2.50%	N/A	0.00%
2015	2.50%	2.50%	N/A	1.267%
2016	2.50%	2.50%	N/A	0.00%
2017	2.50%	2.50%	N/A	0.00%
2018	1.50%	1.00%	N/A	0.00%
2019	0.00%	1.00%	N/A	0.00%
1/1/2020	3.75%	3.75%	N/A	0.00%
10/1/2020	3.00%	3.00%	N/A	0.00%
1/1/2021	2.50%	2.50%	N/A	0.00%
10/1/2021	2.00%	2.00%	N/A	0.00%
3/1/2022	1.50%	1.50%	N/A	0.00%
1/1/2023	2.00%	2.00%	N/A	0.00%
1/1/2024	2.75%	2.75%	N/A	0.00%
5/1/2024	2.75%	2.75%	N/A	0.00%
1/1/2025	2.75%	2.75%	N/A	TBD
5/1/2025	2.75%	2.75%	N/A	TBD



TO					TO						
1.	Claire Rogers				6.						
2.	Scott Martin				7.						
3.	Brandy Bolden				8.						
4.	Farres Everly				9.	Legal					
5.	Suresh Kotha				10.	CEO & General Manager					
Consent Calendar		X	Yes	No If no, schedule a dry run presentation.		Budgeted		X	Yes	No (If no, explain in Cost/Budgeted section.)	
FROM (IPR) Jon Anderson				DEPARTMENT Treasury				MAIL STOP B355		EXT. DATE SENT 5605 01/27/25	
NARRATIVE:											
<p><b>Requested Action:</b> Accept the monitoring report for Strategic Direction SD-3, Access to Credit Markets.</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> With SD-3, the Board established maintaining access to credit markets is a core value for SMUD. Pursuant to this direction, the Board set financial targets, considerations, and minimum credit ratings for SMUD. The annual report outlines the importance of SD-3 requirements and provides evidence of SMUD’s compliance during the year 2024.</p> <p><b>Board Policy:</b> Strategic Direction SD-3, Access to Credit Markets (Number &amp; Title)</p> <p><b>Benefits:</b> The monitoring report provides Board members information regarding SMUD Board Policy and the opportunity to make recommendations or policy revisions as needed.</p> <p><b>Cost/Budgeted:</b> Included in budget for internal labor.</p> <p><b>Alternatives:</b> Provide the Board a written report via memo from the Chief Executive Officer and General Manager.</p> <p><b>Affected Parties:</b> Executive Office, Treasury, Legal, and Internal Audit Services</p> <p><b>Coordination:</b> Executive Office, Treasury, Legal, and Internal Audit Services</p> <p><b>Presenter:</b> Jon Anderson, Interim Director of Treasury &amp; Treasurer</p>											

Additional Links:

SUBJECT	Monitoring Report – Strategic Direction SD-3, Access to Credit Markets	ITEM NO. (FOR LEGAL USE ONLY)
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ITEMS SUBMITTED AFTER DEADLINE WILL BE POSTPONED UNTIL NEXT MEETING.

# SACRAMENTO MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT

## OFFICE MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Board of Directors

**DATE:** January 28, 2025

**FROM:** Claire Rogers *CR 1/28/25*

**SUBJECT: Audit Report No. 28007861  
Board Monitoring Report; SD-3: Access to Credit Markets**

Internal Audit Services (IAS) received the SD-3 *Access to Credit Markets* 2024 Annual Board Monitoring Report and performed the following:

- Selected a sample of statements and assertions in the report for review.
- Interviewed report contributors and verified the methodology used to prepare the statements in our sample.
- Validated the reasonableness of the statements in our sample based on the data or other support provided to us.

During the review, nothing came to IAS' attention that would suggest the items sampled within the SD Board Monitoring report did not fairly represent the source data available at the time of the review.

**CC:**

Paul Lau

# **Board Monitoring Report 2024**

## **SD-3 Board Strategic Direction on**

### **Access to Credit Markets**

## **1. Background**

Strategic Direction 3 on Access to Credit Markets states that:

Maintaining access to credit is a core value of SMUD.

Therefore:

- a) For SMUD's annual budgets, the Board establishes a minimum target of cash coverage of all debt service payments (fixed charge ratio) of 1.5 times.
- b) When making resource decisions, SMUD shall weigh the impacts on long-term revenue requirements, debt, financial risk and flexibility.
- c) SMUD's goal is to maintain at least an "A" rating with credit rating agencies.

## **2. Executive summary**

SMUD relies on the use of borrowed funds to pay for a portion of its capital needs on an ongoing basis. The Board adopted SD-3, Access to Credit Markets, to help ensure that SMUD maintains the ability to raise new money at competitive rates in the bond market as needed. Making prudent use of borrowed funds to finance capital improvements can help SMUD to mitigate major rate adjustments in periods of intensive capital expansion, and allows SMUD to allocate the costs of those improvements over their useful lives to the customers who benefit from them. Maintaining access to credit markets supports our objective to be financially flexible to make necessary and timely investments and take advantage of opportunities while remaining competitive.

One of the most important indicators of an organization's ability to access credit markets is the independent assessment made by credit rating agencies. SMUD is rated by the three major rating agencies: Standard & Poor's (S&P), Moody's, and Fitch, which review SMUD's credit on approximately an annual basis. The credit ratings assigned are intended to give investors the rating agency's view of the likelihood that SMUD will repay principal and pay interest on bonds when due. They utilize financial metrics in assessing creditworthiness such as the Fixed Charge Ratio that measures revenue sufficiency to meet obligations, and Days Cash on Hand, a measure of liquidity. They also measure leverage and the capacity to finance future capital projects without placing undue burden on customers, either through borrowing or within our rate structure. SMUD's overall governance and risk

management practices are also important to the agencies, along with the ability and willingness to raise rates when necessary while maintaining competitive low-cost energy for our customers.

As indicated in the attached ratings agency reports, SMUD demonstrates robust metrics, and, thanks to well-managed cash flow, has the flexibility to target a more conservative fixed charge ratio. The most recent SMUD credit reports from both Moody's and Fitch also specifically cite the Board's demonstrated willingness to raise rates to support financial performance.

Credit ratings heavily impact an organization's ability to borrow money in the municipal markets, as well as the interest rates they will be required to pay. Higher credit ratings translate into lower borrowing costs. For example, if SMUD's credit ratings were to fall into a lower category, from AA to A, the impact at today's rates would be approximately \$146k/year for every \$100 million borrowed. During a period of financial turmoil, as experienced in early 2020, higher credit ratings allowed SMUD to access credit markets sooner, more easily, and at a lower interest rate than lower rated utilities.

Credit ratings also impact an organization's ability to conduct general business transactions. Trading partners utilize credit ratings as a factor in assessing their willingness to transact with SMUD, and to determine commercial terms. Stronger credit ratings enable SMUD to negotiate better terms and conditions for contracts, including power purchase agreements, and commercial insurance policies. For example, SMUD's healthy credit ratings minimize the amount of collateral posting required under many of its commodity contracts to hedge natural gas and power. Likewise, if SMUD's ratings were to drop from current levels, collateral posting requirements would increase accordingly. In some cases, a reduction in SMUD's credit ratings below a certain threshold gives our counterparty the right to terminate the contract.

In addition to cash on hand, SMUD maintains a liquidity program consisting of a commercial paper program and a line of credit. The commercial paper program enables SMUD to issue up to \$400 million of commercial paper notes to obtain funding quickly, when its necessary to maintain our liquidity levels. Similarly, the line of credit allows SMUD access to up to \$100 million on short notice but has the advantage that it isn't dependent on investor demand. The commercial paper program and line of credit are instrumental in providing comprehensive liquidity support for SMUD operations and capital initiatives. The liquidity program helps to maintain our credit ratings and mitigate many enterprise risks that are otherwise difficult or financially prohibitive to mitigate through standard means. The commercial paper program and line of credit are structured with agreements from three separate banks, further reducing concentration risk and enhancing overall execution.

In support of maintaining SMUD's financial strength, credit ratings, and to help mitigate risk, SMUD procures insurance. SMUD maintains comprehensive

property and casualty insurance programs designed to protect against catastrophic losses that would adversely affect its financial position or operational capabilities. Insurance programs are continuously reviewed and modified when construction, operational exposures, or developments in the insurance industry so warrant. SMUD's strong financial position, long term relationships with a variety of insurers, and its liquidity program minimize SMUD's susceptibility to the volatility of insurance market cycles. SMUD maintains cash on hand and access to credit to meet potential insurance deductibles and self-insured liability claims and has had no claims that have exceeded coverage limits.

**SMUD has remained in compliance with SD-3 as evidenced by the following:**

- a) Maintained key financial metrics, including a fixed charge ratio above the minimum policy target of 1.5 times.
  - 1. 2.32 times in 2023
  - 2. 2.82 times in 2024 (forecasted figure as of December 31, 2024)
  - 3. 2.03 times in 2025 (projected in 2025 Budget)
- b) In 2024, Moody's upgraded SMUD's credit rating to 'Aa2', equivalent to 'AA'. Fitch in 2024 also affirmed SMUD at 'AA' and S&P had previously affirmed SMUD at 'AA' in 2023.
- c) Refunded SMUD's taxable Build America Bonds (BABs), 2009 Series V and 2010 Series W, by issuing tax-exempt bonds in April 2024. This bond issuance locked in fixed tax-exempt interest rates, generating cash flow savings of \$23.8 million and derisked SMUD's debt portfolio by eliminating the risk to sequestration of the BABs subsidy from the federal government. This transaction was SMUD's first Green Refunding Bonds.
- d) Refunded and extended Northern California Energy Authority commodity prepay bonds in April 2024. The transaction extended the commodity prepay for an additional 5 years and locked in savings of \$0.55 per MMBtu, an annual cash flow savings of \$5.6 million per year through 2030 and total cash-flow savings of \$34 million.
- e) Successfully sold bonds in a volatile market environment in April 2024, refunding \$150 million worth of Commercial Paper through the issuance of long-term fixed-rate Green Bonds. This transaction restored and made available the entire \$500 million of SMUD's liquidity program capacity to meet future borrowing requirements in support of the Zero Carbon Plan. In addition to the commercial paper refunding, SMUD also sold additional Green Bonds to reimburse \$128 million of recent capital expenditures, spreading the costs over

the life of the assets.

- f) Additional supplemental contributions of \$34 million were made to CalPERS. This was part of an ongoing effort to actively monitor and manage our unfunded pension liability, which is an obligation that rating agencies are increasingly focusing on in their reviews. Addressing the unfunded liability sooner will help control rate increases. These costs would continue to grow into the future since paying only the required minimum payments may not fully mitigate the compounding nature of the outstanding liability. SMUD's most current valuations show the Pension funded status at 85% as of June 30, 2023, and the funded status of Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB) at 91% as of June 30, 2024.
- g) Successfully continued to manage the property and casualty insurance programs amidst the turbulent market, renewing most programs within expiring terms and conditions. Wildfire insurance coverage continues to be a challenge even with SMUD's excellent risk mitigation programs. However, SMUD was able to obtain sufficient capacity at expiring rates enabling a \$15M expansion of the program limit, while also reducing the self-insured portion by \$14M.
- h) SMUD established a Captive Cell with Mangrove, depositing \$25 million of cash. We began placing portions of the Property, General Liability and Wildfire coverage into the cell, expanding coverage and terms, while not requiring additional premium. This provides savings to SMUD in the form of self-insuring for losses using the cash invested to perpetually insure for any claims if needed, instead of paying more premium to an insurer.
- i) Negotiated an additional \$88.9 million settlement for the Business Interruption portion of the Cosumnes Power Plant (CPP) steam turbine failure insurance claim, for a final recovery of \$138.9M. SMUD also settled the 2021 Substation A fire property damage insurance claim for a recovery of \$7.5M.

### 3. Additional supporting information

Details on ratings variables, SMUD specific credit strengths, factors that could lead to an upgrade, and insurance are listed below.

#### **Financial Strengths:**

Maintaining SMUD's financial strength is a key component to continually accessing credit markets. Below is a list of SMUD specific financial strengths mentioned in recent rating agency reports:

- a. Strong financial operations management
- b. Strong financial performance with fixed charge ratio averaging around 2.0x during the last 3 years
- c. Robust liquidity



- d. Low operating costs
- e. Competitive rates
- f. Diverse resource portfolio
- g. Favorable debt and liabilities profile
- h. Proactive planning and hedging practices
- i. Timely rate setting record
- j. Strong wildfire mitigation activities

#### **Ratings Variables:**

The rating agencies evaluate a number of factors in deriving municipal power ratings. These include:

- a. Financial ratios and metrics
- b. Governance Structure and Management
- c. Rate Competitiveness
- d. Cost of production/purchased power (particularly with respect to higher cost renewables)
- e. Risk Management Practices
- f. Service area demographics
- g. Regulatory factors

#### **4. Challenges:**

Below are comments from recent rating's agency reports regarding challenges to SMUD's financial strength that could affect SMUD's ability to access credit markets:

- a. Wildfire liability and inverse condemnation exposure
- b. More significant capital spending affecting rate competitiveness and key financial metrics
- c. Substantially weakened competitive position or impaired ability to maintain liquidity and achieve fixed charge ratios commensurate with recent years' levels
- d. Prioritizing environmental goals or rate affordability over preservation of the financial profile

#### **5. Recommendation:**

It is recommended that the Board accept the Monitoring Report for SD-3 Board Strategic Direction on Access to Credit Market



SSS No.  
  
BOD 2025-001

BOARD AGENDA ITEM  
STAFFING SUMMARY SHEET

Committee Meeting & Date  
POLICY - 2025  
Board Meeting Date  
N/A

TO					TO							
1.	Suresh Kotha				6.							
2.	Brandy Bolden				7.							
3.	Farres Everly				8.							
4.					9.	Legal						
5.					10.	CEO & General Manager						
Consent Calendar			Yes	X	No (If no, schedule a dry run presentation.)		Budgeted	X	Yes	No (If no, explain in Cost/Budgeted section.)		
FROM (IPR) Gregg Fishman / Crystal Henderson					DEPARTMENT Board Office					MAIL STOP B307	EXT. 5424	DATE SENT 12/20/24
NARRATIVE:												
<p><b>Requested Action:</b> Enable the Board of Directors an opportunity to review the Board Work Plan.</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> The Board President reviews the Board Work Plan to ensure agenda items support the work of the Board.</p> <p><b>Board Policy:</b> This review of the Work Plan supports Governance Process GP-4, Board/Committee Work Plan and Agenda Planning, which states that the Board will develop each year a list of topics and issues that it wishes to explore in the coming years and maintain a work plan that will be regularly reviewed by the Board or a standing committee. Governance Process GP-6, Role of the Board President, states that the Board President shall ensure that the Board’s agendas meet the goals of the annual work plan.</p> <p><b>Benefits:</b> Reviewing the Work Plan allows the Board members and Executive staff to make changes to the Work Plan and Parking Lot items as necessary.</p> <p><b>Cost/Budgeted:</b> Included in the budget for internal labor.</p> <p><b>Alternatives:</b> Not review the Work Plan at this time.</p> <p><b>Affected Parties:</b> Board of Directors and Executive Office</p> <p><b>Coordination:</b> Crystal Henderson, Special Assistant to the Board</p> <p><b>Presenter:</b> Gregg Fishman, Board President</p>												

Additional Links:

SUBJECT	Board Work Plan	ITEM NO. (FOR LEGAL USE ONLY)
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ITEMS SUBMITTED AFTER DEADLINE WILL BE POSTPONED UNTIL NEXT MEETING.





SSS No.  
  
BOD 2025-002

BOARD AGENDA ITEM

STAFFING SUMMARY SHEET

Committee Meeting & Date  
POLICY - 2025

Board Meeting Date  
N/A

TO					TO							
1.	Brandy Bolden				6.							
2.	Farres Everly				7.							
3.	Suresh Kotha				8.							
4.					9.	Legal						
5.					10.	CEO & General Manager						
Consent Calendar			Yes	X	No (If no, schedule a dry run presentation.)		Budgeted	X	Yes	No (If no, explain in Cost/Budgeted section.)		
FROM (IPR) Heidi Sanborn / Crystal Henderson					DEPARTMENT Board Office					MAIL STOP B307	EXT. 5424	DATE SENT 12/20/24

NARRATIVE:

Requested Action:

A summary of directives is provided to staff during the committee meeting.

Summary:

The Board requested an ongoing opportunity to do a wrap up period at the end of each committee meeting to summarize various Board member suggestions and requests that were made at the meeting to make clear the will of the Board. The Policy Committee Chair will summarize Board member requests that come out of the committee presentations for this meeting.

Board Policy:

Governance Process GP-4, Board/Committee Work Plan and Agenda Planning states the Board will focus on the results the Board wants the organization to achieve.

Benefits:

Having an agendized opportunity to summarize the Board’s requests and suggestions that arise during the committee meeting will help clarify the will of the Board.

Cost/Budgeted:

Included in budget for internal labor.

Alternatives:

Not to summarize the Board’s request at this meeting.

Affected Parties:

Board of Directors, Board Office and Executive Office

Coordination:

Crystal Henderson, Special Assistant to the Board

Presenter:

Heidi Sanborn, Policy Committee Chair

Additional Links:

SUBJECT  
Summary of Committee Direction – Policy Committee

ITEM NO. (FOR LEGAL USE ONLY)

ITEMS SUBMITTED AFTER DEADLINE WILL BE POSTPONED UNTIL NEXT MEETING.