



November 22, 2024

Olympia City Council
PO Box 1967
Olympia, WA 98507-1967

Dear Mayor Payne and Council Members:

SUBJECT: Utility Advisory Committee (UAC) Recommends Approval of the Utilities Chapter Update

In May 2023, Utilities staff suggested the UAC serve as the Utilities Chapter of the Comprehensive Plan update stakeholder group by forming a UAC Utilities Chapter Update Subcommittee (UAC Subcommittee) to work with staff on the required update. The UAC agreed, and beginning in August 2023, the UAC Subcommittee worked with staff from drinking water, wastewater, storm and surface water and waste resources during five topic specific public meetings to develop the chapter update. At each UAC Subcommittee meeting, subcommittee members reviewed staff recommended language changes, requested revisions to staff proposed language and recommended additional changes. The full UAC reviewed the work of the UAC Subcommittee during regular meetings and in February 2024, and recommended a February 1, 2024 draft be forwarded to the Planning Commission for consideration. Despite notice about the public UAC Subcommittee meetings, including e-newsletters announcements and a Utility Bill insert article, no members of the public attended UAC Subcommittee or full UAC meetings at which the Utilities Chapter was discussed. While subcommittee members often debated specific goal and policy language during subcommittee meetings, consensus was reached on final language to include in the UAC recommended draft.

At our most recent meeting on November 7, 2024, the UAC received a final Utilities Chapter update briefing and discussed with Utilities staff the result of the Planning Commission's review of the February 1, 2024 UAC recommended draft. The UAC understands that as a result of input from the Planning Commission, Utilities staff proposed minor changes to three policies: PU1.4; PU9.1 and PU10.4. The UAC further understands that following an August 19, 2024 public hearing, the Planning Commission recommended the elimination of one policy (*PU 13.2 Manage waste as locally as possible.*) and the incorporation of a new policy: *PU10.13 Use green stormwater infrastructure to facilitate the City's climate goals.* Finally, the UAC also understands that minor revisions were made to the February 1, 2024 UAC recommended draft to address comments received from Puget Sound Energy.

Thank you for the opportunity to play a key stakeholder role in the development of the update of the Utilities Chapter of the Comprehensive Plan. The UAC believes the Utilities Chapter, as recommended by the Planning Commission in its October 7, 2024 letter of recommendation, and in concert with each

utility's master plan, establishes the strategic direction necessary to meet the next 20-years of expected growth.

The UAC would also like to acknowledge and express our appreciation to Utilities staff for their expertise and responsiveness to our questions and concerns throughout the Utilities Chapter update process. Finally, the UAC would also like to thank the Planning Commission for providing time at its June 17, 2024, Utilities Chapter briefing to allow me to provide the UAC's support for the chapter update.

Please contact me at klamson@ci.olympia.wa.us if you have any questions. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Kristin Lamson
KRISTIN LAMSON
Chair
Utility Advisory Committee

KL/lw

cc: UAC Members
Tim Smith, Interim Community Planning and Economic Development Director
Mark Russell, Public Works Director
Jesse Barham, Water Resources Director
Gary Franks, Waste ReSources Director
Mike Vessey, Drinking Water Utility Director
Susan Clark, Water Resources Engineering and Planning Manager
Ron Jones, Senior Planner
Joyce Phillips, Principal Planner
Olympia Planning Commission