

BEFORE THE
PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF OREGON

UM 2276

In the Matter of

PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF
OREGON,

Report on Justice Funding Precertification.

REPORT HB 2475 INTERVENOR
FUNDING PRE-CERTIFICATION OF
VERDE

Verde hereby submits the preliminary funding report report on HB 2475 Intervenor Funding Pre-Certification on August 8, 2023. In a filing dated May 18th, 2023, Verde submitted a request for a total amount of \$56,750 to support staff time, administrative support, and the ability to retain technical assistance as needed, and community education.

Verde is a 501(c)(3) community-based organization that represents environmental justice communities, in particular in the Cully neighborhood, mostly in Pacific Power territory and a small corner in Portland General Electric territory, and more broadly across the state through collaborative coalition work. Verde is one of the longest-running people of color-led environmental organizations in Oregon. Verde serves communities by building environmental wealth through social enterprise, outreach, and advocacy. We reinterpret sustainability as an anti-poverty strategy. Since 2005, Verde has brought environmental infrastructure to low-income neighborhoods, engaged residents to design and implement these projects, and ensured that environmental investments contribute to community well-being.

As per article 5, Verde is an approved intervenor Environmental Justice Intervenor as of May 2023.

As stated in our application, Verde has been involved or intends to be involved in the following dockets listed below. General goals and activities have been listed under each docket that Verde has engaged in so far. Capacity has been limited due to turnover, but is increasing as Verde has hired a new Energy Justice Coordinator and Energy, Climate, and Transportation Manager.

Projected Dockets:

UM 2211 - Implementation of HB 2475 (ADV 1365, ADV 1390, ADV 1412):

Relevance/Eligibility: UM 2211 is a non-contested docket that addresses the implementation of HB 2475, for which Verde was a primary advocate. This includes: PGE Advice Income Qualified Bill Discount (ADV 1365), NWN's Advice Residential Low-Income Bill Discount Program (ADV 1390), and PacifiCorp Low-Income Bill Discount Program (ADV 1412).

This docket impacts energy burdened environmental justice communities, including Cully, which is a significantly energy burdened community (see above *Living Cully Energy Plan*) in both Pacific Power, Portland General Electric, and Northwest Natural service territories. These dockets involve the development and implementation of programs that affect the rights and needs of low-income and underserved communities in the energy sector. Verde can provide its expertise in both community perspectives and utility regulation to support advocacy to ensure that programs are maximally effective for the people they serve and have a minimal impact on non-participating ratepayers.

How Verde Intends to Engage: Verde plans to provide feedback on program eligibility, enrollment, verification, level of relief, outreach, engagement, and timeline to ensure that these programs adequately address the energy burden faced by low-income and underserved communities.

Verde has:

- Participated in stakeholder meetings held by Portland General Electric and Pacific Power to advise on implementation of the low-income discount program.
- Reviews the updated dockets, provides feedback, and continues to discuss with other advocates in this docket.
- Verde intends to continue engaging on UM 2211.

UM 2225 - HB 2021 Implementation/AR 655 - Rulemaking Regarding Filing, Review, and Update of Clean Energy Plans:

Relevance/Eligibility: UM 2225 stems from Verde's advocacy and leadership in passing HB 2021, Oregon's 100% Clean Energy for All policy. Associated dockets, such as AR 655 and utility Clean Energy Plan proceedings will also be of interest in helping to implement the important work of HB 2021 and UM 2225.

This docket impacts environmental justice communities as the statutory language of HB 2021 indicates that it should be implemented in ways that "maximize community benefits and minimize environmental justice burdens." Verde is especially interested in helping to ensure Oregon's 100% clean work holds up to that vision and that communities across the state can benefit equitably from the transition to more renewable energy. In particular, Verde is interested

in the intersections of UM 2225 and associated dockets with community solar and distribution system planning.

How Verde Intends to Engage: Verde plans to participate in this docket as a member of the Energy Advocates coalition, and advocating for communities to be meaningfully involved in utility Clean Energy Plans, including supporting a group of community members in engaging in the process, along with Community Energy Advocates, along with Rogue Climate, Coalition of Communities of Color, Oregon Just Transition Alliance, and Multnomah County.

Verde has:

- Attends and participates in the Public Utility Commission workshops relating to UM 2225 and attends meetings with Energy Advocates to understand environmental law and discuss with partners.
- Submitted comment letter.
- Plans to continue to intervene by attending workshops relating to UM 2225, reading updated docket reports, submitting comments and attending meetings with energy advocates.

UM 1158 - Energy Trust Equity Metrics:

Relevance/Eligibility: Derived from HB 3141, for which Verde was an advocate and participant in bill negotiations, UM 1158 is an ongoing process to determine, measure, and modify equity metrics for the public purpose charge programs administered by the Energy Trust of Oregon.

Verde utilizes Energy Trust incentives for its Verde Builds work, including heat pump installation and also serves communities in Energy Trust service territory, many of whom have not been traditionally served by Energy Trust programs. In HB 3141, Verde advocated for carve outs within renewable energy funds to support low-income communities and community energy resilience and is interested in seeing this through. Verde has also engaged in past iterations of Energy Trust metrics work.

How Verde Intends to Engage: Verde plans to participate in this docket by providing feedback on the equity metrics established by the Energy Trust

Verde has:

- Followed docket updates and will continue to follow UM 1158 by discussing with other Energy Advocates.
- Will also continue to provide feedback with Energy Trust.

Pacific Power and Portland General Electric Distribution System Plans

Relevance/Eligibility: Verde participated in initial distribution system planning (DSP) proceedings and successfully advocated with Community Energy Project for a more “human-centered approach”. Verde also submitted multiple comments with Coalition of Communities of Color and the Institute for Market Transformation to this end, as well as advocating for a consideration of buildings improvements as ways to reduce load and the need for distribution system upgrades.

How Verde Intends to Engage: Verde will continue to advocate for a community-oriented and community-benefiting approach to distribution system planning and will work to ensure that equity and community voices are embedded into utility distribution system plan revisions.

Verde has:

- Verde will continue to advocate for a community oriented and benefiting approach to the distribution system planning.

Pacific Power and Portland General Electric Clean Fuels Plans/Programs

Relevance/Eligibility: Verde has engaged in various transportation electrification dockets, including the Pacific Power and Portland General Electric Clean Fuels Plans and program development. We hope to continue that work and to help bring our expertise in community transportation needs and utility regulation to ensure that programs and policies both meet community and ratepayer needs.

How Verde Intends to Engage: Verde will submit comments and participate in relevant dockets.

Verde has:

- Submitted comments on relevant dockets.
- Attended workshops and meetings relevant to this work.
- Continues to engage and regularly meet with partner organizations to discuss transportation electrification needs relevant to the Public Utility Commission.

Verde also intends to be involved other dockets that impact the following items:

- ❖ Decarbonization/electrification
- ❖ Energy affordability and low income rate-payers including rate revisions
- ❖ Grid equity and grid modernization
- ❖ Community solar, community energy, distributed energy resources, and distribution system planning

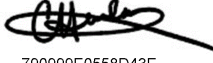
- ❖ Equity metrics and diversity, equity, and inclusion broadly within PUC processes and work
- ❖ Transportation electrification
- ❖ Disconnections
- ❖ Resilience

Community Resources

- Verde is currently planning a focus group style training for the Lideres Verdes Program and will be completing that deliverable in the Fall of 2023.
- Verde is currently planning how to proceed with delivering PUC education/testimony stipends and accessibility resources through the end of this funding period.

Attachments A and B outline the amount of Justice Funding funds that have been received and spent thus far. At this time, we do not anticipate releasing any funds back into the Fund.

Dated this 8th day of August 2023.

DocuSigned by:

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APPENDIX A
VERDE PROPOSED BUDGET

Verde Internal Expenses	Rate	Hours	Cost
<i>Staff</i>			
Anahi Segovia Rodriguez, Energy Justice Coordinator	\$100	200	\$20,000
Indi Namkoong, Transportation Justice Coordinator	\$100	100	\$10,000
Cheyenne Holliday, Energy Climate and Transportation Manager	\$150	50	\$7,500
Stacie Walen, Finance Director	\$150	50	\$7,500
<u>Staffing Subtotal</u>			<u>\$45,000</u>
<i>Contracting</i>			
TBD, Technical Assistance Provider	\$150	25	\$3,750
<u>Contracting Subtotal</u>			<u>\$3,750</u>
<i>Community Resources</i>			
Lideres Verdes (Verde Community Group) (Focus Group/Training)			\$3,000
Community PUC Education/Testimony Stipends and Accessibility Resources			\$5,000
<u>Community Resources Subtotal</u>			<u>\$8,000</u>
Total			\$56,750

APPENDIX B
VERDE FUNDING SPENT: MAY 2023 - AUGUST 2023

Verde Internal Expenses	Rate	Hours	Funding Requested	Funding Spent	Funding Remaining
<i>Staff</i>					
Anahi Segovia Rodriguez , Energy Justice Coordinator	\$100	80	\$20,000	\$800	\$19,200
Indi Namkoong, Transportation Justice Coordinator	\$100	9	\$10,000	\$900	\$9,100
Cheyenne Holliday, Energy Climate and Transportation Manager	\$150	15	\$7,500	\$2,250	\$5,250
Stacie Walen, Finance Director	\$150	2	\$7,500	\$300	\$7,200
<u>Staffing Subtotal</u>			<u>\$45,000</u>		<u>\$40,750</u>
<i>Contracting</i>					
TBD, Technical Assistance Provider	\$150	0	\$3,750	0	\$3,750
<u>Contracting Subtotal</u>			<u>\$3,750</u>		<u>\$3,750</u>
<i>Community Resources</i>					
Lideres Verdes (Verde Community Group) (Focus Group/Training)			\$3,000		\$3,000
Community PUC Education/Testimony Stipends and Accessibility Resources			\$5,000		\$5,000
<u>Community Resources Subtotal</u>			<u>\$8,000</u>		<u>\$8,000</u>
Total			<u>\$56,750</u>		<u>\$52,500</u>