

BEFORE THE
PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF OREGON

UM 2276

In the Matter of

PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF
OREGON,

Approval of Justice Funding
Precertification.

REPORT HB 2475 INTERVENOR
FUNDING PRE-CERTIFICATION OF
OREGON JUST TRANSITION
ALLIANCE

Oregon Just Transition Alliance, a fiscally sponsored project of [Community Initiatives](#), hereby submits its report on HB 2475 Intervenor Funding Pre-Certification on August 5, 2023.

Oregon Just Transition Alliance (OJTA) is a movement of communities facing environmental racism, climate change, and economic exploitation – the frontlines of injustice and the frontlines of change. We bring together organizations committed to base-building in frontline communities. We gather to create ownership over our collective future and move Oregon toward an economy that is rooted in our shared values, [the principles of a Just Transition](#). Our Steering Committee includes Rogue Climate, Verde, Pineros y Campesinos Unidos del Noroeste (PCUN), Beyond Toxics, Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon (APANO), and OPAL Environmental Justice.

As per Article 5, Oregon Just Transition Alliance is an approved Environmental Justice Intervenor as of April 2023.

OJTA and its members were very active during the 2023 legislative session. This activity in the first two quarters of the year along with staff transitions in the second quarter has resulted in limited capacity to engage fully.

As stated in our application OJTA requested justice funding to hire a full-time staff member to lead our work in this space and engage in several dockets. To date, OJTA has yet to onboard a staffer with the 2023 session over, we are in the process of finalizing our job description, gathering a hiring panel, and share our job description. We anticipate adjusting our budget request to reflect this change. In the meantime, during this transition, our Advocacy and Systems Director anticipates engaging in this work and helping set up a work plan for our new hire,

identifying which dockets OJTA can continue to engage in, and finalizing our community engagement efforts for sub-grants.

In regards to our sub-grant updates, as requested by Order No. 23-180. OJTA has been in communication with Oregon Rural Action, Adelante Mujeres, and Comunidades, fiscally sponsored by Columbia Riverkeeper as recipients of these grants. They are member organizations interested in engaging in this work and working with rural Oregon and Latinx communities. To date, we have met with Comunidades and Adelante Mujeres, and both have expressed interest in receiving sub-grants. We are in the process of developing grant agreements, scope of work, and community engagement. We have also scheduled a meeting with Oregon Rural Action for the week of August 7th to confirm interest and develop a plan to move forward with grant agreements, scope of work, and community engagement. We anticipate adjusting and finalizing our proposed budget to reflect funding for 3 sub-grants instead of the 2 sub-grants listed in [Answers to Memorandum 2276](#), submitted on Tuesday, May 9, 2023. We can update the commission in mid to late September when we have finalized sub-grants.

As listed in our application, OJTA has been involved and will continue to be involved in the dockets listed below. General goals and activities have been listed under each docket that OJTA has engaged in. Some information might be missing due to staff turnover and limited documentation of previous involvement.

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

UM 2211 is a non-contested docket that addresses the implementation of HB 2475 (Energy Affordability Act). This docket impacts energy-burdened households across Oregon, as utilities are tasked to consider feedback from stakeholders, such as OJTA, to create programs to address the energy burden for low-income and underserved customers.

OJTA intends to participate in the following dockets for each utility program that fall within UM 2211: 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). In these proceedings, OJTA plans to inform our alliance and 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.

UM 2225 - HB 2021 Implementation:

OJTA continues to be a part of the HB 2021 Energy Advocates groups and continues to be a part of the HB 2021 Community Advocates program that was launched in October 2022, in collaboration with Rogue Climate, Coalition of Communities of Color, Verde, Northwest Energy Council, and Multnomah County Office of Sustainability. OJTA has:

- Joined weekly advocate meetings about HB 2021 implementation
- Reviewed PGE/PacifiCorps CEP/IRP filings and other materials
- Contributed to Energy Advocate comment letters (OJTA signed on to Docket LC 80: Energy Advocates' Round 1 Comments on Portland General Electric's Clean Energy Plan and Integrated Resource Plan)
- Presented to and facilitated bi-weekly conversations with a cohort of community members engaged in HB 2021.
- Met regularly with cohort organizers to plan for meetings and long-term strategy
- Participated in 2 Learning Labs hosted by PGE

OJTA will continue to work closely with coalition partners to ensure that the utility Clean Energy Plans and related community engagement is equitable, inclusive, and accessible to all and that utility actions and investments are prioritized based on community needs.

OJTA in its request listed the following dockets as areas we may have some involvement:

- UM 2178 - Natural Gas Fact Finding
- UG 435 - NWN Rate Revision Intervenor Case
- LC 79 - NWN IRP Intervenor
- LC 77 - PAC IRP Intervenor
- AR 655 - Rulemaking Regarding Filing, Review, and Update of Clean Energy Plans

In our attempt to be added to the service list for these dockets, we learned that most of the dockets don't have additional filings, orders were issued and the work on them is wrapped up. We plan on reaching out to staff a PUC to learn more about these dockets and if there are related dockets to engage in.

- UM 2178, as of 1/31/2023 this docket was listed as closed without order.
- UG 435, is wrapped up the final order was issued on 5/26/23 and we will likely not have any additional filings come in on that docket.
- LC 79, will likely have no activity because there was an acknowledgment and an order will be issued in the future.
- LC 77, is PAC 2021 IRP the final order was issued on 5/23/22 we will likely not have any additional filings.
- AR 655, is also pretty wrapped up, with the final rule change going into effect on 6/14/2023.

UM 2005 - Distribution System Planning:

OJTA intends to participate in this docket as it aligns with our mission to increase the use of renewable energy sources and expand access to energy for underserved communities. OJTA will advocate for the inclusion of community input in the planning process to ensure that low-income

and environmental justice communities are not left behind in the transition to a more distributed, clean energy system.

OJTA also intends to be involved in other dockets that impact the following items as stated in our request; public utility issues affecting the interests of low-income residential customers or environmental justice communities, including but not limited to interests in utility rates and terms and conditions of service, interests in the cost of access and impact from the delivery of services, interest in utility programs, and interest in utility resource planning. This could include issues that arise from IRP and rate cases, decarbonization/electrification, grid equity, equity metrics, disconnections, and resilience.

Budget

Attachment A shows our initial PUC Intervenor Funding Budget - 2023 when we made our initial budget request for the allocation of justice funding.

Attachment B shows PUC Intervenor Funding by Utility with the adjustment mentioned in [Answers to Memorandum 2276](#), submitted on Tuesday, May 9, 2023. Stating pulling roughly the same amount from each utility; \$33k from PGE, \$33k from PacificCorps, and \$33k from Northwest Natural. We will update our budget to reflect the 3rd sub-grant. We can update the commission in mid to late September when we have finalized sub-grant agreements.

At this time, we are unsure of the amount we anticipate releasing back into the Fund.

Dated this 5th day of August 2023.

/s/ Joel Iboa

Joel Iboa

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ATTACHMENT A

OJTA's PUC Intervenor Funding Budget - 2023

	<u>Total Expense</u>	<u>Intervenor Funding Request</u>
<i>Staff time</i>		
Salary of 1 FTE	including benefits \$65,000	\$42,250
<i>Subgrants to Member organizations</i>		
Member organization of OJTA	\$30,000	\$30,000
Member organization of OJTA	\$20,000	\$10,000
<i>Community Stipends and Outreach</i>		
Stipends for community participation (e.g., HB 2021 Community Advocates program, travel reimbursements, child care, access needs, community stipends for focus groups, educational events)	\$10,000	\$7,750
Spanish translation and interpretation	\$5,000	
Outreach materials (e.g., website, printed materials, etc.)	\$5,000	
<i>Overhead</i>		
fiscal sponsorship fee	\$10,000	\$10,000
Total	\$164,500	\$100,000

ATTACHMENT B

OJTA's PUC Intervenor
Funding by Utility

	<u>PGE</u>	<u>Northwest Natural</u>	<u>PacifiCorp</u>	<u>Total</u>
<i>Staff time</i>				
Salary + benefits of .5 FTE	\$14,083	\$14,084	\$14,083	\$42,250
<i>Subgrants to Member organizations</i>				
Member organization of OJTA	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$30,000
Member organization of OJTA	\$3,334	\$3,333	\$3,334	\$10,000
<i>Community Stipends and Outreach</i>				
Stipends for community participation (e.g., HB 2021 Community Advocates program, travel reimbursements, child care, access needs, community stipends for focus groups, educational events)	\$2,583	\$2,583	\$2,583	\$7,750
Outreach materials	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<i>Overhead</i>				
fiscal sponsorship fee	\$3,333	\$3,334	\$3,333	\$10,000
Total	\$33,333	\$33,334	\$33,333	\$100,000