

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
OF OREGON**

UM 2225

In the Matter of

PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF
OREGON,

House Bill 2021 Investigation into Clean
Energy Plans.

ORDER

DISPOSITION: PROPOSED BUDGETS FOR HB 2475 GRANTS APPROVED

On September 2, 2022, Rogue Climate (RC) filed a notice of participation and request for House Bill (HB) 2475 funding and a proposed budget in docket UM 2225. On October 11, 2022, the Coalition of Communities of Color (CCC) filed a notice of participation and request for HB 2475 funding and a proposed budget in docket UM 2225. No response was made to the filings. RC's proposed budget shows eligible expenses of \$10,350, and it seeks an HB 2475 Funding Grant of \$10,350. CCC's proposed budget shows eligible expenses of \$9,900, and it seeks an HB 2475 Funding Grant of \$9,900. I grant the requests of RC and CCC, and their proposed budgets are approved.

The Commission Approved Form of Interim Funding Agreement in Order No. 22-043 defines "Eligible Dockets" as a proceeding before the Commission to review:

1. Non-complaint contested cases, rulemakings, and non-contested dockets that affect the applicable utility and its low-income residential customers and environmental justice communities,
2. Named, non-docketed Commission led processes addressing issues that affect the applicable utility and its low-income residential customers and environmental justice communities, or
3. An Integrated Resource Plan.

Participating Utilities PacifiCorp and Portland General Electric Company (PGE) are directly affected by docket UM 2225. Docket UM 2225 involves an investigation into Clean Energy Plans, which PacifiCorp and PGE must file pursuant to HB 2021 decarbonization requirements.

RC and CCC claim these proceedings will have a substantial impact on PacifiCorp's and PGE's customers because the investigation seeks to identify the planning and investment necessary to meet decarbonization standards. RC represents Southern Oregon and South Coast communities, including low-income, rural, youth, and communities of color. CCC represents an alliance of culturally specific community-based organizations, including organizations with representation from African, African American, Asian, Latine, Middle Eastern and North African, Pacific Islander, and Slavic communities. The activities investigated and regulated throughout this proceeding will directly impact PacifiCorp's and PGE's low-income and rural residential customers, as well as other environmental justice communities RC and CCC represent.

RC and CCC both assert that they are eligible for funding as pre-certified eligible organizations pursuant to Commission Order No. 22-043. RC argues that it serves the Southern Oregon and South Coast communities mostly impacted by climate change, including low-income, rural, youth, and communities of color, by organizing for clean energy, sustainable jobs, and a healthy environment, through education and campaigns for beneficial policies aimed at avoiding harm caused by environmental and health hazards. It is part of RC's mission to provide representation in public proceedings for environmental justice communities. RC represents communities traditionally under-represented, including rural communities, in public processes like this one. CCC argues it serves a collective racial justice effort to improve outcomes for communities of color through policy analysis and advocacy, environmental justice work, and other culturally appropriate data and research. CCC's environmental justice work drives policy change and solutions that center the experiences and priorities of low-income, communities of color facing the impacts of climate change.

I agree that RC and CCC both qualify as eligible organizations under Order No. 22-043. I find that docket UM 2225 qualifies as an eligible proceeding because the proceeding is anticipated to have a substantial impact on PacifiCorp's and PGE's low-income residential customers and environmental justice communities. Accordingly, the motion should be granted, and this docket certified as an eligible proceeding.

The Interim Agreements for HB 2475 Intervenor Funding, approved by the Commission in Order No. 22-043, provide that pre-certified intervenors must submit a proposed HB 2475 Grant Funds budget to the Commission that contains, at a minimum, the following information:

1. A statement of work to be performed by the Recipient for which the Recipient is seeking funding;
2. A description of the areas to be investigated and addressed by Recipient;
3. A budget showing estimated attorney fees, which may include the cost for appropriate support staff and operational support; and
4. A budget showing estimated consultant fees and expert witness fees, which may include the cost for appropriate support staff and operational support.

Once a proposed budget is received, the Commission decides whether HB 2475 Grant Funds are available for use based on factors identified in the Interim Agreements for HB 2475 Intervenor Funding. The Commission has the authority to accept, deny, or partially deny the request, and may place reasonable conditions on the grant, and may delegate this responsibility to the Chief Administrative Law Judge, consistent with Order No. 21-213.

RC's proposed budget and CCC's proposed budget both include the requisite information and reflect the current schedule adopted in this docket.

In light of the issues being addressed, the complexity of the issues, and the significant policy decisions to be made, RC's proposed budget and CCC's proposed budget are both reasonable and should be approved.

ORDER

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. This proceeding is designated as a proceeding eligible for HB 2475 Funds.
2. Rogue Climate is certified to receive funds in this docket.
3. Coalition of Communities of Color is certified to receive funds in this docket.
4. Rogue Climate's proposed budget for an HB 2475 Funding Grant is approved.
5. Coalition of Communities of Color's proposed budget for an HB 2475 Funding Grant is approved.
6. An HB 2475 Funding Grant is approved up to \$10,350 for activity in docket UM 2225 performed by Rogue Climate.

7. An HB 2475 Funding Grant is approved up to \$9,900 for activity in docket UM 2225 performed by Coalition of Communities of Color.

Made, entered, and effective Jan 30, 2023.



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Nolan Moser".

Nolan Moser
Chief Administrative Law Judge

A party may request rehearing or reconsideration of this order under ORS 756.561. A request for rehearing or reconsideration must be filed with the Commission within 60 days of the date of service of this order. The request must comply with the requirements in OAR 860-001-0720. A copy of the request must also be served on each party to the proceedings as provided in OAR 860-001-0180(2). A party may appeal this order by filing a petition for review with the Court of Appeals in compliance with ORS 183.480 through 183.484.