

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
OF OREGON**

UM 2211

In the Matter of

PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF
OREGON,

Implementation of House Bill 2475.

ORDER

DISPOSITION: PROPOSED BUDGET FOR HB 2475 GRANT APPROVED

On September 21, 2022, Rogue Climate (RC) filed a notice of participation and request for House Bill (HB) 2475 funding and a proposed budget in docket UM 2211. No response was made to the filings. RC’s proposed budget shows eligible expenses of \$2,400, and it seeks an HB 2475 Funding Grant of \$2,400. I grant the request of RC; its proposed budget is 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 utility PacifiCorp, dba Pacific Power, is directly affected by docket UM 2211. Docket UM 2211 involves an investigation into the implementation of HB 2475, allowing the Commission to develop differential rates for income-eligible customers.

RC claims these proceedings will have a substantial impact on PacifiCorp’s customers because the investigation issues are associated with income-based discount programs. RC represents Southern Oregon and South Coast communities, including low-income, rural, youth, and communities of color. The activities investigated and regulated throughout this proceeding will directly impact PacifiCorp’s low-income and rural residential customers, as well as other environmental justice communities RC represents.

RC asserts that it is eligible for funding as a pre-certified eligible organization pursuant to 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.

I agree that RC qualifies as eligible organization under Order No. 22-043. I find that docket UM 2211 qualifies as an eligible proceeding because the proceeding is anticipated to have a substantial impact on PacifiCorp'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 includes the requisite information.

In light of the issues being addressed, the complexity of the issues, and the significant policy decisions to be made, RC's proposed budget is 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. Rogue Climate's proposed budget for an HB 2475 Funding Grant is approved.
4. An HB 2475 Funding Grant is approved up to \$2,400 for activity in docket UM 2211 performed by Rogue Climate.

Made, entered, and effective Jan 31, 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.