

ENTERED Aug 16 2023

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
OF OREGON**

UG 461

In the Matter of

AVISTA CORPORATION, dba AVISTA UTILITIES,

Request for a General Rate Revision.

ORDER

DISPOSITION: AMENDED PROPOSED BUDGET FOR ISSUE FUND GRANT APPROVED AS REVISED

On May 1, 2023, the Oregon Citizens' Utility Board (CUB) filed a proposed budget for an Issue Fund Grant in this proceeding. CUB's proposed budget showed eligible expenses of \$50,000; and it sought an Issue Fund Grant of \$40,000, which was approved in Order No. 23-201. Subsequently, on August 2, 2023, CUB requested a \$35,000 increase to its Issue Fund Grant, resulting in a \$75,000 total Issue Fund Grant in this proceeding. After CUB's amended budget request was received, a clerical error in the Intervenor Funding Summary posted to the Commission's website was discovered, and the amount available was \$32,100. CUB's proposed Issue Fund Grant amendment is revised to reflect this balance in the Issue Fund account. CUB was contacted and agreed to this adjustment.

The Fifth Amended and Restated Intervenor Funding Agreement (IFA), approved by the Commission in Order No. 22-506, provides that precertified intervenors must submit a proposed issue fund budget to the Commission that contains, at a minimum, the following information:

- (1) A statement of the work to be performed;
- (2) A description of the areas to be investigated;
- (3) A description of the particular customer class(es) that will benefit from the intervenor's participation;
- (4) Identification of the specific fund accounts from which the intervenor is seeking monies and an estimate of the amount of available funds in that account;

- (5) A budget showing estimated attorney, consultant, and expert witness fees, which may include the cost for appropriate support staff and operations support; and
- (6) A representation that the intervenor will use matching funds in the form of either in-house resources or outside funding to account for or pay at least 20 percent of the eligible expenses for which the intervenor is seeking an Issue Fund Grant.

Once a proposed budget is received, the Commission decides whether Issue Fund Grants are available for use based on factors identified in the IFA. The Commission has the authority to accept, deny, or partially deny the request, and may place reasonable conditions on the grant. Section 6.7 of the IFA allows an intervenor to amend its proposed budget.

CUB was automatically precertified to receive Issue Fund Grants under Section 5.2(a) of the IFA and OAR 860-001-0120(3)(a). CUB's amended proposed budget includes the requisite information and reflects 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, the Commission believes that CUB's amended proposed budget is reasonable and should be approved as revised herein.

ORDER

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. The Oregon Citizens' Utility Board's amended proposed budget for an Issue Fund Grant is approved as revised.
2. An Issue Fund Grant is approved up to \$72,100.

Made, entered, and effective Aug 16, 2023.



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Nolan Moser".

Nolan Moser
Chief Administrative Law Judge
Administrative Hearings Division