

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION  
OF OREGON**

UM 2405

In the Matter of

PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF  
OREGON,

Investigation Into HB 3179  
Implementation.

ORDER

**DISPOSITION: CASE CERTIFICATION REQUEST GRANTED; PROPOSED  
BUDGET APPROVED**

On March 26, 2026, the Oregon Just Transition Alliance (OJTA) filed a notice of intent to request Justice Funding Case Fund Grant consistent with Order No. 25-409 and OAR 860-001-0800 through OAR 860-001-0900. OJTA's notice of intent included a proposed budget, as permitted under OAR 860-001-0860(5), and presented a proposed allocation of budget between requested Case Funds.

To be eligible for a Case Fund grant, an organization's notice of intent must:

- a. demonstrate that it represents the interests of low-income residential customers or Environmental Justice Communities, and participation in proceedings will be primarily directed at public utility issues affecting those interests, 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;
- b. indicate the particular Environmental Justice Community or low-income customers it represents and demonstrate that it is able to effectively represent them;
- c. demonstrate that it is able to effectively represent or develop advocacy positions benefitting or informed by the Environmental Justice Community or low-income customers, in the service area of each utility for which funding is sought and demonstrates how it will identify the issues or advocacy positions that are important to them;
- d. where applicable, indicate where in past Commission matters the organization demonstrated the ability to substantively contribute to the record on behalf of such interests; and

- e. the Participating Public Utility account or accounts from which the applicant seeks funds through its grant request.

An organization's Case Fund Grant budget proposal must include:

- a. a statement of work, estimated eligible expenses;
- b. a description of the areas or issues to be investigated and addressed by the organization;
- c. a detail of estimated eligible expenses, which may include support staff, operational support, and consultant and expert witness fees;
- d. a description of the low-income customers or Environmental Justice Communities that will benefit from the organization's participation; and
- e. a description of the Participating Public utility account(s) from which the organization seeks funds and how payments should be apportioned.

The Commission may, but is not obligated to consider any of the following factors:

- a. the breadth and complexity of the issues or the importance of community participation;
- b. the degree to which any policy issues affect the interests of low-income residential customers or the interests of residential customers that are members of Environmental Justice Communities;
- c. the proposed budget;
- d. whether the organization has significant ties to the Environmental Justice Community or low-income customers in the service area of each utility for which pre-certification or funding from a Case Fund is sought;
- e. the qualifications of the applicant and experience before the Commission; and
- f. the level of available funding available under the agreement.

In Order Nos. 25-409 and 25-529, the Commission determined that OJTA is an eligible organization for the Portland General Electric Company (PGE), PacifiCorp dba Pacific Power (PacifiCorp) and Northwest Natural Gas Company (NW Natural) funds under OAR 860-001-0840. Further in Order 25-529, the Commission approved OJTA's request for a Pre-certification Fund grant from each of the utility funds allocated to PGE, PacifiCorp and NW Natural to support its participation in Commission dockets implementing HB 3179, including these proceedings. In its request for a Case Fund grant in this docket, OJTA explained its status as an assemblage of over 20 community-based organizations addressing environmental racism, climate change and economic exploitation, and its position as the only statewide environmental justice organization in Oregon. OJTA further highlights its efforts as a co-lead in the passage of HB 3179, which underlies these proceedings, and its efforts to date in Commission proceedings addressing HB 3179. Finally, OJTA notes its representation of members in Central and Eastern

Oregon who do not have independent capacity to participate in matters addressing HB 3179, and the complex coordination of concurrent proceedings involving HB 3179 before the Commission in support of its request for monies from the Avista Corporation dba Avista Utilities (Avista) and Cascade Natural Gas Company (Cascade) Case Funds, in addition to the previously-approved Pre-Certification Fund grants noted above.

OJTA states that its participation will concentrate on issues related to performance-based ratemaking (PBR) and multi-year ratemaking (MYR), including participation in workshops, researching relevant PBR and MYR concepts, reviewing staff memos, engaging in community outreach, drafting comments and attending public hearings.

As noted, OJTA included a proposed budget for consideration. OJTA requests case funding in the amount of \$11,000, spread equally across the Avista and Cascade Case Fund accounts. OJTA requests a progress payment of 50 percent of its total request. No party objected to OJTA's notice of intent or proposed scope of work.

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. 25-408.<sup>1</sup>

OJTA's proposed budget includes the requisite information and reflects the anticipated activity in this docket. No party opposed the proposed budget. Considering the issues being addressed, the complexity of the issues and the significant policy decisions to be made, the proposed budget is reasonable and should be approved.

## ORDER

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. Oregon Just Transition Alliance is certified to receive Case Funds in this docket.
2. Oregon Just Transition Alliance's proposed budget is approved.
3. A Justice Funding Case Fund Grant is approved for the Oregon Just Transition Alliance up to \$5,500 from the 2026 Avista Utilities' Case Fund for activity in docket UM 2405.

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<sup>1</sup> *In the Matter of Public Utility Commission of Oregon, The Delegation of Certain Duties and Powers of the Public Utility Commission of Oregon*, Docket No. CD 27, Order No. 25-408 (Oct. 15, 2025).

4. Avista Utilities pay \$2,750 from the 2026 Avista Utilities Case Fund to Community Energy Project within 30 days after receipt of this order, and the grant be assessed to Avista Utilities residential customers.
5. A Justice Funding Case Fund Grant is approved for the Oregon Just Transition Alliance up to \$5,500 from the 2026 Cascade Natural Gas Company Case Fund for activity in docket UM 2405.
6. Cascade Natural Gas Company pay \$2,750 from the 2026 Cascade Natural Gas Company Case Fund to Oregon Just Transition Alliance within 30 days after receipt of this order, and the grant be assessed to Cascade Natural Gas Company's residential customers.

Made, entered, and effective Apr 20, 2026.



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Alison Lackey  
Chief Administrative Law Judge

