



City of Arts & Innovation

City Council Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL DATE: NOVEMBER 7, 2023
FROM: PUBLIC UTILITIES DEPARTMENT WARDS: ALL
SUBJECT: PUBLIC UTILITIES DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW AND EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

ISSUE:

Receive an overview of the Public Utilities Department, including recognition of the department's employees.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the City Council receive and file this overview of the Public Utilities Department, including recognition of the department's employees.

BACKGROUND:

The Public Utilities Department was established in 1895 and is responsible for providing electric and water service to customers with a service area population of approximately 320,764 through 112,682 electric meters and 66,372 water meters. Our mission statement is: Riverside Public Utilities is committed to providing the highest quality water and electric services at the lowest possible rates to benefit the community.

DISCUSSION:

Riverside Public Utilities staff provide electric, water and related support services to our community and customers *All Day Every Day*. The department is organized into four operating divisions to ensure our customers receive efficient and effective service: Administration/Customer Service; Energy Delivery; Water; Power Resources and Generation.

The attached presentation highlights some of the work and accomplishments of our dedicated staff over the past year.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

This item contributes to the Envision Riverside 2025 City Council Strategic Priority 5 – High Performing Government and contributes to the achievement of the following Goals:

Goal 5.1 - Attract, develop, engage, and retain a diverse and highly skilled workforce across the entire City organization.

Goal 5.3 - Enhance communication and collaboration with community members to improve transparency, build public trust, and encourage shared decision-making.

The item aligns with each of the five Cross-Cutting Threads as follows:

1. **Community Trust** – The Public Utilities Department is transparent and makes decisions based on sound policy, inclusive community engagement and timely and reliable information.
2. **Equity** – The Public Utilities Department is committed to the equitable distribution of services to ensure every member of the community has equal access to share in the benefits of community progress.
3. **Fiscal Responsibility** – The Public Utilities Department is a steward of public funds and ensures responsible management of the City’s financial resources while providing quality public services to all.
4. **Innovation** –The Public Utilities Department must constantly change and adapt to meet the community’s changing needs and prepare for the future. The Department continually develops collaborative partnerships and adaptive processes.
5. **Sustainability & Resiliency** – The Public Utilities Department is committed to meeting the needs of the present without compromising the needs of the future and ensuring the City’s capacity to persevere, adapt and grow during prosperous and challenging times alike.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this presentation.

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Certified as to
availability of funds: Kristie Thomas, Finance Director/Assistant Chief Financial Officer
Approved by: Rafael Guzman, Assistant City Manager
Approved as to form: Phaedra A. Norton, City Attorney

Attachment: Presentation