

AS-14094

Consent 6. a.

BOCC Agenda

Meeting Date: 04/01/2025

Letter dated 3/25/25 Gary Huhta, Cowlitz PUD I-5 Corridor Electric Distribution Capacity Upgrades

Submitted For: Kelly Grayson, Clerk of the Board

Submitted By: Kelly Grayson, Clerk of the Board

Department: Commissioners Office

Information

Subject and Summary Statement

Letter dated 3/25/2025 to Gary Huhta, General Manager, Public Utility District No. 1 of Cowlitz County regarding Cowlitz PUD I-5 Corridor Electric Distribution Capacity Upgrades.

Will Staff Attend - NAME OF STAFF

Department Recommendation

Attachments

Letter

Form Review

Form Started By: Kelly Grayson

Started On: 03/26/2025 08:38 AM

Final Approval Date: 03/26/2025



Board of Cowlitz County Commissioners

Commissioners
Steve Rader, Commissioner District 1
Steven L. Ferrell, Commissioner District 2
Richard R. Dahl, Commissioner District 3

Kelly Grayson, Clerk of the Board

March 25, 2025

Gary Huhta, General Manager
Public Utility District No. 1 of Cowlitz County
PO Box 3007
Longview, WA 98632

RE: Cowlitz PUD I-5 Corridor Electric Distribution Capacity Upgrades

The Cowlitz County Board of Commissioners expresses its support for Cowlitz Public Utility District's FY 2026 federal appropriations request for the I-5 Corridor Electric Distribution Capacity Upgrades Project.

The proposed electrical infrastructure upgrade is a fundamental catalyst for economic development in the underserved northern segment of the I-5 corridor in Cowlitz County. Future commercial, residential and light industrial uses that provide jobs and support affordable housing opportunities can be realized through this expansion of electrical capacity. Federal and other outside assistance are necessary components of the funding package to reduce the financial impact of the upgrades on PUD ratepayers, and prevent smaller-scale commercial and residential developers from bearing the full burden of a multi-million dollar infrastructure investment.

The Board of Commissioners appreciates the PUD's efforts to promote economic development, enable enhanced services for north County residents and I-5 travelers, and build infrastructure that supports transportation electrification. We are pleased to support your federal funding request and encourage our delegation to do the same.

Sincerely,
**Board of County Commissioners
Of Cowlitz County, Washington**



Richard R. Dahl, Chairman



Steve Rader, Commissioner District 1



Steven L. Ferrell, Commissioner District 2

cc: Commissioner's Record