

Kirkwood Meadows Public Utility District

Planning Committee

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Committee of the Kirkwood Meadows Public Utility District has called a Regular Meeting of the Committee to be held on **Wednesday, February 21, 2024 at 3:00 PM** video/teleconference on Zoom at: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83319776349>

HOW TO PARTICIPATE / OBSERVE THE MEETING:

Telephone: Call Zoom at (669) 900-6833 and enter Meeting ID# **833 1977 6349** followed by the pound (#) key.

Computer: Follow this link to join the meeting automatically:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83319776349>

Mobile: Open the Zoom mobile app on a smartphone and enter Meeting ID# **833 1977 6349**

ACCESSIBILITY INFORMATION:

Committee meetings are accessible to people with disabilities and others who need assistance. Individuals who need special assistance or a disability-related modification or accommodation (including auxiliary aids or services) to observe and/or participate in this meeting and access meeting-related materials should contact the District, at least 48-hours before the meeting at (209) 258-4444. Advanced notification will enable the District to swiftly resolve such requests and ensure accessibility.

The Agenda for this Regular Meeting is:

- 1) **Energy Efficiency Rebates.** Update.
- 2) **Large Propane Users Fuel Switching.** Update.
- 3) **Low Income Electric Rate Program.** Discussion & possible action.
- 4) **Future Topics.**
- 5) Next Meeting/Staff Recommendation: *Wednesday, March 20, 2024 - 3:00pm.*

The Kirkwood Meadows Public Utility District is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you are a disabled person and you need a disability-related modification or accommodation to participate in this meeting, please contact the District at (209) 258-4444, by email to info@kmpud.com. Requests must be made as early as possible, and at least two business days before the meeting.

Low Income Program

Background:

There are three relevant provisions in the Public Utilities Code (PUC) that provide direction to publicly owned utilities (POU) regarding the obligations for considering a low-income program; Section 385(a), 385(b), and 386. These provisions of the PUC identify (i) the categories of programs that qualify, (ii) the obligation to perform a needs assessment, and (iii) the minimum standards that must be ensured for low-income customers in the POU's service territory.

In October 2022, the Board directed Staff to retain a qualified professional to prepare a Needs Assessment that considers and complies with the aforementioned PUC codes. The District retained Stantec to review options available for completing a Needs Assessment and associated survey, which was reviewed and approved by the Board, including the income threshold levels (100% of California median income) and annual residency requirements (at least 183 days as measured by water usage).

13 of 186 surveys were returned; only 2 indicated they qualified for other low-income programs. The Board directed Staff to develop a Low-Income Program for Planning, and ultimately Board review.

Comparable Public Electric Utility Programs:

Staff surveyed 26 other public electric utilities. Of those, 5 did not offer a Low-Income program, generally deferring to existing County, State, or Federal programs. For the remaining 21 utilities, their programs generally fell into 3 categories: 1) % reduction for usage rates, 2) a flat amount per month or year, and 3) a flat amount for specific months, generally for service areas in colder/snowy climates and generally from November-April.

Average % Usage Rate Discount:	25.6%
Average Flat Monthly Discount:	\$21/Month
Partial Year Discount:	50%/Month Usage OR \$57/Month

If adjusted for proportionality between Revenue of these other utilities and KMPUD:

Average % Usage Rate Discount:	N/A
Average Flat Monthly Discount:	\$1.7/Month
Partial Year Discount:	17%/Month Usage OR \$11/Month

Fiscal Impact:

Based on the usage by the 2 respondents that indicated they qualify for other low-income programs:

Unadjusted Discounts:

- Average % Usage Rate Discount: 25.6% \$9.28/Month
- Average Flat Monthly Discount: \$21.00/Month
- Partial Year % Discount: 50% \$9.06/Month (6 Months)
- Partial Year \$ Discount: \$57/Month

Adjusted Discounts:

- Average % Usage Rate Discount: 25.6% \$9.28/Month
- Average Flat Monthly Discount: \$1.70/Month
- Partial Year % Discount: 17% \$3.08/Month (6 Months)
- Partial Year \$ Discount: \$11/Month

Expected costs for the above range from approximately \$20 to \$700 per year. However, this is subject to change and actual, qualified participants. Based on an approximate annual PBC income of \$39,000, the current maximum would need 2% of the total PBC funds annually.

Previously, some members of the Planning Committee expressed a reluctance to create a % usage discount on the theory that it would discourage conservation. Based on that, and accounting for potential program growth, Staff recommends that if a low-income program is created that:

- 5% of PBC be set aside annually for the low-income program.
- \$10 to 20/Month credit be applied to low-income customers' incurred electricity costs.

Prepared By:

Erik Christeson