# PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT NO.1 OF JEFFERSON COUNTY

#### RESOLUTION NO. 2017-002

A RESOLUTION of the Board of Commissioners of Public Utility District No. 1 of Jefferson County, Washington ("PUD"), establishing a Low Income Customer Rate Reduction Program.

WHEREAS, RCW 54.24.080 provides the rates and charges shall be fair and nondiscriminatory, except as authorized in RCW 74.38.070; and

WHEREAS, RCW 74.38.070 states that PUDs may provide such services at reduced rates for senior low-income citizen or other low-income citizens as defined by a resolution adopted by the governing body; and

WHEREAS, the PUD Board of Commissioners adopted and later rescinded Resolution 2002-001 establishing a low income senior citizens and low income disabled citizens reduced rate policy for its water customers; and

WHEREAS, the PUD Board of Commissioners adopted Resolution 2013-007 establishing a low income senior citizens and low income disabled citizens reduced rate policy for its water and electrical customers; and

WHEREAS, the Citizen Advisory Board recommended that the PUD Board of Commissioners expand their low income program to serve all eligible low income PUD customers; and

WHEREAS, the PUD Board of Commissioners desires to extend the reduced rates to all eligible PUD low income electrical, water, and sewer customers;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that:

Resolution 2013-007 be rescinded, and that PUD#1 of Jefferson County will implement a Low Income Customer Reduced Rate Program as outlined in Exhibit A of this resolution for all qualifying PUD water, sewer, and electrical customers.

Currently approved PUD low-income senior customers will automatically be moved into the new program as described in Exhibit A, and will need to apply for continued enrollment within one year from the effective date of this resolution.

Currently approved PUD low-income disabled customers will automatically be moved into the new PUD Low Income Customer Reduced Rate Program, will be subject to the terms of the new program, and will need to apply for continued enrollment within one year from the effective date of this resolution.

Current PUD customers who received a Low Income Heating Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) grant by Olympic Community Action Programs (OlyCAP) after July of 2016 will automatically be enrolled in the PUD Low Income Customer Reduced Rate Program and will be subject to the terms of that program.

This program will be effective with PUD utility bills dated on or after 24 March 2017.

All other potential participants may apply for enrollment subject to the terms of the new PUD program.

This program is subject to continued approval of funding by the PUD and may be discontinued by the PUD Board of Commissioners at any time by Resolution of the Commission.

ADOPTED by the Commission of Public Utility District No. 1of Jefferson County, Washington, at a regular open meeting held this 7<sup>th</sup> day of March 2017.

Kenneth Collins

President

eff Randall

Vice/President

Wayne G. King

Secretary

### Exhibit "A"

### **Resolution 2017-002**

## PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT No. 1 OF JEFFERSON COUNTY LOW INCOME CUSTOMER RATE REDUCTION PROGRAM.

Low Income Customer: A "low-income customer" is a PUD utility customer whose gross household income does not exceed one hundred twenty-five percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines (FPG) as published by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and as verified by Olympic Community Action Programs (OlyCAP) using their guidelines for the Low Income Heating Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). A low- income customer whose completed application has been approved by OlyCAP is eligible for the following rate reductions:

Residential Electrical: \$35.00 per month

Residential Water: 30% of Base Charge

Residential Sewer: 30% of Base Charge

**Low Income Senior Customer**: A "low-income senior customer" is a person who is 62 years of age or older and whose total household income after allowable deductions does not exceed the limits prescribed by RCW 84.36.381(5)(b)(ii) senior citizens. A low-income senior customer whose completed application has been approved by OlyCAP is eligible for the following reductions:

Residential Electrical: \$20.00 per month

Residential Water: 30% of Base Charge

Residential Sewer: 30% of Base Charge

**Qualifications:** To qualify for the program a PUD utility customer must make application for the PUD Low Income Customer Rate Reduction Program to OlyCAP.

A Low Income Senior can qualify for the Low Income Customer rate if they meet that criterion. Once approval is recommended by OlyCAP, the customer will automatically be enrolled in the program for a period of eighteen (18) months. A customer can only qualify for one of the classifications at a time.

**Renewal:** Following OlyCAP approval, the PUD utility customer will automatically be enrolled in the PUD Low Income Customer Rate Reduction Program for a period of eighteen (18) months after which they will be dropped from the program unless they have gone through the application process again and have been re-verified by OlyCAP.

**Place of Use:** Qualified utility customers can only apply the low income rate to their primary residence (single water/electric meter).

**High Usage**. Unreasonably high electric or water usage for a residential home, use of electricity or water for business or business-like purposes, multiple accounts, or other extraordinary circumstances may disqualify a customer from receiving a reduction.

**Filing Period:** Customers can file at any time for this program. The customer must apply through OlyCAP.

**Change of status Report**: If income status changes, a report much be filed with the PUD.

**Budget Billing Program**. All eligible PUD customers are encouraged to participate in the PUD's Budget Billing Program.

Appeal on Denial of Claim: If the applicant does not meet the qualification as provided by PUD's guidelines, the application can be appealed through OlyCAP and under its process for handling appeals.