



Department of Utilities
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News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

SACRAMENTO RESIDENTS INVITED TO APPLY FOR UTILITIES RATE ADVISORY COMMISSION

New Panel to Advise Mayor, City Council on Proposed Rate Changes

City of Sacramento residents are invited to apply for a position on a new Utilities Rate Advisory Commission. Established by the Sacramento City Council, this new commission is envisioned to be a sounding board for proposed rate changes and expert advisory panel to the Mayor and City Council. Members will also serve as a community liaison, providing information about utility service rates and collecting feedback.

“We understand that customer input in the rate setting process is vital to balancing service levels set by the City Council with competitive rates,” said Department of Utilities Director Gary Reents. “The Rate Advisory Commission provides a new avenue for residents to actively participate in finding that balance.”

The seven-member commission will represent ratepayers in each customer classification, including residential, multifamily, commercial and industrial. Members will include five professional experts in key areas such as finance, law, engineering, construction and environmental services to provide insight into the complexities of structuring and setting rates.

An application for the Rate Advisory Commission is available on the Department of Utilities Web site at www.cityofsacramento.org/utilities/RAC or at the Department of Utilities office at 1395 35th Avenue in Sacramento. The deadline to apply is February 22, 2008.

Applications will be reviewed and members will be appointed by the Mayor and approved by the City Council. Commissioners will be appointed to staggered, two-year terms.

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CITY OF SACRAMENTO
DEPARTMENT
OF UTILITIES

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The Commission is expected to meet between four and 12 times per year, beginning in spring 2008. Duties will include:

- Reviewing and commenting on proposed changes to utility service rates for water, sewer, garbage, recycling, yard waste and street sweeping services.
- Developing and providing recommendations on rates to the Mayor and City Council.
- Beginning in January 2009, holding public hearings on proposed rate increases or changes.
- Acting as a community liaison to help the public understand and participate in the rate setting process.

The City Council will continue to set utility service levels and ultimately decide whether to approve rates.

For more information about the Rate Advisory Commission and application process, please contact Jessica Hess, City of Sacramento Media and Communications Specialist, at jhess@cityofsacramento.org.

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