

Frequently Asked Questions about the Utilities Rate Advisory Commission

What are the Commission's duties?

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.

Will the Commission actually set utility rates?

The Commission will advise the Mayor and City Council about proposed rate changes. However, the City Council will continue to set utility service levels and ultimately decide whether to approve rates.

How often will the Commission meet?

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

How long are commissioners expected to serve?

Commissioners will be appointed to staggered, two-year terms. Note that in order to establish staggered terms, three members will be initially appointed to three-year terms.

How many members will the Commission include?

The Commission will have seven members.

What are the requirements for membership on the Commission?

To be eligible, applicants must be a City of Sacramento resident who receives service from the Department of Utilities. Five of the seven members will have expertise or experience in key areas such as accounting, auditing, finance, law, engineering, science, environmental, construction management, solid waste collection and disposal, water supply and distribution, sewer collection and treatment or drainage collection. The Commission will include ratepayers from each customer classification: residential, multifamily, commercial and industrial.

What is the process for applying for the Commission?

Complete an application, available from the Department of Utilities for City Clerk's Office, and submit it by the February 22, 2008 deadline. Applications will be reviewed and members will be appointed by the Mayor and approved by the City Council.

How can I find out more information about the Commission and application process?

Please contact Jessica Hess, City of Sacramento Media and Communications Specialist, at jhess@cityofsacramento.org.