

Utica Board Meeting

Tuesday June 24, 2025



Order of Business

1. Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance / Roll Call
2. Approval of Agenda

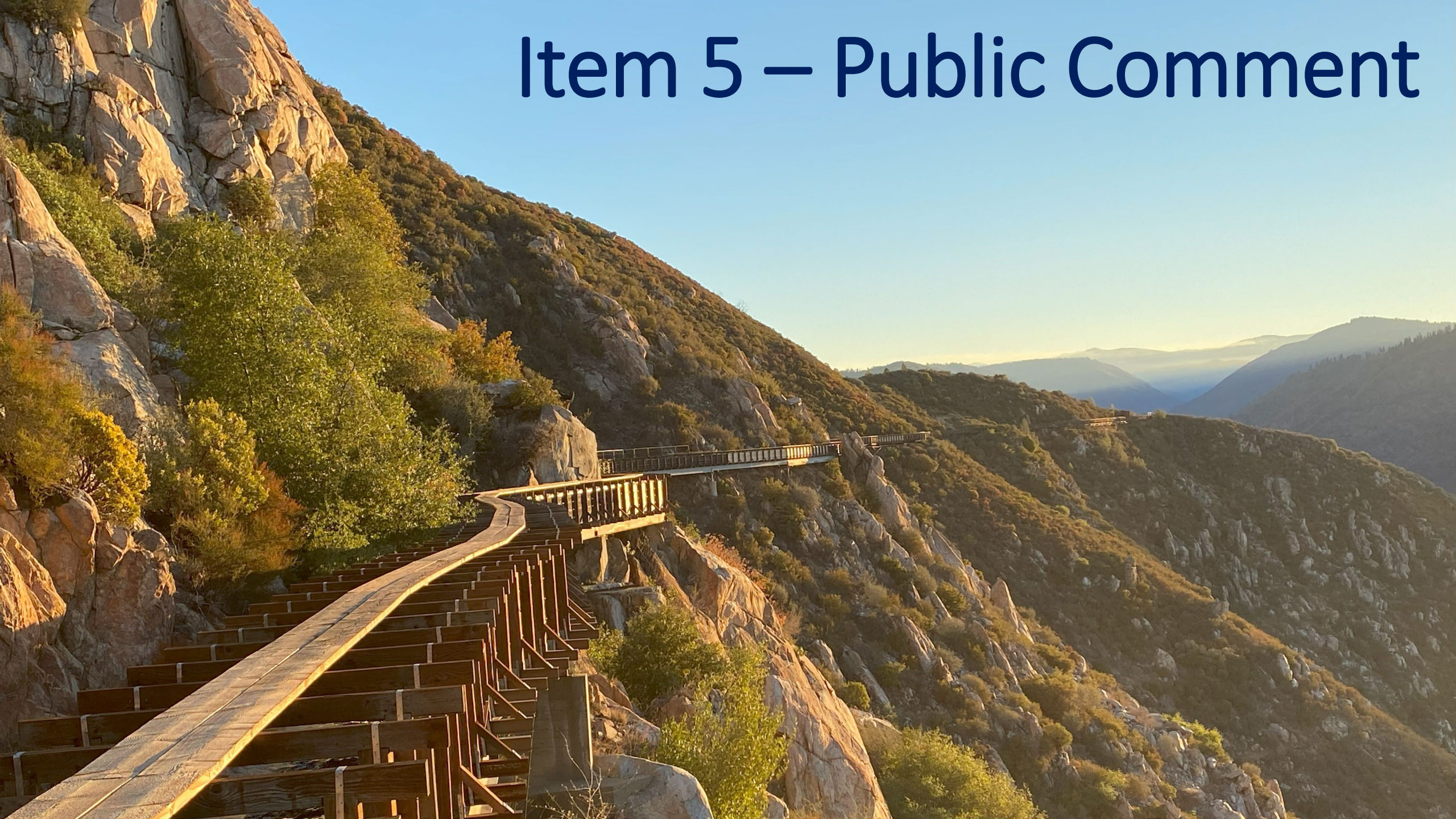
Item 3 – Closed Session



Item 4 – Report Out of Closed Session



Item 5 – Public Comment



Item 6 – Consent Calendar

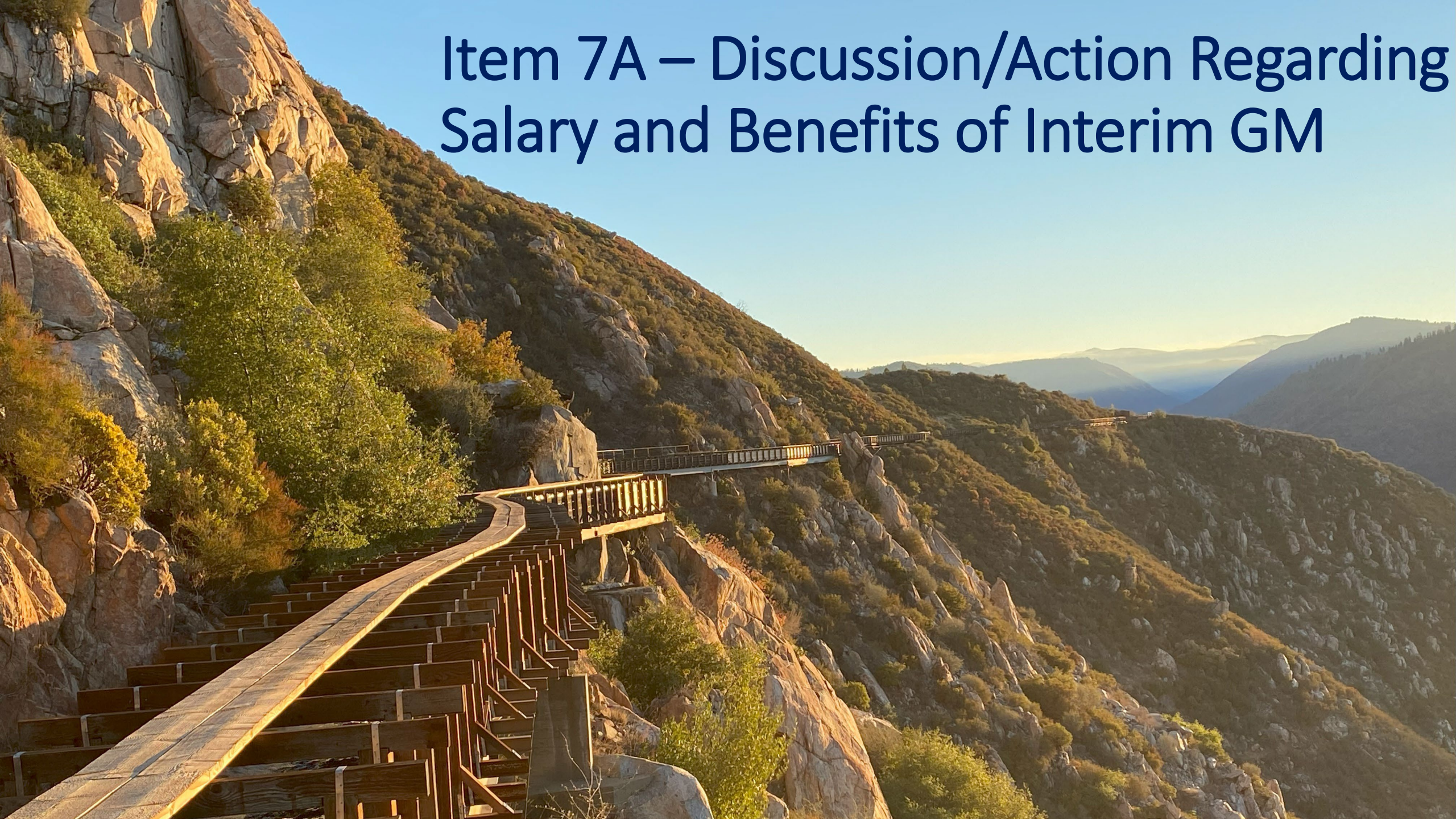


Board Action

Seeking a motion for Item 6:

- I move to approve the Consent Calendar.

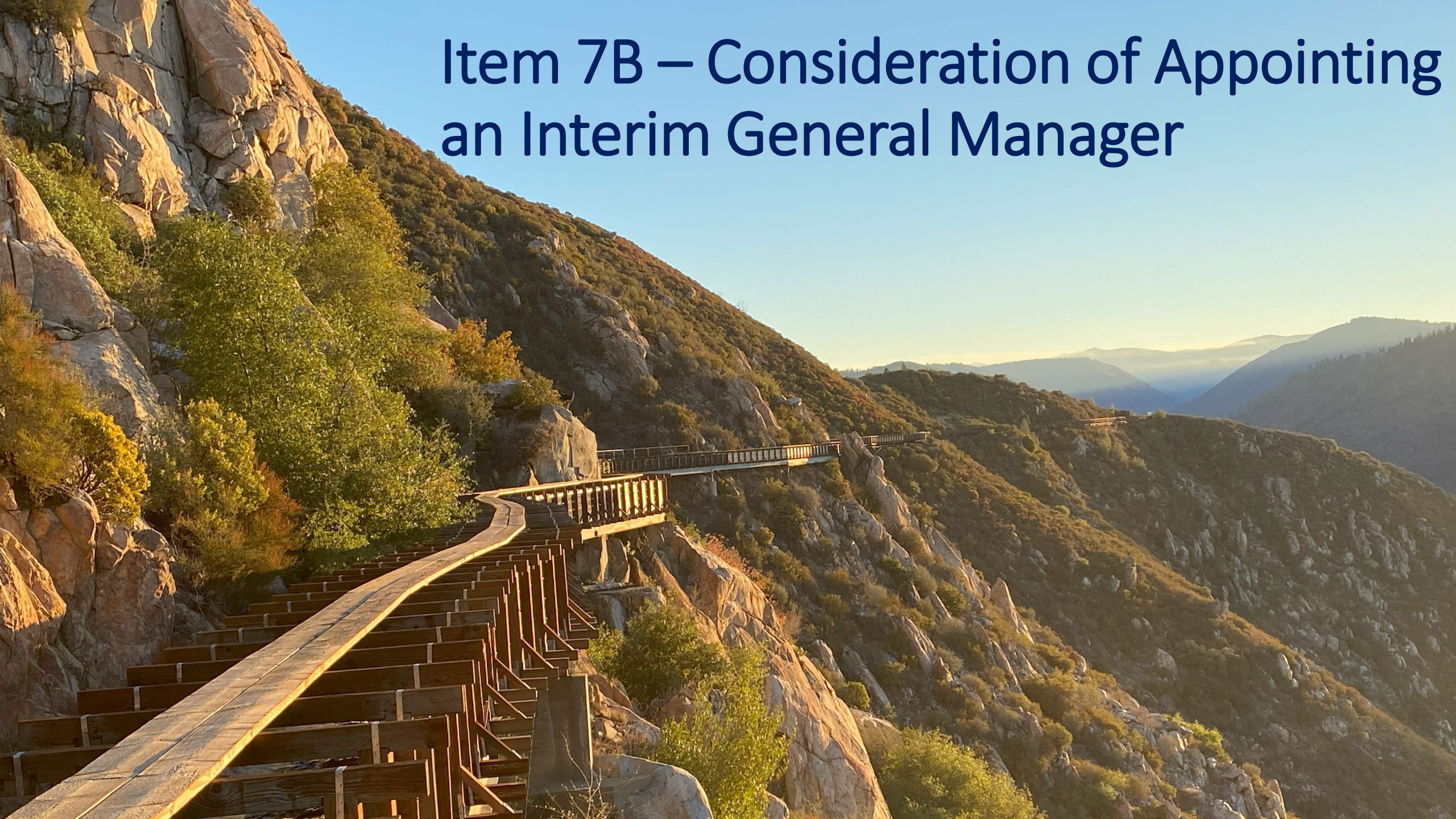
Item 7A – Discussion/Action Regarding Salary and Benefits of Interim GM



7A - Oral Recommendation

Recommendations regarding the salary and benefits of an interim general manager will be made, based on the direction of the Board during closed session.

Item 7B – Consideration of Appointing an Interim General Manager



Seeking Board Direction / Action

Seeking a motion for Item 7B:

- I move to adopt Resolution 2025-07 Appointing _____ as Utica's Interim General Manager and authorizing the execution of a related employment agreement or compensation terms.

Roll call needed:

- Madam clerk, please poll the Board

Item 7C – Budget Adjustment 2



Proposed FERC Budget Adjustment

- Over the past six months, staff has expedited work on studies and negotiations needed to finalize applications for the Utica and Angels FERC Exemption and License Surrender
- With the pending departure of Utica's general manager in mid-July, the timeline for this work was moved up
- To cover the additional costs anticipated through June 30, 2025, staff is requesting the Board approve Budget Adjustment 2
- This will transfer \$100,000 from FERC Reserve to the General Fund to cover Stantec and SWCA costs

7C – Budget Adjustment

Income (Transfer In)

GL #	GL Title	Adopted	Proposed	Change
7000-01	FERC Relicensing / Exemption Reserve	\$460,000	\$560,000	+\$100,000

Expenses

GL #	GL Title	Adopted	Proposed	Change
4400-16	FERC Exemption Consultants	\$350,000	\$450,000	+\$100,000

Green = Increasing funds in the FY 2024-2025 Budget

Red = Decreasing funds in the FY 2024-2025 Budget

7C – Budget Adjustment

Reserves Balances:

- FERC Relicensing/Exemption
 - \$876,237
- FERC 5-Year Plan
 - \$307,157
- FERC 10-Year Plan
 - \$63,172
- Operating Reserve
 - \$415,176
- Budget Balancing
 - \$511,738

Total Cost of Exemption to Date:

\$1,008,368

**This does not account for Utica staff time*

TASK	CONTRACT	INVOICED TO DATE	CONTRACT REMAINING
SWCA SHPO Field Work and Reporting	\$89,863	\$20,763	\$69,100
Strategic Support/CE Applications	\$156,278	\$139,447	\$16,801
Foothill Yellow Legged Frog Survey	\$155,059	\$153,619	\$1,440
SHPO Consultation/TPP/APE Letter	\$29,989	\$29,829	\$160
Water Quality Monitoring Program	\$121,781	\$119,580	\$2,201
Fish Study Plan	\$109,570	\$84,775	\$24,795
Total	\$662,540	\$548,013	\$114,497

Seeking Board Direction / Action

Seeking a motion for Item 7C:

- I move to adopt Resolution 2025-08 approving Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Budget Adjustment 2.

Roll call needed:

- Madam clerk, please poll the Board

Item 7D – Capital Improvement Plan



Proposed Capital Improvement Projects for 2025-2026

1. \$123,111 – MPH Backup Transformer
2. \$100,000 – MPH Static Exciter
3. \$70,000 – Murphys Trash Rake Installation
4. \$35,000 – General Facilities
5. \$25,000 – Feasibility Assessments and Planning

Utica Capital Improvement Plan: 2024 - 2032

	FY 2024-25	FY 2025-26	FY 2026-27	FY 2027-28	FY 2028-29	Five Year Total	FY 2029-30	FY 2030-31	FY 2031-32	FY 2032-33	FY 2033-34	10 Year Total
WATER CONVEYANCE												
MURPHYS TRASH RAKE	\$ 160,000	\$ 70,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 230,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 230,000
S-66 / FRENCH GULCH WEIRS	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 75,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 100,000
ANGELS PENSTOCK REPLACEMENT	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 200,000	\$ 200,000	\$ 200,000	\$ 200,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 800,000
RESERVOIR SEDIMENT REMOVAL	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 125,000	\$ 125,000	\$ 125,000	\$ 300,000	\$ 300,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 850,000
GAGING STATIONS	\$ 10,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,000
AUTOMATED WASTEGATES AND CROSSGATES	\$ 100,000	\$ 28,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 128,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 128,000
SCOPING PROJECT	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
WATER TOTAL:	\$ 270,000	\$ 98,000	\$ -	\$ 100,000	\$ 250,000	\$ 718,000	\$ 400,000	\$ 500,000	\$ 500,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,118,000

GENERAL PROJECTS						Five Year Total						10 Year Total
FEASIBILITY ASSESSMENTS & PLANNING	\$ 15,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 115,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 115,000
GENERAL FACILITIES	\$ 20,000	\$ 35,000	\$ 35,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 110,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 140,000
HUNTER RESERVOIR FUELS REDUCTION PROJECT	\$ 400,000	\$ 557,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 957,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,914,000
GENERAL TOTAL:	\$ 435,000	\$ 617,000	\$ 60,000	\$ 35,000	\$ 35,000	\$ 1,182,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,169,000

HYDROPOWER						Five Year Total						10 Year Total
MPH Jet Controller Upgrade	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Murphys Powerhouse Relay Protection	\$ 50,000	\$ -	\$ 25,000	\$ 100,000	\$ -	\$ 175,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 175,000
APH DC/AC INVERTOR UPGRADE	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
APH DEFLECTOR CONTROL REPLACEMENT	\$ 30,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 30,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 30,000
MURPHYS GOVERNOR RETROFIT	\$ 7,500	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,500	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,500
MPH 17 KV GENERATOR RECLOSURE BREAKER	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
MPH 17 KV LINE BREAKER	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
MPH BACKUP TRANSFORMER	\$ -	\$ 123,111	\$ 26,889	\$ 150,000	\$ -	\$ 300,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 300,000
MPH STATIC EXCITER	\$ 90,000	\$ 100,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 190,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 190,000
MPH COOLING WATER LINES	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 45,000	\$ 45,000	\$ 45,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 135,000
HYDROPOWER TOTAL:	\$ 177,500	\$ 223,111	\$ 51,889	\$ 250,000	\$ -	\$ 702,500	\$ 45,000	\$ 45,000	\$ 45,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 837,500

FUTURE PROJECTS:						Five Year Total						10 Year Total
MPH GENERATOR REWIND	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 200,000	\$ 200,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 400,000
APH GENERATOR REWIND	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 100,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 100,000
APH BACKUP TRANSFORMER	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 300,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 300,000
FUTURE TOTAL:	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 200,000	\$ 300,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 800,000.00

GRANT FUNDING						Five Year Total						10 Year Total
HUNTER RESERVOIR FUELS REDUCTION PROJECT	\$ 400,000	\$ 557,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 957,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 957,000
MURPHYS TRASH RAKE	\$ 10,000					\$ 10,000						
UTICA CANAL LINING PROJECT		\$ 28,000				\$ 28,000						
AUTOMATED WASTEGATES AND CROSSGATES	\$ 50,000					\$ 50,000						\$ 50,000
TOTAL CIP GRANT FUNDING	\$ 460,000	\$ 585,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 460,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,045,000

	FY 2024-25	FY 2025-26	FY 2026-27	FY 2027-28	FY 2028-29	Five Year Total						Five Year Total
GENERAL FUND GRAND TOTAL	\$ 422,500	\$ 353,111	\$ 111,889	\$ 385,000	\$ 285,000	\$ 2,602,500	\$ 455,000	\$ 755,000	\$ 855,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,622,500

Seeking Board Direction / Action

Seeking a motion for Item 7D:

- I move to adopt Resolution 2025-09 adopting the updated Capital Improvement Plan Schedule

Roll call needed:

- Madam clerk, please poll the Board

Item 7E – Adopt FY 25-26 Budget



Budget Committee Recommendation

- The Utica Budget Committee reviewed the draft budget and recommended the full Utica Board adopt the FY 2025-2026 Budget as presented.
- Are there any questions about the proposed budget from the Board?

Seeking Board Direction / Action

Seeking a motion for Item 7E:

- I move to adopt Resolution 2025-10 approving the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Budget for the Utica Water and Power Authority.

Roll call needed:

- Madam clerk, please poll the Board

Item 7F – MOA with CDFW



Memorandum of Agreement: CDFW

- As part of the FERC Exemption application process, Utica staff has negotiated a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)
- The environmental protection conditions in Utica's existing FERC licenses will be transferred into this MOA, which will be the mechanism to govern environmental stewardship once Utica's water conveyance system leaves FERC regulatory oversight
- Staff is satisfied with the MOA language
- These negotiations took 6 months and concluded yesterday

Seeking Board Direction / Action

Seeking a motion for Item 7F:

- I move to adopt Resolution 2025-11 Authorizing the General Manager to finalize and execute a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and affirming Utica's commitment to environmental stewardship

Roll call needed:

- Madam clerk, please poll the Board

Item 7G – FERC Exemption Application Submission



Final FERC Exemption Applications

- After nearly four years of work, staff expects the Final FERC Conduit Exemption and License Surrender Applications for the Utica and Angels Projects will be ready for submittal to FERC in Washington D.C.
- The heaviest lift on the project culminates with the final application submittals.
- Utica will be left in an excellent position moving forward
- A FERC decision is expected in 18-24 months

Estimated Costs: 2025-2026

High Level Cost Estimates (2024 – 2026) [June 2025 Update]

Cost Element	2024 Costs		2025 Costs		2026 Costs	
	Lower End	Upper End	Lower End	Upper End	Lower End	Upper End
Finalize CE Applications for Submittal (July 2025)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 30,000	\$ 35,000	\$ -	\$ -
Replenish Strategic Reg Support thru Oct 2025	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 40,000	\$ 45,000	\$ -	\$ -
401 WQ Certificate (authorized)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 15,500	\$ 15,500	\$ -	\$ -
CEQA Initial Study/ 401 WQ Certificate (authorized)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 85,000	\$ 85,000	\$ -	\$ -
Post CE Application Submittal FERC RFIs	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 20,000	\$ 30,000	\$ -	\$ 10,000
SHPO/Section 106/CE Applications	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 80,000	\$ 80,000	\$ -	\$ -
Additional Tribal Application Support/ Consultation	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 20,000	\$ 30,000	\$ -	\$ -
Ongoing Environmental Studies (FYLF, Fish, WQ).	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 15,000	\$ -	\$ 5,000
USFS Special Use Authorization Permit	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,000	\$ -	\$ -
Biological Assessment/ Biological Evaluation	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 35,000	\$ 125,000
Other Potential Costs	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,000	\$ 15,000	\$ -	\$ -
Summary of Costs	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 295,500	\$ 355,500	\$ 35,000	\$ 140,000
Other High Cost/Low Risk Potential Costs	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 150,000	\$ 350,000	\$ -	\$ -
Summary of Costs	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 445,500	\$ 705,500	\$ 35,000	\$ 140,000

Comments on Cost Estimates

Estimated additional budget of \$30k to \$35k for PM to complete documents
Strategic Support budget, based on typical spend; UWPA meetings, Agency meetings (CDFW, SWRCB, USFS, etc.) Project Management, coordination w/ FERC Counsel, etc.
410 WC Cert (\$15) kicked off
CEQA analysis (\$85k) started
Estimated budget \$20k to \$30k for post CE Application submittal for agency meetings, CE Application updates, etc.).
Estimate for SCWA to complete their SOW
Estimate for SCWA and Stantec Support
\$5k each. Studies were under budget, so use that budget first; budget is for additional requested agency meetings, updates; no new studies recommended for 2026.
Assumes UWPA is handling nearly all, but need to confirm.
These would be NEPA analysis of FERC decisions - mostly in 2026.
Support for Easement on Private Lands; Allocation A support, 401 WQ Support beyond applications
In-Stream Flow Study (unlikely spend)

Seeking Board Direction / Action

Seeking a motion for Item 7G:

- I move to adopt Resolution 2025-12 authorizing the General Manager to finalize and submit Conduit Hydropower Exemption and License Surrender applications to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for Hydroelectric Projects Utica P-2019 and Angels P-2699

Roll call needed:

- Madam clerk, please poll the Board

Item 8B - General Manager's Report



FERC Exemption – Final Applications Submittal

- Unless something unexpected occurs, I will submit the Utica and Angels FERC Conduit Exemption and License Surrender Applications by July 11, 2025
- Next steps
 - Washington D.C. FERC Staff review application for completeness
 - 401 Water Quality Application to State Water Board – Stantec
 - Conduct CEQA MND – Stantec
 - Negotiation MOA with SHPO
 - Move U.S Forest Service Special Use Permit Forward
 - Respond to RFIs from FERC staff in D.C.
 - Exemption approval expected in 18-24 months – in 2027

JPA 5-Year Funding Agreement

- Utica conducted a Prop. 218 quality financial analysis in early 2024
- This agreement was finalized in June 2024
- Comments on the agreement were provided by the City of Angels in July 2024
- UPUD has had the agreement for a year and no comments have been provided
- UPUD needs to provide comments before the final agreement can be signed

CAL Fire Fuel Reduction Grant: \$1.2 million

- This grant is 100% grant funded by CAL FIRE
- New Registered Professional Forester hired in June 2025
- Byron Krempl is conducting CEQA on 300+ acres, CAL FIRE lead agency on CEQA
- Phase 2 of ground work mastication expected to occur in fall / winter 2025
- We expect to continue working with Krisman Enterprises for mastication
- Utica will receive \$88,000 in admin fees for this grant
- Project must be completed by March 2026

WaterSMART Grants

- Two WaterSMART grants were awarded to Utica
 - Automated Wastegates and Gaging Stations
 - Shotcrete overlay
- Each grant covers 50% of project expenses
- Both grants expected to be complete by fall 2026
- Recommend continuing to apply for WaterSMART funding for shotcrete overlay

Lower Tunnel Tap Project: \$14 million (estim.)

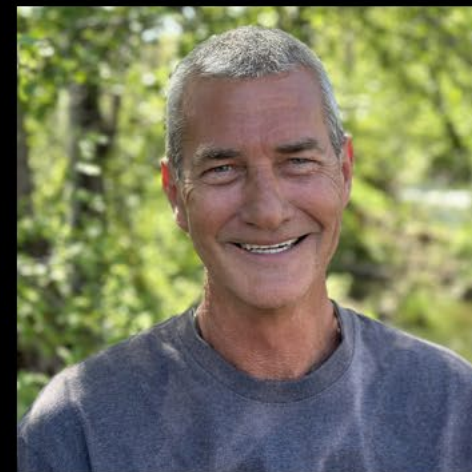
- The single most important project to reduce wildfire risk
- A FEMA BRIC grant was written in 2023: 75% of costs
- The benefit cost analysis (BCA) for this project was one of the highest scores FEMA has ever seen
- 30% engineering and design completed in 2023
- CCWD GM Michael Minker provided letter of support for this project in spring 2023
- CCWD GM reversed course and refused to support the project in fall 2023
- Without CCWD support, this project cannot move forward

Section 247 – Department of Energy Funding

- This funding covers 30% of expenditures related to infrastructure supporting Utica's Murphys and Angels Powerhouses. Two of Utica's applications were approved.
- The funding was frozen in 2025 when the Trump Administration took over
- Utica in a coalition advocating for the funding to be unfrozen

FERC License	Project	DOE Application	Incentive Requested
2699	Angels Powerhouse Water Conveyance System Reliability Project (Dam Safety)	3088-1615	\$297,105
2019	Utica Water Conveyance System Reliability Project (Dam Safety)	3088-1620	\$412,605
2019	Utica Murphys Powerhouse Reliability Project (Grid Resiliency)	3088-1618	\$357,598
Total of Incentive Payments Requested			\$1,067,308

Utica's Team is Small But Mighty: Bright Future



Thank You for The Opportunity to be Utica's
General Manager for the Past 5 Years
July 13, 2020 – July 13, 2025



Item 9 – Upcoming Meetings



Item 10 – Adjournment



Balancing the FY 2025-2026 Budget

- The Projected Carryover consists of:
 - CIP Projects completed in house reduced costs by \$57,350
 - Workers' compensation premium reduction \$9,579
 - SDRMA insurance premium reduction \$6,479
 - Dam and Spillway Maintenance: (Ross Tule removal) Moved to FY 2025-2026 \$30,000
 - Trach Rack installation: Moved to FY 2025-2026 \$48,000
 - Waste gates: Moved to FY 2025-2026 \$50,000
- After making cuts to the CIP, Reserves, and O&M, and utilizing projected carryover the budget is balanced

FY 2025-2026 Wages and Benefits

- The balanced budget before the Board for FY 2025-2026 includes 2.5% step increase for non- Y-rated employees and 3% COLA for all non-contract employees. The increase in the San Francisco CIP is 1.3% from the same time last year:
 - 3% COLA - \$1,370,944 (Increase of: \$38,324)
- In 2024, in FY 2024-2025, the Board approved a 2.5% step and 3% COLA

What is the Utica Board's decision regarding a COLA for FY 2025-2026?