

**Summary of Rates & Finance Subcommittee May 4, 2017 meeting
For MWPAAC General Meeting May 24, 2017.**

- 1. Overview of Study on Options for Low-Income Capacity Charge Customer Assistance** – Alison Saperstein, WTD Finance, was introduced to the Subcommittee. Alison is leading a project to examine the need and potential for offering low-income assistance for the capacity charge. WTD will be writing an RFP for a consulting services contract with the goals of reviewing billing practices, wealth geographic distribution, number of property owners struggling with payments and more; with the goal being the development of a low-income discount to the charge. One primary area of concern is that the County wants to ensure that the parties in need receive any incentives that are ultimately approved. Alison handed out a timeline of the project and an RFP is expected by the end of Q2, 2017.
- 2. Capacity Charge Escrow Automation Project** – Devin Barnes of WTD Finance provided a handout of his presentation on automating the process of approximately 65,000 escrow requests that the County receives each year. Each request requires County staff to manually verify the status of capacity charge payments for the property being sold. The County hopes to complete preliminary investigation and identification of specific needs of the project by June 2017, with the goal of having the automation project completed by Q3, 2018.
- 3. Budget Provision Regarding Capacity Charges & Liens** – Devin Barnes discussed the County's current budget proviso and provided a handout about it. The proviso requires WTD to investigate the possibility of lienning all properties with unpaid capacity charges. Currently, WTD only liens those homes that are past due. By lienning all properties that owe charges, the County Council believes that the charges would be more transparent to new property owners and the lien would also protect the county at time of ownership change.
- 4. RWQC Meeting** – Pam Carter, MWPAAC Chair gave a brief update on the \$129 million settlement the County received from the Brightwater tunneling suit. At the RWQC meeting on May 3, County Council staff inquired of WTD staff as to their intentions related to spending the settlement funds. WTD staff indicated that they are currently being held to cover costs of the West Point plant rehabilitation. Tim Aratani indicated at the RWQC meeting that total costs are not yet known but that the \$25 million number being reported in the media is the insurance carrier limit and is not the total amount of expenses that will be required.

Questions? Jack Broyles, Jr., Rates & Finance Subcommittee Chair
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