



# City of Sacramento City Council

915 I Street, Sacramento, CA, 95814  
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**Meeting Date:** 7/19/2012

**Report Type:** Consent

**Title: Ordinance Amendment: Utilities Rate Advisory Commission (Passed for publication on 6-26-12, published on 6-29-12)**

**Report ID:** 2012-00410

**Location:** Citywide

**Recommendation:** Pass an Ordinance amending the City Code to change the definition of "department" in Section 13.02.020, to allow the Department of General Services to present solid waste rate proposals to the Utilities Rate Advisory Commission.

**Contact:** Dave Brent, Interim Director, (916) 808-1420; Jessica Hess, Media and Communication Specialist, (916) 808-8260 - Department of Utilities

**Presenter:** None

**Department:** Department Of Utilities

**Division:** Department Administration

**Dept ID:** 14001011

**Attachments:**

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- 1-Description/Analysis
- 2-Background
- 3-Ordinance

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**City Attorney Review**

Approved as to Form  
Joe Robinson  
7/10/2012 1:49:32 PM

**City Treasurer Review**

Reviewed for Impact on Cash and Debt  
Russell Fehr  
7/9/2012 12:11:32 PM

**Approvals/Acknowledgements**

Department Director or Designee: Dave Brent - 7/9/2012 2:51:46 PM



## Description/Analysis

**Issue:** The Solid Waste Service Division was transferred from the Department of Utilities to the Department of General Services in December 2011. This transfer necessitates a change to the City Code provision that defines “department” for purposes of presenting utility rate recommendations to the Utilities Rate Advisory Commission, to include the Department of General Services.

**Policy Considerations:** The ordinance amendment is necessary to allow the Utilities Rate Advisory Commission to continue its role in reviewing solid waste rates, as stated in the ordinance that created the Commission.

**Economic Impacts:** None.

**Environmental Considerations:** The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) does not apply to organizational or administrative activities of this nature that will not result in changes to the environment. (CEQA Guidelines § 15378(b)(5).)

**Sustainability:** There are no sustainability concerns with this item.

**Commission/Committee Action:** The Law and Legislation Committee of the Sacramento City Council has reviewed and approved this ordinance change.

**Rationale for Recommendation:** The Utilities Rate Advisory Commission was created to review and hold public hearings on rate recommendations for City utility services, including solid waste charges for garbage, recycling, yard waste collection and street sweeping. The amendment is necessary to reflect the Solid Waste Services Division’s recent move to the Department of General Services.

**Financial Considerations:** There are no financial impacts associated with this ordinance amendment.

**Emerging Small Business Development (ESBD):** There are no ESBD impacts associated with this ordinance change.

## Background

In 2008, the City of Sacramento formed the Utilities Rate Advisory Commission (Commission). The Commission is made up of 7 residents and businesses owners appointed by the Mayor. Five commissioners are to have expertise in one or more of the following fields: accounting, auditing, construction management, engineering, finance, law, sewage collection and treatment, solid waste collection and disposal, stormwater collection and conveyance, water quality or water supply and distribution. Two members serve at-large.

The Commission's role is to review water, sewer, drainage and solid waste services budgets and rate proposals, hold the Proposition 218 rate hearings, and provide recommendations on rate proposals to the City Council.

At the time of the Commission's creation and adoption of the ordinance regulating the Commission, the Solid Waste Services Division (Division) was a division within the Department of Utilities (DOU) and the ordinance was adopted with specific reference to the DOU. In December 2011, the Division was transferred to the Department of General Services (DGS). A technical amendment must be made to the ordinance regulating the Commission to remove the language specific to DOU.

The proposed amendment to City Code Section 13.02.020 will allow the Commission to continue its role in reviewing solid waste budgets and rate proposals, holding Proposition 218 rate hearings on solid waste rate change proposals, and providing recommendations to the City Council pertaining to those rate change proposals.



## ORDINANCE NO.

Adopted by the Sacramento City Council

Date Adopted

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 13.02.020 OF  
THE SACRAMENTO CITY CODE, RELATING TO  
THE UTILITIES RATE ADVISORY COMMISSION

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SACRAMENTO:**

SECTION 1.

- A. In Section 13.02.020 of the Sacramento City Code, the definition of “department” is amended to read as follows:

“Department” means the city of Sacramento department of utilities responsible for providing the utility service or utility services for which utility service rates are being proposed to the commission.

- B. Except as amended in subsection A, above, Section 13.02.020 of the Sacramento City Code shall remain unchanged and in full force and effect.