



Harris & Associates

UTILITY FUNDING

Water utilities must weigh many variables for capital improvement funding: facility needs, infrastructure requirements, and a changing workforce, among others. Harris & Associates helps you understand all your options—and get all stakeholders on board.

Amid complex regulations, operations, and economics, utilities must examine their financial plans regularly with attention to all the moving parts. Count on Harris to help you keep track of priorities and stay on pace with changes.

Finding the Right Funding

Our team includes experts in water utility financing, water rates, impact fees, and the stormwater funding implications of SB 231. We work with water utilities to find the best funding sources for capital improvements, maintenance, and operations. We also help develop financial policies that enable successful, long-term service. We're especially familiar with finding the right balance between encouraging water conservation and ensuring revenue stability in California's unique environment.

Building Consensus Inside and Out

All stakeholders, including the board and ratepayers, need to know how water utilities will improve the state and efficiency of their systems going forward. Transparent, effective communication is our priority. Harris can aptly align the relevance of funding with residents' and businesses' concerns, including sustainability, resilience, and climate change. By spelling out benefits and costs early and often to all stakeholders, you can help gain their consensus for any changes—a critical factor when rate increases are on the table.



2030 Water Main Replacement Study Citrus Heights Water District Citrus Heights, CA

Harris will conduct a study with several key elements, including: 1) asset inventory and project polygon development; 2) future water demand projections; 3) water main assessment; 4) water main replacement phasing options and preferred option; 5) project cost estimates; 6) funding strategy, including water rate options and debt service options, and; 7) implementation plan. Also, a Customer Advisory Committee will be organized and will work with the Project Team on all phases of the study.

REVENUE REQUIREMENTS

Harris has the experts to evaluate funding options and analyses to determine how much revenue you need for capital funding, operations and maintenance, rate-based revenues, and financial policies. We help devise rate design solutions to reduce financial uncertainty and ensure greater revenue stability.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

Harris creates unique tactics for educating the public on rate increases to highlight the community benefits they can expect and mitigate rate shock. It's our mission to ultimately make ratepayers and stakeholders advocates instead of adversaries. Harris will work with you to facilitate stakeholder advisory committees, plan agendas, and manage media relations.



2018 Comprehensive Rate Study and Recommendation for System Development Charges for Water, Wastewater, and Surface Water Utilities City of Renton, WA

Harris has been tasked with performing a rate study, cost of service study, and system development charge (SDC) study and generate a report of the findings for the City of Renton's water, wastewater, and surface water utilities.

COST OF SERVICE STUDIES + RATE DESIGN

Harris collaborates with agencies on strategies to determine cost drivers, assign responsibility for cost drivers, and allocate costs equitably and fairly. We guide you through the process of establishing design rates to meet utility and stakeholder goals relative to conservation, affordability, and ease of administration. Our team helps yours navigate the changing complexities of Prop 218 requirements for California utilities, as well as other state mandates and regulations.



Honolulu Peer Review of Financial Plan, Cost of Service Study, and Rate Development City and County of Honolulu Honolulu, HI

Harris is providing senior-level technical review of the Honolulu Board of Water Supply (BWS)'s rate consultant's work product, including a review of the revenue requirements, cost of service and rate design analyses, and development of financial policies.

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Harris partners with public agencies to enhance their communities.