



AGENDA ITEM

PUBLIC HEARING

CITY COUNCIL / BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MEETING OF: 10/06/2015

SUBMITTED BY: DOUGLAS B. ROBERTSON
CITY MANAGER

DATE: 9/22/2015

ATTACHMENT: RESOLUTION NO. 15-065; PROPOSED VMUS RENEWABLE ENERGY RESOURCES PROCUREMENT PLAN (ATTACHMENT A THERETO)

SUBJECT: RESOLUTION NO. 15-065 ENTITLED, "A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF VICTORVILLE, CALIFORNIA, SUPERSEDING RESOLUTION 13-056, REVISING THE RENEWABLE ENERGY RESOURCES PROCUREMENT PLAN FOR VICTORVILLE MUNICIPAL UTILITY SERVICES AND AUTHORIZING THE TAKING OF CERTAIN OTHER ACTIONS IN CONNECTION THEREWITH"

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Honorable City Council: 1) conduct the public hearing for Resolution No. 15-065; 2) adopt Resolution No. 15-065 to revise the Renewable Energy Resources Procurement Plan (Attachment A thereto), superseding Resolution 13-056 in its entirety; and 3) approve an additional appropriation in the amount of \$450,000.00 in Public Benefits funding for the procurement of eligible renewable energy products to meet VMUS' RPS Procurement Obligations for Compliance Period 2.

<u>FISCAL IMPACT:</u>		\$450,000.00
PROJECT BUDGET:	\$	-
PROJECT COST:	- \$	450,000.00
PROJECT BALANCE:	\$	(450,000.00)
BUDGET ACCT NO:		4210200-53010

— Finance Use Only —	
Additional Expense:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	No
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes / Amount ^{\$} 450,000
Additional Revenue:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	No
<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes / Amount
Finance Review	

DISCUSSION:

California Senate Bill 2, First Extraordinary Session ("SB 2-1X"), became effective December 10, 2011, and requires California's electric utilities and other retail sellers to purchase eligible renewable energy resources so that the amount of electricity generated from eligible renewable

resources equals or exceeds a specified percentage of the total electricity sold to retail customers in California ("California Renewable Portfolio Standard" or "RPS Program").

SB 2-1X directed the California Energy Commission ("CEC") to adopt regulations specifying RPS enforcement procedures for local publicly owned electric utilities ("POUs"); certify and verify eligible renewable energy resources procured by POU; and refer any compliance failures of POU to the California Air Resources Board ("CARB"), which may impose penalties. SB 2-1X further required each POU to adopt a program describing its plans to meet SB 2-1X requirements ("RPS Enforcement Program") by end of 2011, and thereafter adopt procurement plans following the CEC's adoption of regulations providing guidance for such plans.

On June 12, 2013, the CEC adopted the "Enforcement Procedures for the Renewable Portfolio Standard for Local Publicly Owned Electric Utilities" ("CEC Regulations"), which became effective as of October 1, 2013, following subsequent approval by the Office of Administrative Law. The CEC Regulations include, among other things:

1. RPS Procurement Targets

Compliance Period	RPS Procurement Obligation (% of retail sales)
1. January 1, 2011 – December 31, 2013	Average of 20%
2. January 1, 2014 – December 31, 2016	25% by December 31, 2016
3. January 1, 2017 – December 31, 2020	33% by December 31, 2020

2. Portfolio Content Categories ("PCC") – Specific guidelines establishing procurement percentages for each category of RPS-eligible resource within each Compliance Period.
3. Optional Compliance Measures – Various measures which the governing body of a POU may adopt, including a limitation on the procurement expenditures used to comply with its RPS requirements ("Cost Limitation") which is consistent with CEC Regulations and takes into consideration the factors set forth therein.
4. A requirement that each POU adopt a renewable energy resources procurement plan ("RPS Procurement Plan") no later than November 30, 2013.

On December 6, 2011, the City Council adopted Resolution 11-051 and the RPS Enforcement Program (Attachment A thereto), expressing Victorville Municipal Utility Services' ("VMUS") plan for meeting the requirements of SB 2-1X. Section 10 of the RPS Enforcement Program directed the City Manager or his/her designee to develop and present to the City Council its RPS Procurement Plan. On November 5, 2013, the City Council adopted the VMUS RPS Procurement Plan, contained in Attachment A to Resolution 13-056, which described the status of VMUS' RPS Program procurement efforts and the provisions for the application of optional compliance measures, including the Cost Limitation.

For Compliance Period 1, VMUS expenses were greater than revenues (before the incremental cost of procuring electricity products to satisfy the RPS requirements). Therefore, according to the methodology outlined in the RPS Procurement Plan, the Cost Limitation was set at zero for Compliance Period 1 ("Initial Cost Limitation"), meaning that VMUS was not obligated to expend any funds on RPS procurement for Compliance Period 1.

The proposed revisions to the RPS Procurement Plan, contained in Attachment A of Resolution 15-065, update procurement targets for Compliance Periods 2 and 3, as well as the estimated

incremental RPS procurement costs to comply with those targets. The revisions also clarify that the application of the Cost Limitation Guideline for Compliance Periods 2, 3 and beyond will be based on the forecasted Net Fund Position during the annual budget approval process to identify the funds available to satisfy the applicable RPS procurement requirement while maintaining prudent reserves. Additionally, while VMUS will have no obligation to expend funds on RPS procurement in excess of the Cost Limitation Guideline or RPS procurement targets, the proposed revision to the RPS Procurement Plan establishes a new Section 10 that discusses another potential funding source VMUS can consider for the purpose of meeting RPS requirements.

In the event that the application of the Cost Limitation Guideline results in an amount greater than zero available to purchase eligible renewable energy resources, or if VMUS determines Public Benefits Funds are available to deploy for meeting renewable resource procurement obligations, VMUS will seek contracts on a least cost, best fit basis according to the availability of resources, financial feasibility, transmission availability, and other relevant factors to ensure procurement contracts fit VMUS' risk profile as a small POU. For fiscal year 2015/2016, staff has determined that sufficient funds are available in the VMUS Public Benefits fund balance to purchase the majority of the RPS procurement target for Compliance Period 2 (calendar years 2014-2016), at an estimated incremental cost not to exceed \$450,000.00. Any remaining requirements necessary to meet the Compliance Period 2 obligation would be included in the fiscal year 2016/2017 budget, as may be appropriate. Meeting RPS obligations for Compliance Period 2 despite a determination that VMUS will have no obligation to expend funds on RPS procurement pursuant to the Cost Limitation Guideline mitigates the risk of imposed penalties and serves as a demonstration of good faith in pursuing the objectives of SB 2-1X and meeting the State's overall RPS goals.

Staff recommends that the City Council: 1) conduct the public hearing for Resolution No. 15-065; 2) adopt Resolution No. 15-065 to revise the Renewable Energy Resources Procurement Plan (Attachment A thereto), superseding Resolution 13-056 in its entirety; and 3) approve an additional appropriation in the amount of \$450,000.00 in Public Benefits funding for the procurement of eligible renewable energy products to meet VMUS' RPS Procurement Obligations for Compliance Period 2.

DBR:jd

RESOLUTION NO. 15-065

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF VICTORVILLE, CALIFORNIA, SUPERSEDING RESOLUTION 13-056, REVISING THE RENEWABLE ENERGY RESOURCES PROCUREMENT PLAN FOR VICTORVILLE MUNICIPAL UTILITY SERVICES AND AUTHORIZING THE TAKING OF CERTAIN OTHER ACTIONS IN CONNECTION THEREWITH

WHEREAS, the City of Victorville ("City"), a municipal corporation, is authorized under various provisions of the California Constitution and the general laws of California (including, specifically, Article XI, section 9(a) of the California Constitution, Public Utilities Code ("PUC") section 10004, and Government Code section 39732(a) to establish, purchase, and operate a public utility to furnish its inhabitants with, among other things, electricity; and

WHEREAS, the City of Victorville operates a municipal electric utility ("Victorville Municipal Utility Services" or "VMUS"); and

WHEREAS, as a municipal electric utility, VMUS is generally subject to the legislative and regulatory requirements applicable to local publicly owned electric utilities ("POUs"); and

WHEREAS, the State of California passed Senate Bill 2 (1st Extraordinary Session) ("SB 2-1X"), effective as of December 10, 2011, requiring POUs to adopt and implement, among other things, a renewable energy resources enforcement program that requires POUs, like VMUS, to procure a minimum quantity of eligible renewable energy resources over certain periods, subject to a cost limitation and other optional compliance measures adopted by the POUs' respective governing board; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with PUC section 399.30(e) (added by SB 2-1X), the City Council, as the governing board of VMUS, adopted Resolution No. 11-051 on December 6, 2011, to establish a renewable energy resources enforcement program for the enforcement of VMUS' obligations under SB 2-1X ("RPS Enforcement Program"); and

WHEREAS, in accordance with PUC section 399.30(a), the RPS Enforcement Program directed staff to develop and present a renewable energy resources procurement plan ("RPS Procurement Plan") to the City Council, which was adopted as Attachment A to Resolution No. 13-056 on November 5, 2013, following a duly noticed public hearing; and

WHEREAS, VMUS has continued to monitor information from market participants on the expected cost and sufficiency of supply of renewable resources meeting the requirements of SB 2-1X and the unique portfolio risks and cost limitations of small POUs ("RPS Information"); and

WHEREAS, VMUS has analyzed the RPS Information and factors underlying the use of optional compliance measures in a manner that seeks to assure good faith compliance with SB 2-1X while recognizing the unique circumstances facing VMUS as a small POU; and

WHEREAS, based on the RPS Information and factors analyzed by VMUS, VMUS has developed a revised RPS Procurement Plan that: (1) describes the electricity products VMUS plans to use to meet the procurement targets described in its RPS Enforcement Program; and (2) includes the optional compliance measures and potential funding sources that VMUS requests the City Council approve for the second and subsequent compliance periods under SB 2-1X; and

WHEREAS, the City Council held a public hearing noticed in accordance with the provisions of PUC section 399.30(f) on October 6, 2015, providing interested parties the opportunity to comment on proposed revisions to the VMUS RPS Procurement Plan.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF VICTORVILLE DOES HEREBY RESOLVE, DETERMINE AND ORDER AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The recitals set forth above are true and correct and are hereby incorporated in their entirety by this reference.

Section 2. The revised RPS Procurement Plan for Victorville Municipal Utility Services set forth in Attachment A, which is attached hereto and incorporated as part of this Resolution, is hereby approved and adopted and shall replace and supersede Attachment A of Resolution 13-056 in its entirety.

Section 3. As authorized in SB 2-1X, optional compliance measures are hereby approved and adopted, as follows:

A cost limitation for procurement expenditures by Victorville Municipal Utility Services is hereby approved and adopted as described in Section 9 of the RPS Procurement Plan.

Section 4. The City Manager or his/her authorized designee is authorized and directed to do and perform all acts required to implement the RPS Procurement Plan, inclusive of the potential use of Public Benefits Program funds for procurement expenditures as described in Section 10 of the RPS Procurement Plan, and to periodically report to the City Council.

Section 5. The City Clerk shall certify to the adoption of this Resolution.

Section 6. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

ATTACHMENT A

VMUS RENEWABLE ENERGY RESOURCES PROCUREMENT PLAN

This Renewable Energy Resources Procurement Plan (“RPS Procurement Plan” or “Plan”) shall apply to the City of Victorville (“City”), operating through its municipal electric utility (“Victorville Municipal Utility Services” or “VMUS”).

Section 1: Background

The California Renewables Portfolio Standard (“RPS”) program was established by Senate Bill (“SB”) 1078, and has been subsequently modified by SB 107, SB 1036 and SB2-1X. The RPS program is codified at Public Utilities Code (“PUC”) sections 399.11-399.32. SB 2-1X requires California’s electric utilities and other retail sellers to procure eligible renewable energy resources so that the amount of electricity generated from eligible renewable resources equals or exceeds a specified percentage of the total electricity sold to retail customers in California (“California Renewable Portfolio Standard” or “RPS Program”). The California Energy Commission (“CEC”) adopted the “Enforcement Procedures for the Renewables Portfolio Standard for Local Publicly Owned Electric Utilities,” (“CEC Regulations”), that specify RPS enforcement procedures for local publicly-owned electric utilities (“POUs”); certify and verify eligible renewable energy resources procured by POUs; and refer any compliance failures of POUs to the California Air Resources Board (“CARB”), which may impose penalties.

Section 2: Definitions

The definitions set forth in Public Resources Code (“PRC”) §25741 and PUC §399.12 are incorporated herein. Capitalized terms in this RPS Procurement Plan shall have the meaning given to such term in the body of this RPS Procurement Plan or in the PRC and PUC.

Section 3: Prior Adoption of RPS Enforcement Program and RPS Procurement Plan

On December 6, 2011 via Resolution No. 11-051, the Victorville City Council (“City Council”) adopted the Renewable Energy Resources Enforcement Program (“RPS Enforcement Program”). Through the RPS Enforcement Program, the City Council established three compliance periods consistent with SB 2-1X, adopted RPS-eligible procurement goals for each of the three compliance periods and described the framework for how VMUS would implement the requirements and measures in SB 2-1X with respect to the RPS Program. On November 5, 2013, the City Council conducted a public hearing and adopted Resolution 13-056 to establish its RPS Procurement Plan.

Section 4: Purpose

This document comprises VMUS' Renewable Energy Resources Procurement Plan beginning January 1, 2014. As required by its RPS Enforcement Program, this Plan describes how VMUS will achieve its RPS procurement requirements consistent with the optional compliance measures specified in SB 2-1X and applicable to VMUS' status as a small POU.

Section 5: Eligible Renewable Energy Resources

Biodiesel	Fuel cells using renewable fuels	Ocean wave, ocean thermal, and tidal current
Biogas	Geothermal	Photovoltaic
Biomass	Hydroelectric incremental generation from efficiency improvements	Small hydroelectric (30 megawatts or less)
Conduit hydroelectric	Landfill gas	Solar thermal electric
Digester gas	Municipal solid waste	Wind

Section 6: RPS Requirements

The CEC Regulations impose two future multi-year compliance periods, followed by annual compliance periods:

Compliance Period	RPS Procurement Obligation (% of retail sales)
January 1, 2014 – December 31, 2016	25% by December 31, 2016
January 1, 2017 – December 31, 2020	33% by December 31, 2020
All Subsequent Years	33%

The CEC Regulations allow optional compliance measures, including banking (accumulating excess procurement in one compliance period to be applied in a subsequent compliance period); delayed compliance (inadequate transmission, insufficient eligible renewable resources, delays in permitting or interconnections or unanticipated curtailment for reliability needs) and cost limitations (limitations on expenditures for renewable energy resources).

The CEC Regulations identify three distinct Portfolio Content Categories (“PCCs” or “Buckets”) that may be used to satisfy the procurement obligations (“RPS Procurement Obligation”).

- A. PCC 1 refers to bundled procurement from qualified renewable energy generators located within the State or from out-of-State generators that can meet strict scheduling requirements to ensure uninterrupted deliverability to California. The CEC Regulations set minimum procurement amounts for PCC 1, but impose no limitation on the amount of RPS procurement that can come from PCC 1.

B. PCC 2 refers to “firmed and shaped” transactions where the bundled procurement from a renewable resource is “matched” with an equivalent amount of incremental, non-renewable energy, which is scheduled into a California Balancing Authority (“BA”). For purposes of PCC 1 and PCC 2, “bundled” procurement refers to a purchase of both the energy and the associated renewable energy attributes (“Renewable Energy Credits” or “RECs”), produced by the eligible renewable generator.

C. PPC 3 procurement relates to purchases of “unbundled” RECs with no physical delivery of associated or related energy.

The CEC Regulations describe the following specific procurement guidelines for each PCC:

Portfolio Content Category (PCC or Bucket)	Description	Usage Limits (% of Renewable Energy)
PCC 1	First point of interconnection inside of a California BA; Scheduled into a California BA without substituting electricity from another source; or dynamically transferred into a California BA.	Minimum of 65% from 2014 through 2016, 75% beginning in 2017
PCC 2	Firmed and shaped	Limited to anything left over after meeting PCC 1 and PCC 3 limits.
PCC 3	Unbundled renewable energy certificates	Maximum of 15% from 2014 through 2016, 10% beginning in 2017

Section 7: Specified RPS Procurement Targets

In the RPS Enforcement Program, the City Council adopted general RPS procurement targets for each of the initial three compliance periods. As further specified in the RPS Program and CEC Regulations, VMUS is not required to procure a specific quantity of RPS-eligible resources in any individual year during the second or third compliance periods. Pursuant to PUC §399.30(b) and (c), the City Council adopts and further specifies the RPS procurement targets, as follows:

A. Compliance Period 2 (January 1, 2014 – December 31, 2016)

Subject to the Cost Limitation Guideline described in Section 9.A.4.(a) of this Plan, the following table provides a forecast of the VMUS’ Compliance Period 2 procurement targets with regard to the total RPS Procurement Obligation and each of the PCC products described in the RPS Program and CEC Regulations.

	2014	2015	2016	Total
Forecasted Retail Sales (MWh)	72,921	78,340	78,340	229,601
RPS Procurement Obligation (% of Total)	20%	20%	25%	
RPS Procurement Obligation (MWh)	14,584	15,668	19,585	49,837
Minimum Procurement of Portfolio Content Category 1 (MWh)	9,479	10,184	12,730	32,394
Maximum Procurement of Portfolio Content Category 3 (RECs)	2,188	2,350	2,938	7,476
Residual Procurement from Portfolio Content Category 2 (MWh)	2,916	3,134	3,917	9,967

Notes: (1) The retail sales figures listed above exclude electricity used by City facilities.
(2) The annual procurement targets are for planning purposes only.

B. Compliance Period 3 (January 1, 2017 – December 31, 2020)

Subject to the Cost Limitation Guideline described in Section 9.A.4.(a) of this Plan, the following table provides a forecast of the VMUS' Compliance Period 3 procurement targets with regard to the total RPS Procurement Obligation and each of the PCC products described in the RPS Program and CEC Regulations.

	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total
Forecasted Retail Sales (MWh)	78,340	78,340	78,340	78,340	313,360
RPS Procurement Obligation (% of Total)	27%	29%	31%	33%	
RPS Procurement Obligation (MWh)	21,152	22,719	24,285	25,852	94,008
Minimum Procurement of Portfolio Content Category 1 (MWh)	15,864	17,039	18,214	19,389	70,506
Maximum Procurement of Portfolio Content Category 3 (RECs)	2,115	2,272	2,428	2,585	9,400
Residual Procurement from Portfolio Content Category 2 (MWh)	3,173	3,408	3,643	3,878	14,102

Notes: (1) The retail sales figures listed above exclude electricity used by City facilities.
(2) The annual procurement targets are for planning purposes only.

C. Subsequent Annual Compliance Periods

For each subsequent annual compliance period, subject to modifications to the Cost Limitation Guidelines described in Sections 9.A.4 (a) - (b) of this Plan, VMUS will act in good faith to procure sufficient Eligible Renewable Energy Resources to equal an average of 33 percent of retail sales.

Section 8: Status of RPS Procurement Efforts

A. Local Eligible Renewable Energy Projects/Investments

1. *Bio-fuel Generation.* In March 2007, the City purchased five 1.25 MW, two 1.50 MW and three 2 MW Mitsubishi generators and related equipment to replace existing rental generators, reduce fuel costs, increase power generation reliability, and serve load growth. Several of the engines were installed and subsequently upgraded to operate with B100 (100% biodiesel) Methyl Esters Bio-Fuel to generate “green power” that would meet the RPS for VMUS and other load serving entities. However, the generators did not operate properly and some experienced catastrophic failure. The Bio-Fuel generating units were ultimately sold in March 2010.
2. *Victorville 2 Hybrid Power Project.* In July 2008, the CEC granted the City a certificate to construct and operate the Victorville 2 Hybrid Power Project (VV2). VV2 was designed as a cost effective base load hybrid natural gas-fired combined cycle and solar-thermal power plant. The City invested a substantial amount of resources, time and effort to bring the project to a “build ready” state, including a contract to purchase the power island, which also included the steam turbine generator. The 250 acres of parabolic solar-thermal collectors with associated heat transfer equipment would have contributed up to 50 MW of the steam turbine-generator’s output. The collapse in the credit markets, depressed electric demand, falling natural gas prices, revised RPS Program, and changes in power plant configurations requirements caused the project to be delayed. The City was able to stave off a default under its existing contract, but the contractor, which had commenced development of the power island, retained the City’s \$50 million deposit. In June 2013, the CEC acknowledged the important role that facilities such as VV2 play in furthering the development of renewable energy resources and granted the City’s petition requesting that the deadline for the commencement of construction for VV2 be extended for an additional five (5) years, through July 2018.

B. Price Monitoring – RPS Incremental Costs to Meet RPS Procurement Obligation

VMUS continues to monitor the offering prices for renewable energy products (“RPS Prices”) for the purpose of gathering relevant information to develop

renewable energy resources procurement plans pursuant to PUC §399.30(a), and to evaluate costs and options in connection with their respective obligations for Compliance Period 2 and 3 pursuant to PUC §399.30(b). Based upon current market conditions, the forecasted “Incremental RPS Procurement Costs” (defined as the difference in the projected cost of non-renewable energy resources and the projected cost of Eligible Renewable Energy Resources) associated with meeting the total RPS Procurement Obligation are:

Compliance Period 2
January 1, 2014 – December 31, 2016

	Assumed Procurement (MWh)	Forecasted Incremental Cost
Portfolio Content Category 1	32,394	\$370,000
Portfolio Content Category 2	9,967	45,000
Portfolio Content Category 3	7,476	5,000
Total Compliance Obligation	49,837	\$420,000

Compliance Period 3
January 1, 2017 – December 31, 2020

	Assumed Procurement (MWh)	Forecasted Incremental Cost
Portfolio Content Category 1	70,506	\$810,000
Portfolio Content Category 2	14,102	60,000
Portfolio Content Category 3	9,400	10,000
Total Compliance Obligation	94,008	\$880,000

Section 9: Application of Optional Compliance Measures

A. Cost Limitation

1. *Cost Limitation Rule.* Pursuant to the authority granted to the City Council by PUC §399.30(d)(3) to adopt conditions that allow for cost limitations for procurement expenditures used to comply with its RPS procurement requirements consistent with PUC §399.15, and consistent with section 3206(a)(3) of the CEC Regulations, the City Council adopts the following:

- (a) The cost limitation rules shall ensure that:
 - i. The limitation is set at a level that prevents disproportionate rate impacts;
 - ii. The costs of all procurement credited toward achieving the RPS are counted toward the limitation; and

- iii. Procurement expenditures do not include any indirect expenses including, without limitation, imbalance energy charges, sale of excess energy, and decreased generation from existing resources.
 - (b) In setting the limitation, the City Council shall rely on all the following:
 - i. The most recent RPS Procurement Plan for VMUS;
 - ii. Procurement expenditures that approximate the expected cost of building, owning, and operating eligible renewable energy resources; and
 - iii. The potential that some planned resource additions may be delayed or cancelled.
2. *Relevant Factors.* The following factors are relevant in the City Council's consideration of a cost limitation to determine the funding available to procure Eligible Renewable Energy Resources and meet VMUS' RPS Procurement Obligation.
- (a) Victorville is a city of approximately 115,000 residents, located about 90 miles northeast of Los Angeles. Many residents drive long distances to their place of employment. Creating local jobs reduces the need for this commute and the associated greenhouse gas emissions.
 - (b) VMUS began serving commercial customers in 2003 by offering competitive electric rates that would retain and attract businesses and jobs, and twenty-two percent of sales to customers have contractual rate limitations. Potential rate increases for the purpose of RPS compliance would be applicable to the remaining seventy-eight percent of sales to customers only, thereby creating an unfair burden and disproportionate rate impact for applicable VMUS customers.
 - (c) VMUS incurred significant start up costs, including payment of exit fees to Southern California Edison Company.
 - (d) Through June 30, 2014, VMUS' cumulative operating deficit was \$20.3 million ("Net Fund Position"). These losses have been funded primarily through transfers and loans from the City's General Fund.
 - (e) The City's outside auditing firm issued a going-concern audit opinion on the Southern California Logistics Airport Authority, a component unit of the City. One of the major credit rating agencies pulled its rating on the City's debt; inhibiting the City's capacity to either refinance existing or issue new debt.
 - (f) Significant capital expenditures are required by VMUS to improve electric service reliability and expand capacity to serve new businesses.
 - (g) Substantial outstanding indebtedness associated with the unanticipated failure of the Foxborough Cogeneration Facility remains to be paid.
 - (h) The forecasted Incremental RPS Procurement Costs would increase the negative Net Fund Position and restrict VMUS' ability to meet its financial obligations.

3. *Information Reviewed.* Pursuant to PUC §399.30(d)(3), and consistent with Section 9 of VMUS' RPS Enforcement Program, the City Council relied on the following information to consider a limitation on the Incremental RPS Procurement Costs for all Eligible Renewable Energy Resources in Compliance Period 2:
 - (a) The information on cost and availability of Eligible Renewable Energy Resources that is contained in this RPS Procurement Plan and was obtained through the RPS Prices to sell eligible renewable energy products.
 - (b) VMUS' negative Net Fund Position reported in the "Comprehensive Annual Financial Report".
 - (c) The forecast of the VMUS' revenues less expenses (before the incremental cost of procuring electricity products to satisfy the RPS requirements and any associated indirect expenses).
 - (d) The forecasted Incremental RPS Procurement Costs for RPS-eligible resources to fully satisfy the RPS Procurement Obligation in Compliance Period 2, which, as described in Section 8.B, is \$420,000 ("Full RPS Cost").
 - (e) The procurement expenditures associated with the offers received to build, own, and operate eligible renewable energy resources.
 - (f) Monitoring the offers received for planned resources that were delayed or cancelled.

4. *Establishment of Cost Limitations for Compliance Period 2, Compliance Period 3, and Thereafter.* The City Council hereby establishes a cost limitation on the Incremental RPS Procurement Cost for Compliance Period 2, Compliance Period 3, and thereafter as follows:
 - (a) During the annual budget approval process, VMUS will forecast the Net Fund Position (before the incremental cost of procuring electricity products to satisfy the RPS requirements; and any associated indirect expenses) through the next budget year and identify the funds available from such amount to concurrently satisfy the applicable RPS requirement and maintain prudent reserves ("Cost Limitation Guideline").
 - (b) In the event that the Net Fund Position is negative and the Incremental RPS Procurement Costs is greater than zero, VMUS will have no obligation to expend funds on RPS procurement in excess of the Cost Limitation Guideline or RPS procurement targets.
 - (c) In the event that the Cost Limitation Guideline results in an amount greater than zero, VMUS will seek contracts for eligible renewable energy resources on a least cost, best fit basis in an effort to achieve the procurement targets specified in Sections 7.A. and 7.B. Procurement considerations will include availability of resources, financial feasibility,

transmission availability and any other relevant factors to ensure procurement contracts fit VMUS' risk profile as a small POU.

Section 10: Public Benefit Programs

VMUS bills and collects from customers a public benefit charge ("PBC") in accordance with its Electric Service Rate Schedules (Tariffs) to fund programs that provide:

- A. Cost-effective demand-side management services to promote energy-efficiency and energy conservation;
- B. Research, development and demonstration programs for the public interest to advance science or technology which is not adequately provided by competitive and regulated markets; and
- C. New investment in renewable energy resources and technologies consistent with existing statutes and regulations, which promote those resources and technologies.

VMUS will determine if Public Benefit Program funds are available for the procurement of eligible renewable energy products to meet VMUS' RPS Procurement Obligations based on the following factors: (i) funding availability; (ii) planned commitments to promote customers' energy efficiency programs; and (iii) planned research, development and demonstration programs. If, after considering these factors, Public Benefits Program funds are available, then VMUS may expend these funds to procure eligible renewable energy products despite a determination that VMUS will have no obligation to expend funds on RPS procurement pursuant to Section 9.A.4.(b).