

# Press Release

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Franklin PUD Board of Commissioners Approve 4% Rate Decrease and Refund BPA Funds to Customers**

April 9, 2008: At the March 11<sup>th</sup> board meeting, the Franklin PUD Board of Commissioners agreed to lower rates by 4% effective May 1, 2008. The rate decrease is a 4% overall reduction, but each rate class is affected differently so as to equitably charge each class for their energy consumption.

A cost of service study was conducted to look at each rate class and their specific allocation of charges. Once this study was complete, the PUDs citizen's rate advisory committee was presented the results. This rate advisory committee comprises customers from each rate class including residential, general service, irrigation and industrial customers. The goal of the committee was to provide feedback and input on the cost of service study results, and to provide recommendations to the Board of Commissioners regarding the proposed rates.

Mr. Larry Mayfield, from the Pasco School District, is a member of the citizen's rate advisory committee. Mr. Mayfield reported to the Franklin PUD Board of Commissioners that the committee recommended the 4% rate reduction. Mr. Mayfield also told the Board that "The general consensus of the Rate Advisory Committee was to lower rates as much as possible, but to ensure stability with future rates." This rate decrease ensures that all rate classes are being equitably charged for their energy.

Also taking effect on May 1, 2008 will be a 3% Residential Exchange Credit that will be given to Franklin PUD customers. In early April 2008, Franklin PUD received an initial payment of \$2.8 million from Bonneville Power Administration (BPA).

This represents a reimbursement to Franklin PUD for overcharges that BPA has been collecting for a number of years through their Residential Exchange Program.

Franklin PUD is in turn distributing these funds to our customers at a rate of 3% each month for 12 months via a credit on their monthly bill.

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