

Hope for the Best, Be Prepared for the Worst



In the early morning hours of January 23, the Washington coastline found itself under a Tsunami Watch, following an earthquake off the coast of Alaska. Although the watch was ultimately cancelled it's still a good idea to use the alert as a reminder to be prepared. With that in mind, your Grays Harbor PUD encourages its customers to be ready by preparing an outage/disaster kit: These kits should include:

- A flashlight and batteries
- A battery operated radio
- Candles and matches
- Non-perishable food
- Water
- A manual can opener
- A first aid kit and any necessary medication
- A non-cordless landline phone

In addition to an emergency prep kit, access to information will also be crucial. Along with information from Grays Harbor Emergency Management and the National Weather Service, information on PUD efforts to restore power in an emergency response can be found on the PUD Facebook page (Grays Harbor Public Utility District) and Twitter page (@GHPUD).

For more information on power outage preparedness, go to our website at ghpud.org or call 360-532-4220.

Commission Meeting Dates

Meetings are held in the Nichols Building, 220 Myrtle Street, Hoquiam.

February 2018

Monday - February 5
at the Port of Grays Harbor's
Satsop Business Park
Tuesday - February 20
(rescheduled from February 19)

March 2018

Monday - March 5
Monday - March 19

Regular business meetings are scheduled to begin at 4:30 pm. A one hour workshop (3:30 to 4:30 pm) will precede each business meeting, unless otherwise noted. The public is welcome to attend all commission meetings, special meetings, workshops and public hearings. **Public comment periods are included at the open and close of every meeting.**

Commission meetings may be cancelled and special meetings may be scheduled. Please visit our website (www.ghpud.org) for updated information.

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Electric Vehicles on the Harbor

by Arie Callaghan, District One Commissioner

Electric vehicles are finding a place as a viable transportation option. Battery technology keeps improving giving EVs more range between recharges and with added infrastructure (charging stations) people are embracing EVs as an environmentally friendly way of commuting. I have tried to educate myself about the different makes and models of EVs that are available and the mileage range each of them offer. EVs are very popular in the urban areas since people generally don't have long commutes. However with improved efficiency, EVs are gaining popularity in rural areas.

I often wonder what the future for EV's in Grays Harbor may be. The Tesla is the best known EV and led the way in Grays Harbor with a charging station as you enter Aberdeen. It may not be as busy as a conventional gas station but it does provide owners with the option of driving to the coast. You only see Tesla's at that station because they have their own proprietary charging system and different batteries than other EV's. Aesthetically the Tesla models are nice looking vehicles and have amazing performance. As far as branching out beyond their luxury model, they have some newer, more affordable models becoming available and I'm told some truck models may be on the way. Most major auto manufacturers offer some model of EV which gives the consumer several options, and government agencies and some private business have EV recharging stations in place which is helpful. To help promote the use of EVs the government has made grant money available for additional charging infrastructure. A local project which has been discussed is electrification of the 101 loop through Grays Harbor and around the Olympic Peninsula and the "Electric Highway to the Beach." As with any new technology it may take some time to be completed, but it is certainly on the horizon. This would make it possible for EV owners to make the trip to Grays Harbor without worrying about available recharging facilities and open Grays Harbor tourism to the EV owner.

I do believe EVs are here to stay and although they may not fit everyone's needs they are only going to improve as time passes. Who knows, if they manage to develop a 4x4 crew cab I may even get in on the act.



Legislature Approves Funding for PUD Fiber Project

Governor Jay Inslee's signature on the 2017-19 Capital Budget will send nearly a half-million dollars in economic development funding to the Grays Harbor PUD and East Grays Harbor County. The budget, approved by the Legislature on January 18th and signed by the governor the following afternoon includes \$463-thousand for the East Grays Harbor County Fiber Project, which will improve fiber optic cable connections to the Elma and Satsop School Districts, the Schouweiler industrial park and local homes and businesses.

"School, residential and business interests in Satsop and Elma will see additional options for improved internet and communication services because of this project," said PUD Core Services Director Rob Hanny. "Thanks to the leadership of our legislative partners, this will mean improved service and greater flexibility within the PUD capital budget and the opportunity to complete other projects."

The Capital Budget request was sponsored by Rep. Mike Chapman and supported by his fellow 24th district legislators, Rep. Steve Tharinger and Sen. Kevin Van De Wege.

ENERGY, an informational newsletter, is published monthly for families and businesses energized by Grays Harbor PUD.

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