

**Office of the City Manager**

City of Richland Hills, Texas

## Memorandum

**To:** Honorable Mayor Bill Agan and members of the Richland Hills City Council  
**From:** Eric Strong, City Manager  
**Date:** May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2016  
**Subject:** Oncor Steering Committee

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### **City Council Action Requested:**

Approve Resolution authorizing continued membership in the Steering Committee of Cities served by Oncor.

### **Background Information:**

#### **Purpose of the Resolution**

The City of Richland Hills is a member of a 156-member city coalition known as the Steering Committee of Cities Served by Oncor. The resolution approves the assessment of an eleven cent (\$0.11) per capita fee to fund the activities of the Steering Committee.

#### **Why this Resolution is Necessary**

The Steering Committee undertakes activities on behalf of municipalities for which it needs funding support from its members. Municipalities have original jurisdiction over the electric distribution rates and services within the city. The Steering Committee has been in existence since the late 1980s. It took on a formal structure in the early 1990s. Empowered by city resolutions and funded by per capita assessments, the Steering Committee has been the primary public interest advocate before the Public Utility Commission, ERCOT, the courts, and the Legislature on electric utility regulation matters for over two decades.

The Steering Committee is actively involved in rate cases, appeals, rulemakings, and legislative efforts impacting the rates charged by Oncor Electric Delivery Company,

LLC within the City. Steering Committee representation is also strong at ERCOT. It is possible that additional efforts will be necessary on new issues that arise during the year, and it is important that the Steering Committee be able to fund its participation on behalf of its member cities. A per capita assessment has historically been used, and is a fair method for the members to bear the burdens associated with the benefits received from that membership.

**Board/Citizen Input:**

N/A

**Attachments:** Contract

**Staff Contacts:**

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RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CONTINUED PARTICIPATION WITH THE STEERING COMMITTEE OF CITIES SERVED BY ONCOR; AND AUTHORIZING THE PAYMENT OF 11 CENTS PER CAPITA TO THE STEERING COMMITTEE TO FUND REGULATORY AND LEGAL PROCEEDINGS AND ACTIVITIES RELATED TO ONCOR ELECTRIC DELIVERY COMPANY, LLC.

WHEREAS, the City of Richland Hills is a regulatory authority under the Public Utility Regulatory Act (PURA) and has exclusive original jurisdiction over the rates and services of Oncor Electric Delivery Company, LLC (Oncor) within the municipal boundaries of the city; and

WHEREAS, the Steering Committee has historically intervened in Oncor rate proceedings and electric utility related rulemakings to protect the interests of municipalities and electric customers residing within municipal boundaries; and

WHEREAS, the Steering Committee is participating in Public Utility Commission dockets and projects, as well as court proceedings, and legislative activity, affecting transmission and distribution utility rates; and

WHEREAS, the City is a member of the Steering Committee of Cities Served by Oncor; and

WHEREAS, the Steering Committee functions under the direction of an Executive Committee which sets an annual budget and directs interventions before state and federal agencies, courts and legislatures, subject to the right of any member to request and cause its party status to be withdrawn from such activities; and

WHEREAS, the Executive Committee in its December 2015 meeting set a budget for 2016 that compels an assessment of eleven cents (\$0.11) per capita; and

WHEREAS, in order for the Steering Committee to continue its participation in these activities which affects the provision of electric utility service and the rates to be charged, it must assess its members for such costs.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RICHLAND HILLS, TEXAS:

I.

That the City is authorized to continue its membership with the Steering Committee of Cities Served by Oncor to protect the interests of the City of Richland Hills and protect the interests of the customers of Oncor Electric Delivery Company, LLC residing and conducting business within the City limits.

II.

The City is further authorized to pay its assessment to the Steering Committee of eleven cents (\$0.11) per capita based on the population figures for the City shown in the latest TML Directory of City Officials.

III.

A copy of this Resolution and the assessment payment check made payable to "*Steering Committee of Cities Served by Oncor*" shall be sent to Brandi Stigler, Steering Committee of Cities Served by Oncor, c/o City Attorney's Office, Mail Stop 63-0300, 101 S. Mesquite St., Suite 300, Arlington, Texas 76010.

PRESENTED AND PASSED on this the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2016, by a vote of \_\_\_\_\_ ayes and \_\_\_\_\_ nays at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Richland Hills, Texas.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature  
Mayor

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature  
City Secretary

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature  
City Attorney