Trinity Public Utilities District MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD MAY 8, 2025

Location: Trinity Public Utilities District Community Room

26 Ponderosa Lane, Weaverville, California

Board Present: Alex Cousins, Nicholas Goulette, Andrew Johnson, Michael Rourke,

Joseph Trindade

Board Absent: None

Others Present: Paul Hauser, Jim Underwood, Sarah Sheetz, Julie Catanese, David

DeLange, Delmont Senter, Wes Scribner, James Aven, Jerry Hlavac,

Jill Cox, Jayme Bayley and Dana Hauser

1. President Rourke called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

2. Approval of the Agenda Order

Director Cousins made a motion to approve the Agenda Order. Director Goulette seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following voice vote:

Ayes: Alex Cousins, Nick Goulette, Andrew Johnson, Mike Rourke,

Joe Trindade

Noes: None Absent: None Abstain: None

3. Public Input

Jerry Hlavac, a customer from Hayfork representing several other Senior Citizens, objected to the proposed rate increase. He stated that the \$41/month charge per meter is excessive for just having a meter. He also inquired about reduced rates for Seniors.

4. Consent Calendar

Director Goulette made a motion to approve the Consent Calendar. Director Cousins seconded the motion. The Consent Calendar included:

- a. Approve Minutes of Regular Meeting, April 10, 2025
- b. Accept Minutes of Safety Meeting, April 29, 2025
- c. Validate Bills of April 2025
- d. Approve Financial Reports for March 2025

The motion passed with the following voice vote:

Ayes: Alex Cousins, Nick Goulette, Andrew Johnson, Mike Rourke,

Joe Trindade

Noes: None Absent: None Abstain: None

5. Action Items

a. Items Pulled from Consent Calendar

b. Review the District's Renewable Portfolio Policy and Ratify No Change to the Policy Language

Mr. Hauser reviewed the Report with the Board. Following a brief discussion Director Cousins made a motion to Ratify No Change to the Renewable Portfolio Policy. Director Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following voice vote:

Ayes: Alex Cousins, Nick Goulette, Andrew Johnson, Mike Rourke,

Joe Trindade

Noes: None Absent: None Abstain: None

c. <u>Adopt Resolution 25-01 Amending the Schedule of Fees and Charges and Approve</u> Amendment to the Connection and Reconnection Policy.

Mr. Hauser reviewed the Report with the Board. Following a brief discussion Director Trindade made a motion to Adopt Resolution 25-01 Amending the Schedule of Miscellaneous Service Charges and Fees and approved Amendment to the Connection and Reconnection Policy. Director Cousins seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

Alex Cousins -aye
Nick Goulette -aye
Andrew Johnson -aye
Mike Rourke -aye
Joe Trindade -aye

d. Review Fiscal Year 25/26 Budget Assumptions and District Goals and Provide Direction to Staff

Mr. Hauser reviewed the Report with the Board. Following a brief discussion, Director Goulette made a motion to amend Fiscal Year 25/26 District Goals to eliminate the second Item Under Goal 1, reduce the rate differential between different parts of the District's service area, as the Goal was obtained during the last rate restructuring, and to add an Objective to Goal 3, to provide a redundant transmission feed. Director Cousins seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following voice vote:

Ayes: Alex Cousins, Nick Goulette, Andrew Johnson, Mike Rourke,

Joe Trindade

Noes: None Absent: None Abstain: None

6. Conduct a Public Hearing to Consider Rate Restructuring

Mr. Hauser reviewed the updated rate restructuring presentation with the Board of Directors, attached and incorporated herein by reference.

President Rourke opened the Public Hearing at 2:15 p.m.

President Rourke addressed the request from Jerry Hlavac from Hayfork to consider providing a reduction specifically for Seniors, inquiring with Staff if there were any such program for Seniors. Ms. Sheetz advised there are programs for low income customers,

including Energy Net and the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, but nothing specifically for Seniors that are not low income.

Dana Hauser, a customer from Hayfork inquired about High Impact users and why they are not eligible for the Commercial rate. Mr. Hauser advised there has been significant capital investment to serve new load over the past several years, following a moratorium on adding services until system upgrades could be completed to accommodate the new load. High Impact loads tend to be in more remote parts of the District's system, which was designed for residential loads. Investments were made specifically to accommodate High Impact load. Director Johnson inquired if the District is officially tracking the expenses. Mr. Hauser responded that he would use the analogy similar to the rate parity Goal the District just achieved, the assets are typically 30-year assets, and in the case of rate parity, it was a 30-year borrowing. Although the original 30-year bonds were refinanced to take advantage of lower interest rates, the District met the goal after 30 years to achieve rate parity. He advised the Board could do something similar with the High Impact Rate, and reminded the Board that while some of the funding was spent from reserves, prior to a borrowing, it is a similar analogy, 30-year assets equate to a 30-year payback.

Director Johnson stated he would like to see a tracking metric during Board meetings.

Ms. Hauser stated that as a licensed cultivator that is trying to be a successful business in Trinity County one of the disadvantages is not getting commercial rates. Ms. Hauser advised that she understands the complexity, but that the impact to her budget as compared to that of the District's is quite different. She stated that there are very few licensed cultivators in the County to begin with.

Director Goulette responded that there is an issue of equity, and to ensure that Residential customers don't subsidize Commercial or High Impact customers. He surmised that High Impact users are a unique class that have a unique impact to the system, and that but for the increase in load the investments in the system would not have been made.

Jeff Morris, from the Trinity County Office of Education (TCOE) stated that TCOE is grateful for the low rates and understands the economies of scale that are against all of us. He inquired about what options there are to increase load, collectively, to help mitigate future rate increases.

President Rourke responded that the District is in a difficult location to bring large loads – there are issues with transportation, work force and housing. The District does pursue any opportunity, but so far efforts have not resulted in significant new load. Director Goulette stated that the District is always open to ideas and discussion to drive load growth.

Director Cousins inquired if the comparison of rates was based on Residential customers, confirming if the District is lower in every rate category in California. Mr. Hauser confirmed.

Director Johnson inquired about rates and percentages in the budget, noting that the percentage of energy usage for High Impact customers was 15%, but what is the percentage of revenues? Ms. Catanese advised that high impact customers generate 20% of revenues. Director Johnson stated his point was that having a High Impact rate

really saved the District and kept all rates really low. He stated that as High Impact usage dips down, it hits us harder on the revenue side because of the higher rate. He suggested that the District look at rate parity at some point, so we don't have to rely on cannabis farmers.

Jayme Bayley, a customer in Weaverville, inquired if the percentage increase is the same across all rates. Ms. Catanese advised the percentage increase to residential is half of what it is to commercial and high impact.

Director Johnson inquired about the reclassification of second and third residential meters. Mr. Hauser confirmed that reclassification is part of this rate restructuring.

Director Goulette surmised that it is not an option to not increase rates, given where the economy is headed, inflation, stagnation, reduced load, and that he suspects we will be facing this topic again. He acknowledged the impact on customers, as residents of the poorest County in California, stating that is hard on the Board and they know it is hard on the customers, and that the decision is not taken lightly.

Director Cousins stated he would like to see future rate parity between High Impact and Commercial customers. Director Trindade agreed.

President Rourke stated that the District is working on a lot of different topics, and that the Board is attempting to reduce the impact of rate increases by making more frequent small increases. In addition to infrastructure improvements, the District has invested a large amount of money in the Right of Way Project, attempting to reduce wildfire risk due to not having wildfire liability insurance. He stated the Board does not enjoy rate increases any more than customers enjoy receiving the bill.

President Rourke closed the Public Hearing at 2:40 p.m.

Director Cousins made a motion to Adopt Ordinance 25-01 Amending Rate Schedules 1, 3, 5 9, 10, 11, 17, 19 and 20 as presented. Director Goulette seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

Alex Cousins -aye
Nick Goulette -aye
Andrew Johnson -aye
Mike Rourke -aye
Joe Trindade -aye

7. Reports:

a. Wildfire Mitigation Plan (WMP) Reporting Metrics Update - April, 2025

Mr. DeLange provided a summary of the Wildfire Mitigation Plan Reporting Metrics for April, 2025. Intrusive inspections are nearly complete for the year, patrol and visual inspections are on track. The District completed a mastication project on the Hyampom 60kV tap right of way. Crews also took advantage of a PG&E outage last week and replaced 5 poles on the Hyampom transmission line. Director Goulette requested that the District include two years of vegetation management data in order to compare progress.

b. General Managers Reports:

i.Land Exchange

Mr. Hauser reported that the United States Forest Service (USFS) had advised that they would be completing the survey work by the end of Calendar Year 2024. The District has not had an update from the USFS in 2025.

ii. Northwest Public Power Association Legislative Trip

Mr. Hauser reported on his meetings with Legislators in Washington DC. Several topics were discussed including the Fix our Forests Act, the Fire Safe Electric Corridors Bill and the impact of staffing levels at federal agencies.

iii.Right of Way Project Update

Mr. Hauser reported that the Right of Way Project is still moving forward, but that Aspen Environmental Group is up against the existing budget limit. There have been extensive conversations with Aspen and the Western Area Power Administration (WAPA), and the goal continues to be to get the final document published as soon as possible.

iv.Balancing Authority of Northern California (BANC)

Mr. Hauser reported that BANC's enrollment in the Extended Day Ahead Market may be delayed.

v. Power Outage Summaries, April 2025

Mr. Hauser reviewed the power outage summary with the Board.

vi.Grants Update

Ms. Sheetz advised that there has been little progress on the grant status for the following grants currently being tracked:

United States Department of Agriculture Community Wildfire Defense Grant, \$9.5 million funded by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill (IIJA)

Status: notified of award, agreement partially executed

Community Facilities Grant – Sno Cat acquisition, \$236,140.

Status: notified of award, agreement not yet executed, Grant Manager notified District of his acceptance of the resignation offer, a new Grant Manager will be assigned.

Community Facilities Grant (FY 2026) - Fault Tamers, \$523,499

Status: application updated and resubmitted

vii.2025 Bill Redesign

Ms. Sheetz provided a presentation (attached and incorporated herein) on the recent bill redesign staff undertook with National Information Solutions Cooperative (NISC), the District's software provider. The new design is scheduled to be released with the May 2025 billing. Ms. Sheetz thanked Kim James, Clerk III for heading up the project.

c. Committee Reports

 Ad-hoc Forestry Committee None

d. Board Member Reports

Director Goulette reported that the Pacific Forest Trust and Watershed Research and Training Center would be hosting a picnic for the Trinity Headwaters Forest Conservation Celebration. He advised that the District was one of the early supporters of the project and would be included in the celebration.

Director Johnson reported on attendance at a Local Agency Formation Commission meeting in April, advising there was an item to increase annual dues.

8. Discussion Item

a. Request from Hayfork Chamber of Commerce for development of Trinity PUD Green Energy Icon for use by local businesses.

Dana Hauser, President of the Hayfork Chamber of Commerce thanked the Board for including this item on the Agenda, advising that having a Green Energy Icon for use by local businesses would benefit both local businesses and the District, helping to advertise the District's 100% carbon-free power. The Board concurred, President Rourke directed Staff to work with Ms. Hauser and return with some suggestions.

9. Communications Received

The Board received correspondence from Douglas City Elementary School thanking Lineman Cody McCullough for a recent presentation on power safety and careers.

10. Meetings and/or Workshops

 a. Northwest Public Power Association – Annual Conference Santa Rosa, CA May 19-22, 2025

Director Cousins, Mr. Hauser and Ms. Sheetz will attend.

11. Public Input

Dana Hauser stated that she would love an opportunity to have a special rate class for licensed cultivators. She advised that she understands the reason for the High Impact rate, but that if were possible to have the Commercial rate it could drive more industry in the long run. She advised that she really appreciates everything the District does.

The Board took a brief recess at 3:34 p.m. and entered Closed Session at 3:35 p.m.

12. Closed Session

a. Closed Session Item Under Government Code §54956.9

Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation

Claimant: California Fair Plan Association
No Reportable Action

 b. Closed Session Item Under Government Code §54956.9
 Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation Four Potential Case(s)

No Reportable Action

13. A	djournment
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There being no further business, President Rourke adjourned the meeting at 4:26 p.m.

/s/ Michael Rourke
Michael Rourke, President

ATTEST: /s/ Nicholas Goulette
Nicholas Goulette, Clerk



2025 BILL REDESIGN

YNN



This MAY satisfy as one of the print at localment received to get a REAL ID at the DMV. For more information, visit California REALIDarg

Billing Questions: (530) 623-5536



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Statement Date April, 2025

Current Charges Due Date 05/19/2025

Meter	From	Through	Days	Type	End Read	Start Read	Mult	Usage	Est
	Mar 12, 2025	Apr 10, 2025	29	KWH	19968	18332	1	1636	No
Monthly Usage			\$	System A Kwh Cha Wholesal California Cal Publi Total Thi	Charges Access Charge rge @ \$0.0468 le Power Charg a Energy Tax @ ic Benefit Charg is Service	ge @ \$0.0194 § \$0.00030 per ge @ 2.85%	kwh	\$39.00 \$76.60 \$31.74 \$0.49 \$4.20 \$152.03 y Usage: 56	
	This Month Las	t Year							
Usage 1418	Day	ys Served 31							

Please Return This Stub With Your Payment Please do not staple or papercilo

> Account: Statement Date: Amount Due

April, 2025 \$152.03

Amount Paid

Trinity PUD PO Box 1410 Weaverville CA 96093-1410

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- TRINITY PUD'S BILL FORMAT HAS REMAINED THE SAME SINCE 2010
- In 2024 NISC's Enterprise Solutions began offering BASELINE BILL REDESIGN
 - BASELINE BILL REDESIGN ALLOWS CUSTOMERS TO CHOOSE FROM THREE TEMPLATES WITH THE MOST POPULAR FEATURES, RATHER THAN REDESIGNING THE BILL FROM SCRATCH
 - OFFERED AT A REDUCED COST TO CUSTOMERS
 - Required less staff time for the project

Page 2 of 2

Utility bills are payable as of the date of billing. Charges will be termed past due if payment of current charges is not received in the business office by 5:00 p.m. on the due date printed on the bill.

Past due balances may be assessed a late charge and mailed a 15-day notice of disconnection. Past due accounts unpaid at the end of the 15-day disconnection notice period may be disconnected.

A listing of agencies that may provide funding to eligible individuals in need of assistance is available by contacting the Trinity Public Utilities District Business Office at (530) 623-5536

Miscellaneous Service Charges

Service Connection Varies (\$0 - \$0.00) Meter Test \$35.00	(00.000)
	100.000
Returned Check \$25.00	
Late Payment	
Shut Off Notice (Commercial Only)\$50.00	
Counter Collection Fee. \$35.00	
Credit Card Convenience Fee	
Credit Card Convenience Fee	
Net Meter Admin Fee\$20.00	
Interconnection Inspection Fee \$250.00	

Other Billing Services Available

Level Billing - Even (equal) monthly bills based on estimates derived from your past usage.

On-Line Bill Pay - Access your account via www.trinitypud.com or from your smartphone by downloading the SmartHub application.

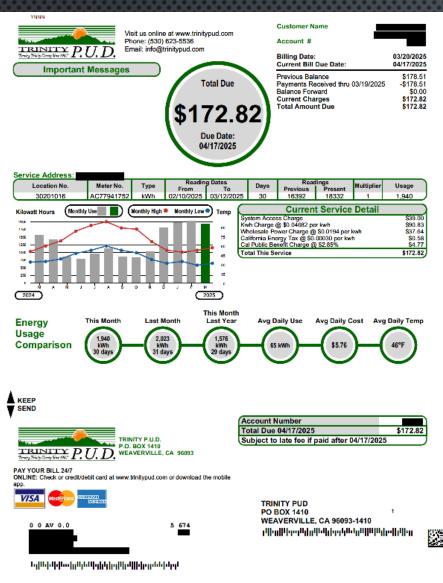
Easy Pay - Your electric bill is automatically deducted from your bank account each month. You will receive a statement from TPUD advising you of the amount that will be deducted.

Merged Billing - Combine multiple accounts billed to the same name and mailing address onto one billing and receive a \$1.00 discount for each meter.

Call our customer service representatives for more information.

In accordance with SB1305 and SB1078 you are hereby notified that all energy delivered to you by the District is the result of the Federal Trinity River Division Act of 1955. (69 STAT.710) In accordance with SB1078 you are hereby notified that none of the Public Benefit Funds are used to purchase renewable

- BASELINE BILL REDESIGN OFFERS THE OPPORTUNITY TO BETTER UTILIZE THE BACK OF THE BILL AS A COMMUNICATION TOOL
- STAFF WILL BE ABLE TO MANAGE THE CONTENT MORE EASILY, RATHER THAN REQUIRING PROGRAMMING TO MAKE EDITS



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- Staff has been working with NISC since last December on the bill re-design
- THE BILL AMOUNT AND DUE DATE ARE PROMINENTLY DISPLAYED IN THE LARGE BUBBLE.
- AVERAGE DAILY HIGH AND LOW TEMPERATURES
 HAVE BEEN ADDED TO THE USAGE CHART
- Staff can easily add Important Messages on the top left of the bill
- Payment methods and contact information have been updated

PAYMENT OPTIONS



(530) 623-5536



Visit our website at www.trinitypud.com for quick bill pay.



Download the SmartHub app from the Apple App Store or Google Play Store.



Sign up for Automatic Bank Draft or Recurring Credit Card payments.



Please include your payment stub in the enclosed envelope.



Drop Box Locations Trinity PUD 26 Ponderosa Ln. Weaverville, CA 96093



Payment Location Emie's True Value 7171 State Hwv 3 Hayfork, CA 96041 Accepts cash or check only.

In accordance with SB1305 and SB1078 you are hereby notified that all energy delivered to you by the District is the result of the Federal Trinity River Division Act of 1955. (69 STAT.710) In accordance with SB1078 you are hereby notified that none of the Public Benefit Funds are used to purchase renewable resources.

SPRING ENERGY TIPS







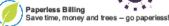


Help Us Keep Your Contact Information Current

	Please Upd	ate My Cor	ntact Infor	rmation	
Mailing	Address_				
City_			State	Zip	
Email					
_	omments				

Sign up Today for	
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Receive notices of planned outages and



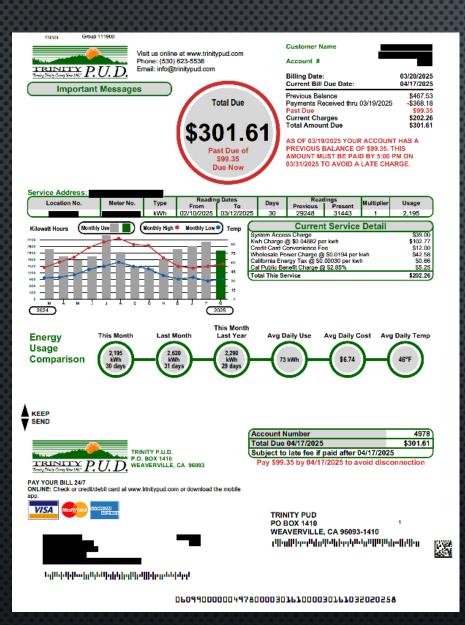
Energy Use Data Track your monthly, daily and hourly usage.



Manage Your Account Update your personal information and sign up to

receive important notifications from Trinity PUD.

- THE BACK OF THE BILL NOW DISPLAYS ALL PAYMENT **OPTIONS**
- STAFF WILL HAVE THE ABILITY TO MANAGE THE ACTIVE CONTENT IN THE CENTER SECTION, USING THIS AREA FOR IMPORTANT MESSAGES, CAMPAIGNS, AND PLANNED OUTAGE NOTIFICATIONS.
- ALL CONTENT IS AVAILABLE IN SMARTHUB, Customers using paperless billing do not miss OUT ON BILL INSERTS.



- CUSTOMERS WITH A PAST DUE BALANCE WILL SEE THAT THE CIRCLE TURNS RED, AND THE PAST DUE AMOUNT AND DUE DATE ALSO TURN RED.
- Customers enrolled in level pay and auto pay also receive special messaging on billings

YNNN Group 111900



TRINITY P.U.D. P.O. BOX 1410 WEAVERVILLE, CA 96093

Billing Questions: (530) 623-5536



DISCONNECT NOTICE

Account Number			
Notice Date	04/29/2025		
Last Payment Date	03/14/2025		
Last Payment Amount	-120.00		
Late Charge	10.00		
Current Due	170.29		
Past Due	311.61		
Total Amount Due	491.90		
Disconnect On or After	05/15/2025		

DISCONNECT NOTICE

Your electric service will be subject to DISCONNECTION without any further notification the PAST DUE balance is received in the District's office prior to 5:00 p.m. on 05/14/2025.

To reestablish service after disconnection, you will be <u>required</u> to pay a Service Reconnection Fee and, if necessary, a deposit prior to your service being reconnected.

Return Bottom Portion With Payment.

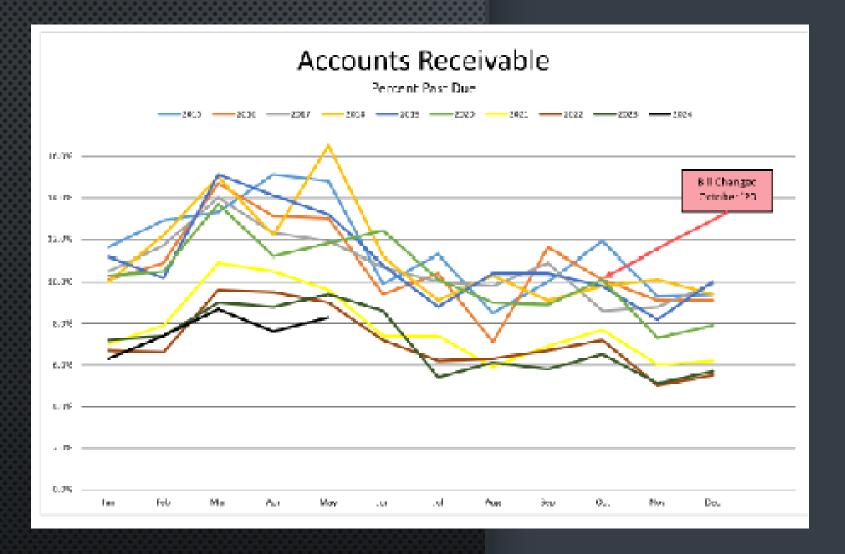


TRINITY PUD PO BOX 1410 WEAVERVILLE, CA 96093-1410

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• TRINITY PUD CURRENTLY SENDS OUT ON AVERAGE 360 LATE NOTICES/MONTH COSTING ALMOST \$4,000/YEAR.



- OTHER UTILITIES HAVE SEEN A
 SIGNIFICANT AND CONSISTENT
 DECREASE IN ACCOUNTS
 RECEIVABLE UPON IMPLEMENTING
 A BILL REDESIGN
- TRINITY PUD CUSTOMERS PAYING VIA AN ELECTRONIC METHOD:
 - 46% IN APRIL OF 2018
 - 53% IN APRIL OF 2022
 - 62% IN APRIL OF 2025

Your monthly billing statement from Trinity PUD has a new look!

Over the past several months, our team has been working to improve the bill print in order to make the most important information stand out, and to help customers better understand their energy use

format is much easier to read and understand

We value your feedback and encourage you to contact our office at 530-623-5536 with questions or concerns.



We hope you will agree that this new

How To Read Your New Bill

Follow the numbers below as a guide to reading your new billing format.

Amount due on account.

Trinity PUD 26 Ponderosa Lane

Weaverville, CA 96093

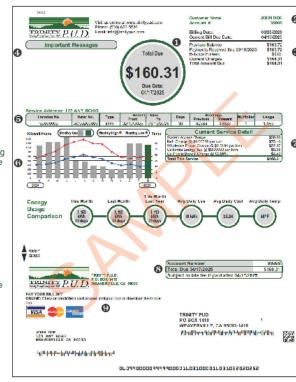
Phone: (530) 623-5536

www.trinitypud.com

- 2. Your account number. Please refer to this number when calling in or making payments.
- 3. Billing Summary shows activity since last billing.
- 4. Message Center for important messages from Trinity PUD.
- 5. Meter location and meter reading information.
- 6. By following the graph key, you can see monthly usage along with monthly high and low and temperature. You can compare your usage with the previous year.
- 7. Current detail of charges for electric use.
- 8. Account number and amount due. Return stub with your check or cash payment.
- 9. Ways to pay online and on our SmartHub app. We accept Master Card, Visa, and American Express.

On the reverse side of the bill, you will find helpful tips for Power Outages, Contact Information and Payment Options, You will see at the bottom of the page a place for updating personal information that appears wrong on the front of your bill. Please follow instructions for faster payment processing.

Please remember to visit us at www.trinitypud.com and sign up for SmartHub. SmartHub is a fast and convenient way to view usage history, report an outage, and manage your account.



- AN INFORMATIONAL FLYER WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE MAY 2025 BILLING AS AN INSERT TO ASSIST CUSTOMERS WITH THE TRANSITION.
- SPECIAL THANKS TO KIM JAMES, CLERK III FOR ALL OF HER HARD WORK ON THIS PROJECT.

QUESTIONS?