Date: April 17, 2020
To: Utilities Board
From: Aram Benyamin, Chief Executive Officer
Subject: Communication to Utilities Board

1. **2020 Community Focus Funds Grants**
   - As directed by the Utilities Board in Community Support Guideline 11-2, all 2020 Community Focus Fund grants support utilities-centric projects and programs for affordable housing, transitional housing and shelter facilities.
   - This year, Colorado Springs Utilities is providing $239,000 to 14 local nonprofit organizations to support affordable housing in the Pikes Peak region.
   - This money will be used to fund efficiency upgrades in low-income seniors' homes.
   - Permanent affordable housing units, transitional housing and shelter facilities received funding for efficient water heater, furnace, window, door and appliance upgrades.
   - These small, yet important changes, will not only reduce residents’ heating and water bills; it will also put less strain on our systems that deliver these vital services to customers.
   - This grant funding was planned before the coronavirus crisis, but the timing couldn’t be better.
   - Please refer to the attachment to view the full list of recipients.
   
   [See attachment]

2. **COPE Mailing Notification**
   - Project COPE: To help raise the necessary funds to sustain the program, the Colorado Springs Utilities Foundation will be sending a Project COPE Spring Newsletter Appeal to 75,000 current, lapsed and prospective donors sometime between April 15 and April 22.
   - The Project COPE program was created by Colorado Springs Utilities over thirty years ago to assist customers facing imminent loss of their utilities services often due to personal or family crises.
   - Individuals, foundations and businesses donate to the program and Colorado Springs Utilities matches these donations up to $500,000 annually to provide the funds to assist customers with their utilities bills.
• In 2019, Project COPE provided $1,040,538 in utilities payment assistant to 2,637 households.
• Questions about the letter or Project COPE can be directed to April Speake, Community Liaison, 668-3836 or aspeake@csu.org.

3. **Electric Cost Adjustment (ECA) - Monitoring Report:**
   • On March 18, 2020, Utilities Board directed staff to accelerate the ECA rate reduction filing from April to March with an effective date of April 1, 2020.
   • On March 24, 2020, City Council approved the ECA rate of $0.0149 per kWh effective April 1, 2020.

**Gas Cost Adjustment (GCA) - Proposed Rate Adjustment:**
• Colorado Springs Utilities is proposing changes to the Gas Cost Adjustment (GCA) rate effective May 1, 2020.
• The proposed GCA rate adjustment changes the current effective rate of $0.1243 per Ccf to a proposed rate of $0.0783 per Ccf.
• If approved, the proposed GCA rate will impact the respective customer’s sample total monthly natural gas bill as follows:
  • Residential natural gas bill decrease of $3.03 or 9.4%
  • Commercial natural gas bill decrease of $62.62 or 14.8%, and
  • Industrial natural gas bill decrease of $626.20 or 15.6%

Attachments:
- Attachment 1 (Affordable Housing Grant Recipients)
- Attachment 2 (Project COPE Letter)

c: Officer Team
Congratulations to the Recipients of Colorado Springs Utilities' 2020 Affordable Housing Grants

Brothers Redevelopment
Cheyenne Village
Dream Centers
Family Life Services
Family Promise of Colorado Springs
Greccio Housing Unlimited Inc
Ithaka Land, Inc
Partners in Housing

Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity
Rocky Mountain Community Land Trust
Springs Rescue Mission
TESSA
The Place
The Salvation Army
Dear John,

We are all facing unprecedented challenges by the growing COVID-19 pandemic. Many in our community have lost their source of income, businesses are closed, events are cancelled, and people are staying home. As many are adjusting to their new home work environments while also caring for their children, households may see an increase in energy and water use. Families who have never had trouble paying for their utilities may now be facing extreme financial pressures.

Colorado Springs Utilities has temporarily suspended the practice of disconnecting service to customers with past due accounts, but eventually those utility bills will come due.

Project COPE is making more utilities payment assistance available to our neighbors in need. That means your support is more important than ever.

You can make an immediate impact by donating to Project COPE today and help neighbors pay their utility bills and remain in their homes during this unprecedented time.

To ensure those who need help get it as soon as possible you can donate online today. You may also submit a donation with the enclosed remittance form. Remember: all donations are tax-deductible and Colorado Springs Utilities will match your donation dollar-for-dollar up to $500,000.

Our community needs your help now more than ever. If you’ve ever considered a donation to Project COPE, now is the time to do it. If you have always supported Project COPE, a gift now will be immediately put to work.

I hope you will join me in reducing the burden of our neighbors by relieving them of one financial challenge. I thank you for showing your compassion for our neighbors and appreciate your donation. We’re all in this together. Be well.

Yours truly,

Susan Presti
Susan Presti
Member, Board of Directors
YES, here’s how I can help!

Here is my gift of:

☐ $50  ☐ $100  ☐ $200  ☐ $250  Other: $________

I would like to make a monthly recurring donation (please add to my utilities bill):

☐ $5  ☐ $10  ☐ $15  ☐ $20  Other: $________

☐ Enclosed is my check payable to: Project COPE  ☐ I prefer to donate by credit card.

To make a secure online credit card donation, please visit our website at www.projectcopecs.org

My email address is: ________________________________________________

John Q. Sample
123 Main St
Anytown, ST 12345-6789