



City of Needles, California Request for Commission Action

☐ CITY COUNCIL ☒ BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

☒ Regular ☐ Special

Meeting Date: September 16, 2025

Title: Accept and adopt the 2025 Joint-Use Rate Cost of Service Fees Analysis and increase the Joint-Use Attachment Fee to \$15.10 for 2025 and \$22.41 for 2026

Background: As part of the 2025 rate study for the water, wastewater, and electric entities, the consultant was requested to conduct a joint pole rate analysis. The last known review of the joint-use rates was in 1994.

The joint-use rate is a fee applied to telecom and cable entities that utilizes NPUA power poles to connect communication wires to provide service to their customers. Currently, there are three (3) providers that have joint-use agreements with the city for pole attachments. Today, the NPUA has 1,460 joint use attachments.

The **existing joint-use fee is \$7.78 per pole** and is billed annually to each communication entity based on the number of connections they have. The analysis completed a joint-use calculation based on gross pole investment, which is pole costs, guy wires etc., and applied a space factor for usable pole space for attachment on a standard 45' pole. There are connections that are on larger poles; however, a majority of the attachments are on 45' poles. Therefore, this was the length selected to determine the applicable rates.

The maximum rate per pole, as determined by the analysis, is \$22.41. The proposed rate adjustment is an 188% increase from the current rate because a rate adjustment has not been made since 1994. Staff's recommendation is to accept the analysis and adopt a phased-in rate increase approach to avoid negative financial impacts to the communication entities. Proposed annual rate increases are 50% for 2025 and 50% for 2026.

Proposed Rates

Current Rate	2025 - 50%	2026 - 50%
\$ 7.78	\$ 15.10	\$ 22.41

Fiscal Impact: Increase in joint-use rates to cover the cost to provide the service. Current annual joint-use revenues are \$11,359, increased to \$33,719 by 2026 to cover the current cost of connections.

Environmental Impact: None

Recommended Action: Accept and adopt the 2025 Joint-Use Rate Cost of Service Fees Analysis and increase the Joint-Use Attachment Fee to \$15.10 for 2025 and \$22.41 for 2026

Submitted By: Rainie Torrance, Utility Manager

City Manager Approval: Patrick J. Martinez

Date: 9/10/2025

Other Department Approval (when required): _____

Date: _____