



## PACIFIC COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

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Scott McDougall,  
PCEMA Director

Marcelina Medina  
EM Coordinator

PO Box 1143  
300 Memorial Drive  
South Bend, WA 98586  
(360)875-9338  
pcema.info

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RE: Community Project Funding Request from Pacific County PUD #2

To Whom it May Concern:

Pacific County PUD #2 is seeking funding to assist with the costs of converting approximately 1.2 miles of three-phase overhead powerline along Joe Johns Road in Ocean Park to underground power. This conversion would reduce service disruptions caused by severe weather events for the approximately 1,077 customers served by this line. As part of the project, they also plan to install fiber optic cable to improve the reliability of the District's open-access network. Such infrastructure can be particularly valuable during emergency situations.

Since 1990, in Pacific County, there have been 14 Presidentially Declared Disasters and a 15<sup>th</sup> is pending Presidential review and action. All of these disasters have impacted PUD service to the community. This opportunity to enhance the utility's ability to provide uninterrupted service is of vital importance to our county. The median age in Pacific County, Washington, is approximately 54.9 years as of 2023–2024 data. This is significantly higher than the national median age of 38.8, indicating an older population, with over 31% of residents aged 65 or older.

According to a recent community survey, 34% of the county population reports as having access and functional needs concerns. Electric powered durable medical equipment is a significant concern within our county. All of these things highlight a profound need for these improvements to our system from an Emergency Management perspective.

The Pacific County Emergency Management Agency, strongly supports this Community Project Funding request and urges that this project be selected for funding.

*Scott McDougall*

Scott W. McDougall, PCEMA Director