

**Office of Public Utility Counsel
Summary of Recommendations - House**

Section 1

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Tonya Baer, Public Counsel

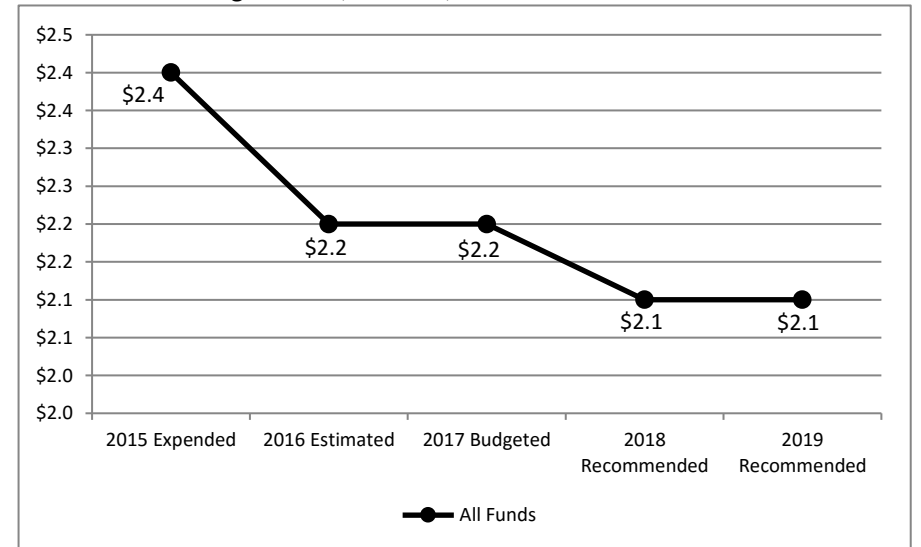
Andrew Overmyer, LBB Analyst

Method of Financing	2016-17 Base	2018-19 Recommended	Biennial Change (\$)	Biennial Change (%)
General Revenue Funds	\$3,422,727	\$3,285,818	(\$136,909)	(4.0%)
GR Dedicated Funds	\$1,032,772	\$991,461	(\$41,311)	(4.0%)
<i>Total GR-Related Funds</i>	<i>\$4,455,499</i>	<i>\$4,277,279</i>	<i>(\$178,220)</i>	<i>(4.0%)</i>
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.0%
Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.0%
All Funds	\$4,455,499	\$4,277,279	(\$178,220)	(4.0%)

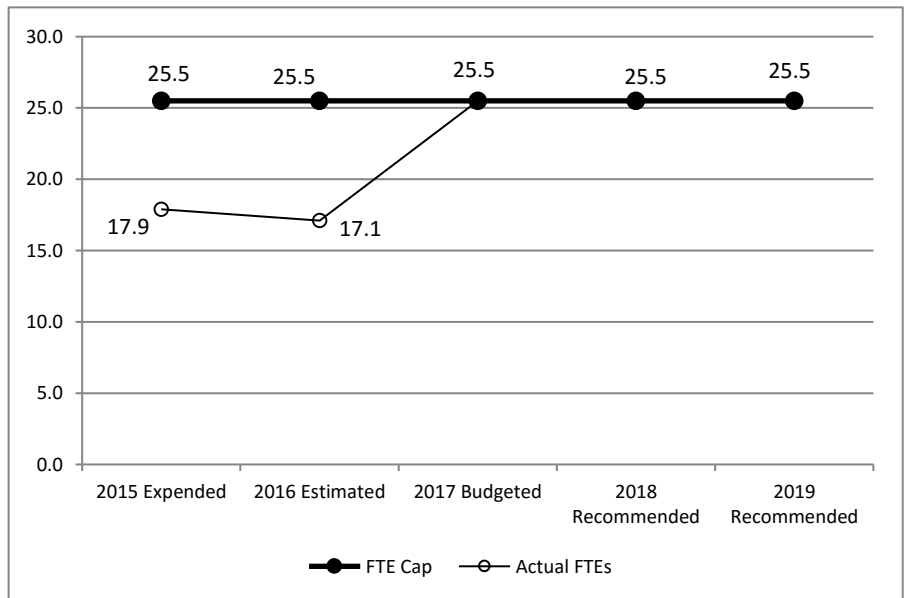
	FY 2017 Budgeted	FY 2019 Recommended	Biennial Change	Percent Change
FTEs	25.5	25.5	0.0	0.0%

The bill pattern for this agency (2018-19 Recommended) represents an estimated 100% of the agency's estimated total available funds for the 2018-19 biennium.

Historical Funding Levels (Millions)



Historical Full-Time-Equivalent Employees (FTEs)



Office of Public Utility Counsel
Summary of Funding Changes and Recommendations - House

Funding Changes and Recommendations for the 2018-19 Biennium compared to the 2016-17 Base Spending Level		General Revenue	GR-Dedicated	Federal Funds	Other Funds	All Funds	Strategy in Appendix A
Funding Changes and Recommendations							
A)	Reduced use of outside experts in cases and projects, pursuant to the four percent reduction.	(\$136,909)	(\$41,311)	\$0	\$0	(\$178,220)	A.1.1, B.1.1
TOTAL Funding Changes and Recommendations		(\$136,909)	(\$41,311)	\$0	\$0	(\$178,220)	As Listed
Funding Increases		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
Funding Decreases		(\$136,909)	(\$41,311)	\$0	\$0	(\$178,220)	As Listed

**Office of Public Utility Counsel
Selected Fiscal and Policy Issues - House**

1. **Background and Four Percent Reduction.** The Office of Public Utility Counsel represents Texas' residential and small commercial consumers in rate cases, rulemakings, and projects involving electric, telecommunications, and water utilities in order to protect consumer interests. The agency's workload has historically been largely dictated by the number of rate cases brought before the Public Utility Commission (PUC) and the number of projects or rulemakings initiated by PUC or required of it by the legislature. In fiscal year 2016, the agency participated in 45 utility cases and 29 utility projects, and is projecting to participate in 35 cases and 26 projects in each year of the 2018-19 biennium. Pursuant to the four percent reduction, the agency will reduce the use of outside experts in cases and projects and plans to rely on existing capacity in the 2018-19 biennium at the recommended level of funding.

Office of Public Utility Counsel
FTE Highlights - House

Full-Time-Equivalent Positions	Expended 2015	Estimated 2016	Budgeted 2017	Recommended 2018	Recommended 2019
Cap	25.5	25.5	25.5	25.5	25.5
Actual/Budgeted	17.9	17.1	25.5	NA	NA

Notes:

a) To accommodate fluctuations in its case and project load, the Office of Public Utility Counsel's FTE cap has historically been higher than its actual FTE levels and salary expenditures to allow for funding of temporary outside experts or hiring of additional FTEs as needed by the agency. The recommendations retain the cap at 25.5 FTEs. The agency reports that should the number of cases and projects substantially increase, it would reduce the use of outside experts rather than reduce FTEs or its participation in cases and projects.

Office of Public Utility Counsel
Items Not Included in Recommendations - House

		2018-19 Biennial Total					
		GR & GR-D	All Funds	FTEs	Information Technology Involved?	Contracting Involved?	Estimated Continued Cost 2020-21
Agency Exceptional Items - In Agency Priority Order							
1)	NONE	\$0	\$0	0.0			\$0
TOTAL Items Not Included in Recommendations		\$0	\$0	0.0			\$0

**Office of Public Utility Counsel
Appendices - House**

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* Appendix is not included - no significant information to report

** Information is included in the presentation section of the packet

Office of Public Utility Counsel					
Funding Changes and Recommendations - House, by Strategy -- ALL FUNDS					
Strategy/Gol	2016-17 Base	2018-19 Recommended	Biennial Change	% Change	Comments
PARTICIPATION IN CASES A.1.1	\$3,118,851	\$2,994,094	(\$124,757)	(4.0%)	
Total, Goal A, EQUITABLE UTILITY RATES	\$3,118,851	\$2,994,094	(\$124,757)	(4.0%)	
UTILITY PROJECTS B.1.1	\$1,336,648	\$1,283,185	(\$53,463)	(4.0%)	
Total, Goal B, CONSUMER PROTECTION	\$1,336,648	\$1,283,185	(\$53,463)	(4.0%)	
Grand Total, All Strategies	\$4,455,499	\$4,277,279	(\$178,220)	(4.0%)	Decrease in General Revenue and Water Resource Management Account (GR-D Fund 153) funding of \$136,909 and \$41,311, respectively, for the use of outside experts in agency cases and projects, pursuant to the four percent reduction.

Office of Public Utility Counsel
Summary of Ten Percent Biennial Base Reduction Options - House

Priority	Item	Description/Impact	Biennial Reduction Amounts			Potential Revenue Loss	Reduction as % of Program GR/GR-D Total	Included in Introduced Bill?
			GR & GR-D	All Funds	FTEs			
1)	Participation in Major Utility Cases and Projects: First five percent reduction	1.0 FTE would be eliminated and the use of outside experts for agency cases and projects would be further reduced. This reduction will impact the agency's performance measures, primarily in the number of proceedings in which the agency participates.	\$213,864	\$213,864	1.0	\$0	5%	N
2)	Participation in Major Utility Cases and Projects: Second five percent reduction	1.0 FTE would be eliminated and the use of outside experts for agency cases and projects would be further reduced. This reduction will impact the agency's performance measures, primarily in the number of proceedings in which the agency participates.	\$213,864	\$213,864	1.0	\$0	5%	N
TOTAL, 10% Reduction Options			\$427,728	\$427,728	2.0	\$0		