

**UCM / CSDA CO-OPERATIVE AGREEMENT TO PROVIDE
UTILITY BILL ANALYSIS SERVICE**

This agreement is made by and between Utility Cost Management LLC ("UCM") and the entity signing below ("Client") as follows:

1. **Applicable to Client's Utility Accounts.** Unless otherwise stated in an addendum initialed by both parties, this Agreement will apply to all water, sewer, garbage, gas and electricity accounts (and any related utility user taxes, other taxes, assessments, surcharges or fees) with respect to which Client:
 - (a) is receiving utility service as of the Effective Date (as defined below),
 - (b) has received utility service within three years prior to the Effective Date,
 - (c) receives utility service within one year after the Effective Date, or
 - (d) has permitted or authorized UCM to obtain a copy of the utility bill.

The water, sewer, garbage, gas and electric accounts described in this paragraph are hereinafter collectively referred to as "Utility Accounts". The "Effective Date", as that term is used above, is the first day of the calendar month after both UCM and Client have signed this Agreement.
2. **Client to Provide Utility Bills.** On or promptly after Client's execution of this Agreement, Client will provide UCM with a copy of at least one month's utility bills for all of Client's Utility Accounts.
3. **UCM Authorized to Obtain Information on Utility Accounts.** UCM is hereby authorized to obtain information relating to the Utility Accounts directly from utility provider personnel and utility provider websites. If site visits are necessary, UCM will first obtain proper authorization from Client.
4. **UCM's Findings Letter.** UCM will use its best efforts to identify the basis for any refunds, credits or Future Savings (as defined below) on Client's Utility Accounts. UCM will send one or more a "Findings Letters" to Client that generally sets forth the basis for any refunds, credits or Future Savings identified by UCM. UCM may, from time to time, supplement or amend the Findings Letter.
5. **Steps to Obtain Refunds or Savings.** With Client's prior approval, UCM is authorized to take steps to obtain the refunds, credits or Future Savings identified in the Findings Letter. Such steps may include, but are not limited to, communicating, negotiating and dealing with utility providers (or, in the case of utility user taxes or other governmental charges, the appropriate government entity), and seeking relief from the California Public Utilities Commission in a complaint proceeding or other proceeding.
6. **Cooperation By Client.** Client will cooperate with UCM, as reasonable, in UCM's efforts to carry out the purposes and intent of this Agreement. Such cooperation will include, but not be limited to, providing information upon request by UCM concerning Client's utility expenditures, utility service and operations.
7. **UCM's Compensation.**


UCM's compensation will consist of the amounts set forth in both (a) and (b) below.

- (a) **Refunds or Credits.** If Client receives a refund or credit that was identified in the Findings Letter, then Client will pay to UCM 42% of the amount refunded or credited. The amount of the refund or credit for this purpose will include all amounts refunded or credited (including any portion attributable to interest) for any overcharges that were incurred by Client prior to the date that the overcharges no longer appeared on the Client's utility bill. Payment of UCM's 42% compensation is due within 30 days of the date UCM mails an invoice to Client.
- (b) **Future Savings.** If Client obtains Future Savings that were identified in the Findings Letter, then Client will pay UCM 42% of such Future Savings that accrue during a Three-Year Savings Period. "Future Savings" is the amount by which Client's charges on its Utility Accounts are reduced as a result of a change in the billing rate, calculation, method or procedure. Future Savings will be calculated as the difference between the amount Client was billed on its Utility Accounts during the Three-Year Savings Period, and the amount that it would have been billed on its Utility Accounts during the Three-Year Savings Period if there had been no change in its billing rate, calculation, method or procedure. The Three-Year Savings Period begins on the date that the change in the billing rate, calculation, method or procedure is first reflected on Client's utility bill, and ends three years thereafter. UCM will submit invoices periodically to Client for payment based on the Future Savings as they accrue. The invoices will verify (a) that Future Savings have actually been realized by Client, and (b) the amount of such Future Savings.

Payment of UCM's invoices is due within 30 days of the date the invoices are mailed to Client. The compensation under this subparagraph will not include compensation for Future Savings that are the result of a reduction in the amount of utility usage by Client.

- (c) **Client's Prior Knowledge of Basis For Refund, Credit, or Future Savings.** Client is not obligated to pay UCM pursuant to this paragraph for any refund, credit or Future Savings received by Client for which Client had submitted to the utility provider a written claim prior to the date of UCM's Findings Letter.
8. **Termination; Effect.** This Agreement will terminate 7 days after either party faxes a written notice of termination to the other party. Upon termination, UCM will cease all work on behalf of Client. However, if termination occurs after UCM has sent its Findings Letter to Client, then Client will remain obligated to pay UCM, pursuant to this Agreement, for any refunds, credits or Future Savings that were identified in the Findings Letter and that are thereafter obtained by Client. UCM may continue to obtain and review Client's utility billing and other information following termination for a period of three years in order to periodically verify whether Client has obtained a refund, credit or Future Savings that was identified in the Findings Letter.
9. **If Client Is Not Utility Customer.** By providing a copy of any utility bill to UCM, Client is thereby agreeing that the Utility Account represented by such bill will be governed by this Agreement, regardless of whether or not Client is the Utility Customer with respect to such Utility Account. For purposes of this Agreement, the Utility Customer is the entity that (i) is named on the Utility Account as reflected by the utility bill, (ii) receives the utility service on the Utility Account, (iii) pays for or is liable for the charges on the Utility Account, or (iv) is the owner of the property at which the utility service is provided on the Utility Account. If Client is not the Utility Customer for a Utility Account then, with respect to that Utility Account, Client represents that it is signing this Agreement in its capacity as agent for the Utility Customer, and as such is authorized to legally bind the Utility Customer to the terms of this Agreement. Client further agrees that the terms of this Agreement will be equally binding on both Client and Customer, that all references in this Agreement to "Client" will also be deemed to be references to the Utility Customer, and that Client and the Utility Customer will be jointly and severally liable for payment of UCM's compensation under this Agreement.
10. **No Legal Services.** Client acknowledges and understands that: (1) Only an attorney can provide legal services or advice, (2) UCM is not an attorney or law firm, and does not and will not provide legal services or advice, (3) UCM does not and will not act as an attorney for Client or any other person, (4) Nothing in this Agreement, and no act, omission or statement by UCM, or its owners or employees, will be construed to create an attorney-client relationship between UCM and Client or any other person, (5) UCM is not subject to the California Rules of Professional Conduct, which govern the conduct of attorneys, and (6) Client should consult an attorney if it wishes to receive legal services or advice.
11. **Disclosure of Information.** UCM may obtain information that pertains to Client's business, operations, or affairs, including but not limited to its utility charges and utility usage. Client expressly authorizes UCM to use and disclose such information to others as necessary or convenient to carry out the services contemplated by this Agreement.
12. **Release of Claims Against UCM.** Client acknowledges and agrees that UCM has made no express or implied representation or warranty that it will be successful in identifying or obtaining any refunds, credits, or Future Savings on Client's Utility Accounts. Client hereby covenants not to bring any action for damages against UCM that is based upon or relates to any failure by UCM to identify or obtain refunds, credits, or Future Savings to which Client was or is entitled.
13. **Representations Made By Client.** It may become necessary for Client to make certain representations to the utility provider or other entity in order obtain refunds, credits or Future Savings identified by UCM in its Findings Letter. Client hereby warrants that any such representations made by Client will be true and correct in all respects.
14. **Late Payment Penalty.** If payment of any invoice is not received by UCM within 60 days of the date the invoice was mailed, then interest on the amount owing will accrue, beginning on the 61st day after the invoice was mailed to Client, at the rate of 1% per month (prorated on a daily basis). In addition, if any payment is not received by UCM within 90 days of the date the invoice was mailed to Client, then a fee equal to 5% of the amount owing (including any accrued interest) will be imposed on the 91st day after the invoice was mailed. Interest will continue to accrue at 1% per month (prorated on a daily basis) on the entire amount due until paid in full.
15. **Applicable Law.** This Agreement is executed in and intended to be performed in the State of California, and the laws of that state will govern its interpretation and effect.

16. **Venue.** Venue in any legal action arising from or related to this agreement will be Fresno County, California.
17. **Paragraph References.** A reference to a “paragraph” of this Agreement includes both the numbered paragraph, as well as the subparagraphs, if any, that are part of such paragraph. Subparagraphs are designated by lower case letters (e.g., “(a)”, “(b)”, “(c)”).
18. **Severability.** If any term, provision, covenant, or condition of this Agreement is held by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, void, or unenforceable, the rest of the agreement shall remain in full force and effect and shall in no way be affected, impaired or invalidated.
19. **Interpretation.** In construing this Agreement, no consideration shall be given to the fact or presumption that any party had a greater or lesser hand in drafting of this Agreement.
20. **Entire Agreement.** This instrument contains the entire Agreement of the parties relating to the rights granted and obligations assumed in this instrument. Any oral representations or modifications concerning this instrument shall be of no force or effect unless contained in a subsequent written modification signed by the party to be charged.
21. **Signor Authorized to Bind Client.** The individual signing this agreement on behalf of Client hereby represents and warrants that he/she is authorized to sign on behalf of the Client and to legally bind Client to the terms of this Agreement.

UTILITY COST MANAGEMENT LLC	
By: 	
Signature	
Greg Normart	
Print Name	
Vice President	
Title	
6/12/2023	
Date	

Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts	
Print Client Name Above	
By: 	
Signature	
Robert C. Ferrante	
Print Name	
Chief Engineer and General Manager	
Title	
June 13, 2023	
Date	