*Contact Tobias Sellier, Senior Director of Media Relations and Communications at* [*TSellier@PublicPower.org*](mailto:TSellier@PublicPower.org) *or 202-467-2927*

**Mason County PUD No. 1 Director of Business Services receives leadership award**

**Seattle, Washington, June 20, 2023** — Katie Arnold, Director of Business Services and District Treasurer with Mason County Public Utility District No. 1, received the Robert E. Roundtree Rising Star Award during the American Public Power Association’s National Conference in Seattle, Washington. The award is also a scholarship presented to future leaders in public power who are recognized by their peers for being creative problem solvers that perform their job responsibilities in an outstanding manner. As 2023’s winner, Katie will receive a stipend to travel to one of APPA’s conferences or training programs to advance her education and development in public power.

In 2016, Katie began as a consultant with Mason PUD 1 through a local accounting firm before eventually being hired by the PUD in a permanent accounting position and as the board-appointed treasurer for the District. She was soon promoted to a director-level leadership role and now oversees all administrative functions of the District. Having helped the District recover during a difficult transition period of staff retirements and hectic financial operations, Katie is recognized as a problem solver, a consensus builder, and a financial leader. In recognition of her outstanding work with the utility, she has also been selected to serve as co-chair of the Washington PUD Association’s Finance Directors committee. Recently, Katie has dove headlong into the complexities of Washington State’s new Clean Energy Transformation Act requirements to understand the financial implications for the PUD and has overseen the cost of service analysis to inform ratemaking and financial policies that she helped develop. She has also been instrumental in helping to procure $16 million in grants and appropriations for Mason PUD 1 over the last five years.

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*The American Public Power Association is the voice of not-for-profit, community-owned utilities that power 2,000 towns and cities nationwide. We represent public power before the federal government to protect the interests of the more than 49 million people that public power utilities serve, and the 96,000 people they employ. Our association advocates and advises on electricity policy, technology, trends, training, and operations. Our members strengthen their communities by providing superior service, engaging citizens, and instilling pride in community-owned power.*