



# Q: “What’s so great about public power?”

*A: It’s owned by you, and it’s focused on you. Take a look below.*

<i>TID &amp; other Public-Owned Utilities</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Investor-Owned Utilities (IOUs)</i>
<i>Not-for-profit public agencies</i>	<i>Organization</i>	<i>For-profit companies with multiple subsidiaries</i>
<i>To optimize benefits and services to the customer</i>	<i>Primary Goal</i>	<i>To optimize investment returns and appease shareholders</i>
<i>Locally elected officials oversee policies and rates</i>	<i>Regulation</i>	<i>Utilities commissions provides oversight for policies and ‘rate case’ approval</i>
<i>Full disclosure in decision-making process while adhering to Brown Act, Public Records Act and competitive bid requirements</i>	<i>Transparency</i>	<i>In-house decision making; limited public input and review; no requirement to conduct business openly</i>
<i>Rates set in open forum at the local level</i>	<i>Rate Setting</i>	<i>Rates approved by third party, this making customer participation difficult</i>
<i>Public utility rates are significantly less than investor-owned utilities</i>	<i>Rates</i>	<i>IOUs have an obligation to please shareholders, which affects rates</i>
<i>Complaints and service problems are dealt with swiftly; customers invest in strong power line infrastructure</i>	<i>Reliability</i>	<i>Larger infrastructure takes more resources to maintain, if only to meet regulatory obligations</i>
<i>Small or medium-sized and accessible to customers</i>	<i>Size</i>	<i>Large and complex; inaccessible to ratepayers</i>

Organized in 1887, Turlock Irrigation District is one of more than 2,000 public power systems in the nation. For more TID information, visit [tid.com/about](http://tid.com/about).

