

From: EcoMom2000

To: councilmember.garcetti@lacity.org, Jan.Perry@lacity.org, councilmember.greuel@lacity.org,
councilmember.alarcon@lacity.org, councilmember.cardenas@lacity.org

Sent: 4/7/2009 1:56:56 A.M. Pacific Daylight Time

Subj: ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE, SPECIAL MEETING

Dear Council member Perry, President Garcetti, Council member Greuel, Council member Alarcon, and Council member Cardenas,

Last Friday I received a notice of cancellation for this meeting which I shared with the LADWP Committee and numerous community members.

Dr. Soledad Garcia thought the cancellation notice was strange because she had been contacted by Council member Perry's representative that there would be a meeting this week. And today, I get an email calling for a "Special Meeting" that is scheduled 15 minutes before the beginning of the City Council meeting. Can anyone please tell me what you hope to accomplish in 15 minutes when you should all be on the floor at 10:00 AM?

In regards to water, my comment is this:

I recognize that we are in a permanent State of Emergency in California due to a water problem. Part of that problem is that agriculture takes a large amount of the water in the state (80%?). Another problem is with the Delta System and infrastructure.

The State's water problems should not be borne on the backs of those people who are the least likely to afford the raises - the lower income households, and those who already conserve.

Rates are based on several factors - one has to do with the previous year's usage. For me, the last two years are not typical usage for me. As the result of a lawsuit, I went without a front lawn from 2006 - 2008. A fence pole was right in the middle of a sprinkler line, and a Judge told me that I could not move that pole. So my lawn died.

When I had to put in a new lawn, based upon a Settlement Agreement, I had to plant trees, and I chose to put in a french drain and decorative rock to prevent runoff from my yard. I added timers to my sprinklers to be compliant with all of the City's water codes and orders.

Now I am being told that I may have to reduce my water by 15% when I already have low flow toilets and showers, and I have replaced a large part of my yard with rock, and pavers instead of a cement patio.

Please tell me how people like me who already believe in conservation are supposed to achieve a 15% reduction in my water usage.

While I do intend to plant Native Species, I still will need to water my existing trees.

We live in a semi desert region - how long do you think that it will take on a two day watering schedule before the community begins to lose their lawns and they start to sue because of the loss of expensive plants? The trees that I put in last year - that are just beginning to become established - cost me about \$2000.00. Are you going to replace my trees if they die? Are you going to fine me if I water more than 2 days a week?

Thank you.

Chris Rowe

ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE, **CANCELED**

TUESDAY, APRIL 7, 2009

ROOM 1010, CITY HALL - 9:00 AM
200 NORTH SPRING STREET, LOS ANGELES, CA 90012

MEMBERS: COUNCILMEMBER JAN PERRY, CHAIR
COUNCILMEMBER ERIC GARCETTI
COUNCILMEMBER TONY CÁRDENAS
COUNCILMEMBER RICHARD ALARCÓN
COUNCILMEMBER WENDY GREUEL

(Maria L. Espinoza - Legislative Assistant (213) 978-1078 or maria.espinoza@lacity.org)

NO REGULAR MEETING

ON THIS DATE

ee040709c.doc

Energy and Environment Committee, **Canceled**
Tuesday, April 7, 2009

ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE, **SPECIAL MEETING**

TUESDAY, APRIL 7, 2009

ROOM 1010, CITY HALL - 9:45 AM
200 NORTH SPRING STREET, LOS ANGELES, CA 90012

MEMBERS: COUNCILMEMBER JAN PERRY, CHAIR
COUNCILMEMBER ERIC GARCETTI
COUNCILMEMBER TONY CÁRDENAS
COUNCILMEMBER RICHARD ALARCÓN
COUNCILMEMBER WENDY GREUEL

(Maria L. Espinoza - Legislative Assistant (213) 978-1078 or maria.espinoza@lacity.org)

Note: For information regarding the Committee and its operations, please contact the Committee Legislative Assistant at the phone number and/or email address listed above. The Legislative Assistant may answer questions and provide materials and notice of matters scheduled before the City Council. Assistive listening devices are available at the meeting. Upon 24-hour advance notice, other accommodations, such as sign language interpretation and translation services, will be provided. Contact the Legislative Assistant listed above for the needed services. TDD is available at (213) 978-1055.

FILE NO.

SUBJECT

(1)

DISCUSSION ITEM

City Administrative Officer to report relative to the Board of Water and Power Commissioners proposed implementation of Shortage Year Rates designed to encourage water conservation.

(Materials related to an item on this agenda submitted to the Committee after distribution of the agenda packet are available for public inspection in the City Clerk's Office at 200 North Spring Street, Room 395, City Hall, Los Angeles, CA 90012 during normal business hours.)

ee040709special

SOLEDAD S. GARCIA
3606 Barbara Street
San Pedro, CA 90731

April 7, 2009

Date: 4/7/09
Submitted in EE Committee
Council File No: 07-3278-51
Item No. 1
Deputy: Marin L. Espinoza

THE NEW WATER TIERING IMPACT ON THE RATEPAYERS

THANK YOU MADAM CHAIR AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR OPENING UP THE NEW TIERING FOR DISCUSSION. MY NAME IS SOLEDAD S. GARCIA FROM COASTAL SAN PEDRO NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL.

I AGREE WITH THE NEED TO RECONSTRUCT THE NEW WATER TIERING TO LESSEN THE FINANCIAL IMPACT ON THE RESIDENT RATEPAYERS.

THE COMMUNITY IS NOT READY FOR THIS NEW PLAN BECAUSE IT HAS NOT BEEN COMMUNICATED.

THE OUTREACH PROTOCOL HAS BEEN NEGLECTED. THE DWP MOU AND ARTICLE 9 HAVE NOT BEEN FOLLOWED. THE FIRST TIME THAT A NEW TIERING WAS MENTIONED WAS ON MARCH 14, 2009. THERE WERE NO SPECIFICS AS TO COSTS AND IMPACT FROM LOW INCOME/ LIFE LINE TO BUSINESSES.

THE NEW TIERING WAS DEVELOPED WITHOUT INPUT FROM NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCILS AND PUBLIC. THE ARGUMENT THAT THIS IS AN EMERGENCY IS WITHOUT MERIT. DROUGHT CONDITIONS HAVE BEEN IN EFFECT FIVE/SIX YEARS. A NEW CONSERVATION PLAN WAS ANNOUNCED LAST YEAR. OF COURSE, THE PUBLIC HAD NO INPUT ON THIS EITHER.

EXTENDED FIELD PRESENTATIONS AFTER THE FACT, ARE NOT GOOD FAITH OUTREACH ENDEAVORS. IT SHOULD BE OBVIOUS BY NOW, THAT WHERE THE COMMUNITY IS SET ASIDE WITHOUT INPUT, THERE WILL BE BACKLASH.

THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK TO YOU ON BEHALF OF THE OVERBURDENED RATEPAYERS.

Stephen C. Twining

From: Soledad Garcia [ssgm15@sbcglobal.net]

Sent: Monday, April 06, 2009 2:31 AM

To: Nina Royal; Jose Aguilar; Dede Audet; Challis MacPherson; Jack Humphreville; ToddMartin@earthlink.net; Diane Rosen; Michael Cohen; Steve Twining; Tony Butka; Candido Marez; Geraldo Almeida; SOLEDADS GARCIA

Subject: Fw: Water tiering --for Tues. and Wednesday and Perry's Motion

The Tiering and Perry's motion on Solar. These are meant as a guide. If you have another preference, please notify me so that we do not duplicate. This also gives you time to prepare your 2" talk. You may even choose to address one of these, if the Media arrives before our turn to go into Council on Wednesday.

Soledad

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Soledad Garcia <ssgm15@sbcglobal.net>

To: SOLEDADS GARCIA <SSG15@SBCGLOBAL.NET>

Sent: Monday, April 6, 2009 12:14:41 AM

Subject: Fw: Water tiering --for Tues. and Wednesday and Perry's Motion

----- Forwarded Message -----

For Water Tiering:

1. Low Income and lifeline are not fairly treated
2. " " " " " " adequately identified.
3. 15% across the board is not fair. The burden is not adequately shared by income or use. It is not applied evenly.
4. The need to conserve is necessary, however DWP must be more lenient with rates.
5. What can DWP reduce to lighten the heavy increases from all utility's charges?
6. What kind of credit can be provided?
7. What incentive is there for reducing water garden use?
8. Accountability and Transparency in use of monies derived from tiering.
9. Recommend \$60 MM water fund be applied to reduce ratepayers' costs.
10. Neighborhood Councils were not properly notified of specific costs at any of the newswire notices or at the March 14, 2009, workshop.
11. How can water usage in apartment buildings share in the new tiering?
12. Analysis of cost to ratepayers.

13. What ways are there to redistributed tiering costs?
14. Will this new system by be revenue neutral? How can it be made so?
15. How will businesses be affected?
16. How will schools be affected.
17. How will large business buildings be affected?
18. There has been a failure of DWP to notify the Community of the rate changes in spite of the emergency situation that has been with the State for five years.
19. Outreach by DWP should have come before tiering and rate changes had been designed for implementation, not after it is a fait accompli. It is poor public relations and lack of sensitivity to the MOU.
20. A chart should be prepared to instruct the resident ratepayers on the effect of the tiering.

Here is the first of the two. Please read, add, make comment, modify, react and return to me ASAP. Would like to send this to the 10 volunteers by tomorrow.

Thank you,

Soledad