MOTION

Last year, California experienced its driest year in 119 years of recording keeping. Downtown Los Angeles received less than a quarter of its annual average rainfall, and many parts of the State are facing water shortages with reservoirs that are at historic lows.

The Governor recently formed a State drought task force to study the State's preparedness for a drought. As a result, the Governor declared a statewide drought emergency on January 17, 2014. The declaration is intended to increase awareness of the matter and to facilitate relief efforts.

The Department of Water and Power (DWP) imports more than 50 percent of the city's water supply from the Metropolitan Water District (MWD), which reports that it has enough water in local water storage projects to withstand a potential drought in the near future.

Still, it is critical that Los Angeles pursue a sustainable water plan that can serve its 3.8 million residents in both wet and dry years.
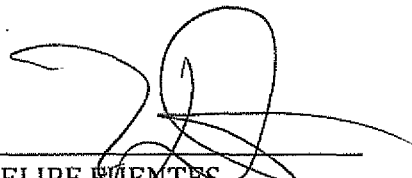
DWP's Urban Water Management Plan calls for the utility to expand water conservation efforts and develop local water resources over the next two decades. By 2034, DWP expects to have reduced its MWD purchases of imported water by half while increasing the amount of local groundwater, recycled water, and stormwater capture.

These efforts will be increasingly important during the existing drought declaration and prolonged times of dry weather.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Department of Water and Power (DWP) and the Bureau of Sanitation report to the Energy and Environment Committee at its next meeting on the status of its water conservation programs and efforts to increase local water resources.

I FURTHER MOVE that the DWP and the Bureau of Sanitation report on how the gubernatorial declaration of drought emergency would affect the departments and Los Angeles residents; and any related actions the departments may take to meet the declaration demand.

PRESENTED BY: _____
FELIPE FUENTES
Councilmember, 7th District

SECONDED BY: _____

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