

MY NAME IS RUTH SARNOFF

*Energy & Environment Committee*

I THINK THAT TWO HUNDRED AND SIXTY-FIVE MILLION DOLLARS IS A LOT OF MONEY TO BE TRANSFERRING FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF WATER AND POWER INTO THE CITY'S GENERAL FUND, PARTICULARLY AT THIS TIME.

THE DWP HAS BEEN MAKING THESE ANNUAL TRANSFERS TO THE CITY'S GENERAL FUND FOR AT LEAST A DECADE, AND THEIR SIZE HAS GROWN. WHILE APPARENTLY NOT ILLEGAL BASED ON CITY CODES, THEY ARE ALSO NOT MANDATORY.

MILES OF UNDERGROUND PIPES THAT DELIVER WATER TO RESIDENTS ARE BREAKING AT A RATE THAT IS UNACCEPTABLE. QUALITY OF WATER IS ALSO A PROBLEM DUE TO POLLUTION, ESPECIALLY IN THE VALLEY. THE THOUGHT OF LOSING MASSIVE AMOUNTS OF WATER DURING A DROUGHT IS AGONIZING. ALREADY COMPROMISED PIPES PLUS AN EARTHQUAKE SEEMS LIKE A PERFECT STORM IN THE MAKING.

ALSO, POLICY MAKERS AT EVERY LEVEL OF GOVERNMENT NEED TO TAKE A FRESH LOOK WHEN MAKING DECISIONS BECAUSE CLIMATE CHANGE IS CHANGING EVERYTHING. AND WITHOUT WATER, WE CANNOT SUSTAIN LIFE IN THE SOUTHERN PART OF CALIFORNIA. WE HAVEN'T EVEN BEEN MONITORING OUR GROUNDWATER.

IF THE MONEY TRANSFERRED FOR THESE MANY YEARS FROM DWP OVER TO GENERAL FUND HAD BEEN SPENT TO REPAIR AND REPLACE PIPES IN A TIMELY MANNER, WITH REAL MONEY AND WITHOUT INCURRING DEBT, PERHAPS THE SPECTRE OF A \$1.3 BILLION PLAN WITHOUT FUNDING WOULD NOT BE A FRONT PAGE STORY IN YESTERDAY'S L.A. TIMES.

IT IS HARD TO JUSTIFY THE RAISING OF WATER RATES WHEN MONEY IS BEING TRANSFERRED! IT IS NOT RIGHT THAT THOSE STRUGGLING SO HARD TO SURVIVE, HALF OF L.A. HOUSEHOLDS, SHOULD BE THE ONES TO BEAR THE BRUNT OF RISING WATER RATES.

THE MAIN REVENUE FOR DWP IS FROM RATE PAYERS! I FEEL STRONGLY SOME BROADER DISCUSSION OF THESE TRANSFERS SHOULD TAKE PLACE. IN MY OPINION, THE CITY'S BUDGET SHOULD NOT BE BALANCED BY THESE KINDS OF TRANSACTIONS. UNSPENT MONEY USUALLY MEANS SOME VITAL NEEDS ARE NOT BEING MET. RATE PAYERS SHOULD KNOW OF THESE TRANSFERS!

I ASK YOU TODAY TO RECONSIDER ACTIONS YOU ARE BEING ASKED TO TAKE IN LIGHT OF THE URGENCY OF THE WATER INFRASTRUCTURE CRISIS. MOVING SLOWLY ON THE REPAIR AND REPLACEMENT WILL ONLY RAISE THE COSTS. I URGE YOU TO DELAY ANY RECOMMENDATIONS OR VOTE ON MEASURES RELATING TO THE TRANSFER TODAY AND WAIT FOR A MEETING OF THE FULL COUNCIL TO ALLOW FOR GREATER TRANSPARENCY ON THIS MATTER.

THANK YOU RUTH SARNOFF, [ruth.sarnoff958@gmail.com](mailto:ruth.sarnoff958@gmail.com)