

LADWP

Hearing: 3/2/16, Tuesday, 10AM, at Room 340,
City Hall, 200 North Spring Street, LA, CA 90012

Re: DWP Water and Electricity Rate Increase

PROTEST

I urge the City Council to Vote **No** on the proposed rate increase. The current proposal is a **BLANK CHECK BRIDGE TO NOWHERE**.

The DWP desires to Substantially increase both water and electricity rates by

1. Creating New Tiers with smaller allotments.
2. Massive new debt borrowing, and
3. Revenue decoupling or driving up rates in consequence of conservation to maintain ever growing target revenue without further public consent – That is **A BLANK CHECK BRIDGE TO NOWHERE**.

According to the DWP Mailer, the Multi-Family Water rate from January to April 2016 for Tier 1 will increase 19% and Tier 2 - 45%. Tying this to MY 10 Year history, My Tier 1 rates would have risen 154% (\$ 2.19 to \$ 5.55 per HCF) and Tier 2 - 324% (\$ 2.19 to \$ 9.27 per HCF).

We can do better than this **Massive Inflation** and **Blank Check Bridge to Nowhere**.

I Propose getting out of the Stone age and into the Driverless Car – and here is how,

1. Automated Smart Water Meters
 - Gives consumers Real Time control over usage, conservation, leaks and waste.
 - Empowers the DWP to reduce its Carbon Footprint, customer service calls, improve accuracy of usage and billing, and frees up Water and CASH.
 - Houston, San Francisco and other Cities have installed automated water meters with great success. The utility industry is accelerating toward Smart Water Meters.
2. Direct Renter Billing of water and sewer usage.
 - Supports conservation and efficiency from Renters who make up about 70% of water consumers.
 - Enables the DWP to spread its costs to more customers—keeping LA rates among the lowest in CA.
3. Automated Water Pipe Monitoring provides alerts before a Massive Break.
4. Hiring and Staffing of Technology Professionals, Not Outdated Engineers, at the DWP .

Only by rejecting this **Massive Inflation** and **Blank Check Bridge to Nowhere**, implementing smart meters, direct renter billing, automated water pipe monitoring, and embracing technology professionals, can we foster an innovative and greener DWP Culture, a stronger economy, rate payer Consent, and the Potential of LA

Thank you.

CF-15-1543

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2016 MAR -2 AM 9:27
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PROTEST
ABUSE OF PUBLIC TRUST
AND
PROTEST OF LADWP WATER AND ELECTRICITY RATE INCREASE

BY _____ DEPUTY

CITY CLERK

2016 MAR -2 AM 9:27

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Dear Sir(s) or Madam(s),

I am writing to expose Abuse of the Public Trust by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (DWP) and the City of Los Angeles via deceptive balloting, sham public hearings, and to rebut the rate increase.

This abuse is evidenced by

1. Information Mailers sent to the rate-paying public without the appropriate tear-off yes/no return ballot. Many public agencies/bodies seeking public consent provide a simple return ballot to ensure voter participation.
2. Sham Public Hearings. The hearing held February 17, 2016 at Los Angeles City Hall was conducted in a manner to thwart public participation, challenge and opposition to the rate increase. The City Clerk advised that speakers would have 2 minutes to present their protest to the rate increase. Instead, the LA City Council president cut-off speakers at 1 minute in some cases and 30 seconds in others. Furthermore, council members were not attentive to protest speakers; and instead were occupied reviewing their cell phone messages, small talking with staffers and assistants, and diverting to other matters with complete disregard for the rate-payers. It is clear they arrived at their own conclusions without consideration of public response.

To make matters worse, the City Council staff apprised the public that the water rate and electricity rate increases would be split into separate approval processes. A Divide and conquer approach.

And to cap matters, the City Council stated that this water rate hearing would be continued on March 1, 2016. A Further drag on public participation and stringing out rate payer attendance.

On February 26, 2016, I contacted the City of Los Angeles to confirm the March 1, 2016 hearing date and was apprised that the date was again changed to March 2, 2016 – how does this foster public input and participation?

Refer to DWP Mailers, Notices and etc., and Video of February 17, 2016 hearing at LA City Hall.

The DWP (in cahoots with the LA City Council) is using smoke and mirrors, contra-technological arguments, muddled financial information, and abuse of the public trust to achieve an unnecessary rate increase.

I object to this Rate Increase because, and in addition to the above abuse of the public trust,

CF-15 1543

1. The basis for the rate increase is not to employ advanced technologies and innovative thinking to resolve the current excessively expensive water distribution system; but rather to simply replace some existing piping over a 200 year period, consideration of a duplicate purple pipe system to distribute recycled water, continuation of existing mechanical water meters, doubling down on the current break and fix approach – not proactive management, but reactive management (wait for a problem rather than foresee such), and sticking with a DWP staffed by old line thinking driven by Engineers, while future organizations retain qualified technology oriented staff to drive to an automated connected world view.
2. The proposed rate structure sets up more Tiers with lower allotments, huge new debt, and creation of Revenue Decoupling to allow for varying future rate determinations and revenue growth from concocted target income projections, without public consent – That is A BLANK CHECK.
3. The rate increase is premised on the same old arguments of infrastructure upgrade, reduction of imported water, moving to a green future, regulatory mandates, conservation, creating reliable water, and on and on. The problem is that none of these issues are ever resolved. The reason is that we rely on engineering solutions, not innovative, technology-based solutions. We are buried in past thinking and maintenance of the status quo – we will die if we do not change.

Prospectively, a better and more informed approach is to consider the following.

1. In the immediate term, we should develop and install a **Smart Water Meter Monitoring** system to communicate customer usage real time (mobile and internet). This will red flag water leakage, assist conservation efforts, and mitigate potable water waste and sewage flows.
2. Implement **Direct Renter Billing** of water and sewer usage to further drive conservation, broaden the rate-payer base, and spread the cost of water and sewer service.
3. Install **Water Pipe Monitoring** to be proactive and make repairs before a massive leak.
4. Move the DWP to employ more technology professionals and reduce reliance on engineers. This will foster innovative changes in our water delivery system benefitting the City, DWP, and rate payers.

Sincerely,
Concerned Property Owner