

Douglas E. Feay-Retired Engineering Geologist California
Regional Water Quality Control Board

10330 Eldora Ave. Sunland CA 91040



15-1543

PROTEST

January 5, 2016

Los Angeles Department of Water and Power
111 N. Hope Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012-2607

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2016 JAN 25 AM 9:19
BY _____
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DEPUTY

Protest-LADWP Proposed Water Rate Restructure and Increase

In the letter date December 2015 LADWP stated that rate increases would provide needed funding for investing in needed infrastructure for providing reliable water supply and encouraging conservation and expanding local water supply projects and meeting regulatory mandates.

It is my opinion, based on my experience regulating LADWP operations in the Owens Valley (see Owens Valley Operations below) that an increase in funding from tax payers will not produce the desired effects LADWP is looking for if there is no change in the way LADWP is currently operated. Below I have listed several recommendations that need to be implemented before any more tax payer money is given to LADWP.

LADWP Owens Valley Operations

During the month of July of 2004 I wrote an Administrative Civil Liability (ACL) for a maximum liability of 1,105,330.00 dollars. The ACL was issued to LADWP due to a sewage spill of 843,000 gallons of sewage from the Independence Waste



Treatment Facility which LADWP owns and operates. A day of maintenance and adequate field supervision would have prevented the sewage spill. I have attached the first page of the ACL for your reference.

While performing a joint inspection with California Fish and Game during 2006 we discovered equipment operators with LADWP digging up McGee creek. They had dug a hole 50 feet long and over 6 feet deep in the creek. Their job was to clean debris from the weir station. They were unsupervised and had no maintenance plan or training. The ACL for this violation was given to our Tahoe office to be filed jointly with Fish and Game. Maximum liability for this violation could be as high as 500,000.00 dollars.

While inspecting the Grant Lake Canal I observed an LADWP worker throw a portable generator into the canal. His supervisor was 4 miles to the east and this left the worker unsupervised. At my request the supervisor removed the generator from the canal and cleaned up the oil and gas slick. After many more incidents like this I requested LADWP e-mail me the weekly maintenance schedule for Owens Valley. I informed LADWP I would be making unannounced inspections of maintenance in the Owens Valley.

Recommendations

1. LADWP needs to greatly improve maintenance procedures and training procedures in both Owens Valley and Los Angeles operations. This improvement would free up millions of dollars that could be used for infrastructure improvements.

2. There is a practice within the LADWP of paying 15 to 17 percent higher pay rates to employees than Los Angeles city employees get for the same job. For example, a locksmith for the City of Los Angeles gets a maximum pay rate of 62,974 dollars per year. The same locksmith at LADWP would get a maximum pay rate of 79,176 dollars per year. A civil engineer with Los Angeles City gets a maximum pay rate of 103,376 dollars per year. The same civil engineer with LADWP would get a maximum pay rate of 122,000 dollars per year. The practice of paying higher wages to LADWP employees for similar jobs performed by LA City employee's needs to stop. Millions of dollars can be saved and put towards infrastructure.
3. LADWP Board of Commissioners needs to be disbanded and the responsibility of LADWP given back to the City Counsel. This would allow several million dollars to be used for infrastructure improvements.
4. Billions of gallons of rain water are lost to the sea via the LA River. LADWP needs to build infiltration galleries which would capture 15 to 20 percent of the lost rain water and put into the groundwater basin of Los Angeles. Making more groundwater available for use could reduce the need of water from the Owen Valley reducing the costs of the Owens Valley operations.
5. LADWP needs to make better use of recycled water. When replacing infrastructure recycled water pipes should be installed. Golf courses and most businesses in Los Angeles are currently not using recycled water and they should be.

6. In reviewing the proposed rate changes I found no provision for people on fixed retirement incomes. Social Security has not given a COLA in five years while food, medicine, and now water are going up 5 to 10 percent. People on fixed retirement incomes should not be subject to the same rate increases as people who get annual pay increases.

7. At the end of every fiscal LADWP transfers about 15 to 20 million dollars back to the city of LA. The reasons for this transfer of funds is so LADWP does not show a profit. This money is also used to garner favors from LA City for LADWP projects. This practice must stop and the money used for infrastructure improvements.

Thank You for your considerations on this matter.

Margaret & Dan Seitz

Douglas E. Feay-Retired Engineering Geologist California
Regional Water Quality Control Board

**CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
LAHONTAN REGION**

**ADMINISTRATIVE CIVIL LIABILITY ORDER NO. R6V-2004-0030
WDID NO. 6B140103001**

**ADMINISTRATIVE CIVIL LIABILITY
LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF WATER AND POWER
INDEPENDENCE WASTE WATER TREATMENT FACILITY**

**VIOLATION OF WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS CONTAINED IN BOARD
ORDER NO. 6-95-64 FOR THE FEBRUARY 10, 2003 DISCHARGE OF SEWAGE TO
THE LOS ANGELES AQUEDUCT**

_____ Inyo County _____

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Lahontan Region (Regional Board), finds:

1. Discharger

The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) discharges treated domestic wastewater from the Independence Waste Treatment Facility (WTF). For the purposes of this Administrative Civil Liability Order (Order), the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power is considered the "Discharger".

2. Facility

Discharge from the Independence WTF is subject to Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) specified in Board Order No. 6-95-64, adopted June 8, 1995. Domestic wastewater is treated in lined oxidation ponds and then discharged to unlined percolation ponds. Discharge to the percolation ponds consists of undisinfected secondary treated sewage. The ponds are connected by a concrete pipe. The oxidation and percolation ponds are located less than 0.5 mile from the Los Angeles Aqueduct (LAA).

3. Facts

On or about February 10, 2003, the LADWP violated prohibitions and provisions contained in WDRs prescribed for the Independence WTF and caused a condition of pollution as defined by California Water Code (CWC) Section 13050. LADWP discharged undisinfected secondary-treated effluent to an unauthorized area, in violation of the WDRs for the Independence WTF as described further below and in Administrative Civil Liability Complaint No. R6V-2004-0011 issued May 5, 2004.

- a. On February 7, 2003, at approximately 5:00 PM, the operator for the Independence WTF opened the gate to begin discharge of undisinfected secondary-treated sewage effluent to

PROTEST THE LADWP WATER RATE INCREASE!

15-1543

Why we oppose the five-year rate increase:

- According to the LADWP's own benchmarking study **and** a review by the ratepayer advocate **and** an independent study, LADWP salaries and benefits are higher than comparable utilities, higher than comparable jobs for L.A. City, and higher than comparable jobs across the nation, yet nothing is being done about it except calls for more studies—while LADWP plans a “cost-of-living” raise in 2016.
- The new water rate ordinance lifts the cap that limits the extra charges for “adjustment factors,” which raise your rates in-between the other rate increases. These extra charges will now be unlimited, and they can be increased over and over, without City Council approval.

To protest the new water rate ordinance, just write on a piece of paper (you can use the lower portion of this one):

Your **name** (or the name of the DWP customer)

Your **address** (the property address, not a P.O. Box or billing address)

The words, “**LADWP Water Rate Ordinance**”

The words, “**I protest**” or “**We protest**”

PROTEST

Mail or hand-deliver it to:

City Clerk

200 N. Spring Street, Room 395

Los Angeles, CA 90012

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BY
CITY CLERK
DEPUTY

It must arrive **by the morning of February 17** to be counted. One protest per address will count. If half of all DWP customers file a valid protest, the rate hike will not be imposed. It must be on paper to be valid, no e-mail or calls will count, although you can certainly call your City Council representative and express your views. It might help.

"We Protest"

Ann J. Heideiek

DAVID A. SAXE

"LADWP Water Rate ordinance"

17360 CHASE ST.
NORTHRIDGE, CA,
91325

BERENDO MANAGEMENT

15-1543

January 20, 2016

City Clerk
200 North Spring Street
Room 395
Los Angeles, California 90012

PROTEST

Re: LADWP Water Rate Ordinance

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To Whom It May Concern:

I am the owner at 1253 N. Berendo.

I am adamantly **opposed** to any rate change/increase in LADWP Rates.

I feel that the \$200,000,000.00 that LADWP steals from its customers annually and gives to the City of Los Angeles is already excessive.



David Makasjian

15-1543

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PROTEST

Scott Henderson
4706 ST Elm
KA 90019
KADWP Water Rate
Ordinance
I Protest!

PROTEST THE LADWP WATER RATE INCREASE!

15-1543

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DEN GOLDMAN
9759 SOPHIA AVE
NORTHRIDGE, CA 91343

LADWP “Water Rate Ordinance”

I PROTEST

15-1543

Handup "Water Rate Increase"

PROTEST

I PROTEST

Joyce E. Evans

6435 Bark Avenue

Reverie, Ca. 91335

Account # 1964690000

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January 20, 2016

City Clerk
200 North Spring Street
Room 395
Los Angeles, California 90012

PROTEST

RE: LADWP Water Rate Ordinance

I protest strongly over an increase in rates.



Elaine Kievman
346 North Skyewiay Road
Los Angeles, California 90049

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15-1543

Michele Nasatir
727 San Lorenzo Street
Santa Monica, CA 90402
310-459-0213

January 20, 2016

City Clerk
200 North Spring Street #395
Los Angeles, CA 90012

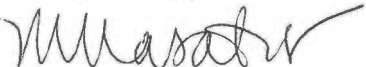
PROTEST

Re: LADWP Water Rate Ordinance

To Whom It May Concern:

My husband and I both protest the proposed ordinance. It is unfair and unreasonable to lift the cap that limits the extra charges for "adjustment factors" which raise our rates in-between the other rate increases and can be done over and over without City Council approval.

Sincerely,


Michele Nasatir

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CITY CLERK

15-1543 Steve Hanna

Jeanine Hanna

120 Manhattan Ave.

Unit A

PROTEST

Hermosa Beach,

CA 90254

LADWP Water Rate

Ordinance

"We Protest"

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1/18/2016

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Re Protest La DNR
Water Rate Ordinance

Katherine Beaman
19011 Sylvan Street
Maryland, Ca 91335

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Jan. 20, 2016

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LADWP Water Rate Ordinance
We protest.

PROTEST

Sincerely,

Arnold Cardona
12219 Kristopher Pl.
Porter Ranch, Ca.
91326

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BY _____ DEPUTY

PROTEST

Mave Cameron
2020 Gauth Ave
NA 98034
HADWP Water Rate
Ordinance
I protest !

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PROTEST

BY VALERIE HENDERSON
CITY CLERK
DEPUTY
4723 W 17th STREET
LOS ANGELES, CA. 90019

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LADWP WATER RATE
ORDINANCE.

I PROTEST !!!

BERENDO MANAGEMENT

January 20, 2016

15-1543

City Clerk
200 North Spring Street
Room 395
Los Angeles, California 90012

PROTEST

Re: LADWP Water Rate Ordinance

To Whom It May Concern:

I am the owner at 5153 W. Santa Monica.

I am adamantly opposed to any rate change/increase in LADWP Rates.

I feel that the \$200,000,000.00 that LADWP steals from its customers annually and gives to the City of Los Angeles is already excessive.



Edward Makasjian

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DEPUTY

15-1543

Dennis Burkley
5145 Costello Ave.
Sherman Oaks, CA 91423
January 19, 2016

PROTEST

re: LADWP Water Rate Ordinance

I protest the rate increase.

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Sincerely,



Dennis Burkley

BERENDO MANAGEMENT

15-1543

January 20, 2016

City Clerk
200 North Spring Street
Room 395
Los Angeles, California 90012

PROTEST

Re: LADWP Water Rate Ordinance

BY _____
CITY CLERK
DEPUTY

2016 JAN 25 AM 9:18

RECEIVED
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

To Whom It May Concern:

I am the owner at 867 N. Heliotrope.

I am adamantly opposed to any rate change/increase in LADWP Rates.

I feel that the \$200,000,000.00 that LADWP steals from its customers annually and gives to the City of Los Angeles is already excessive.

Rose Makasjian

15-1543

Ernest R. Hilger
10020 Ruffner Avenue
North Hills, CA. 91343
818.926.6892
erniehilger@hotmail.com

January 20, 2016

PROTEST

From: Ernest R. Hilger *owner*

Property Address: *10124 Montgomery Ave
NORTH Hills, CA. 91343*

Subject: **PROTEST LADWP WATER RATE INCREASE I PROTEST**



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January 19, 2016

City Clerk
200 N. Spring St., Room 395
Los Angeles, CA 90012

PROTEST

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Re: **LADWP Water Rate Ordinance**

Customer Name : Eric Kim
Customer Account number : 765 792 0000
Parcel Address : 891 Crenshaw Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90005

To Whom It May Concern:

Please take this as my written protest to the proposed Rate increase.

I/WE PROTEST!!!!

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Eric Kim,
LADWP Customer.

15-1543

January 14, 2016

LADWP Water Rate Ordinance

PROTEST

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CITY CLERK
BY _____ DEPUTY

I PROTEST!



Diane Norwood
9005 Haskell Avenue
North Hills, California 91343

LADWP "Water Rate Ordinance"

15-1593

PROTEST

I PROTEST

Joyce E. Evans
17446 Cabernet St.
San Diego, Ca. 91406

Account # 1740157883

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BY _____ DEPUTY

LA Dwp Water Rate Ordinance

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PROTEST

Bruce K. Browning

18854 Saticoy St.


Reseda, CA 91335

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PROTEST

01/06/2016

Signed: 

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BY _____ DEPUTY

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PROTEST

January 20 2016

3102 Bagley LLC
3102 Bagley Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90034

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LADWP WATER RATE ORDINANCE

WE PROTEST!!

15-1543

PROTEST

January 20 2016

Anne Jaude
408N. Bowling Green Way
Los Angeles, CA 90049

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LADWP WATER RATE ORDINANCE

I PROTEST!!

City Clerk

200 North Spring St., Room 395

Los Angeles, CA. 90012

15-1543

PROTEST

December 29, 2015

Re: LADWP Water Rate Ordinance

Owner of Record: Karen Benson

Parcel Address: 7421 Ostrom Ave., Van Nuys, CA. 91406

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I Protest

The City of Los Angeles is getting ridiculous in the fees that are being charged to its residents and this is just another one.

15-1543

Ernest R. Hilger
10020 Ruffner Avenue
North Hills, CA. 91343
818.926.6892
erniehilger@hotmail.com

BY _____ DEPUTY

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2016 JAN 25 AM 9:18

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January 20, 2016

PROTEST

From: Ernest R. Hilger *owner*

Property Address:

*10020 Ruffner Ave
NORTH HILLS, CA. 91343*

Subject: **PROTEST LADWP WATER RATE INCREASE "I PROTEST"**



15-1543

PROTEST

Yvonne Wolfe
17744 Horace St.
Granada Hills, CA 91344

LADWP WATER RATE ORDINANCE

I PROTEST!

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DEPUTY

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BY _____ DEPUTY

PROTEST

Paul Cameron

3151 CAVENTISH DRIVE

LOS ANGELES, CA. 90064

LA DWP WATER RATE
ORDINANCE

I PROTEST !!!

15-1543

January 19, 2016

Los Angeles City Clerk

200 N. Spring Street, Room 395

Los Angeles, CA 90012

PROTEST

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Re: "LADWP Water Rate Ordinance"

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- The new water rate ordinance lifts the cap that limits the extra charges for "adjustment factors," which raise your rates in-between the other rate increases. These extra charges will now be unlimited, and they can be increased over and over, without City Council approval.

Richard L. Otterstrom, 310-259-1678

General Partner:

8816 Laurel Canyon LTD

8816 Laurel Canyon Blvd.,

Sun Valley, CA 91352

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BY _____ DEPUTY

PROTEST

Mare Cameron
3024 Harvard Blvd
HA, CA 90018
HADWP Water Rate
Ordinance

I Protest!

15-1543

Cheryl Holstrom

842-846 S. Sheebourne Dr.

Los Angeles, CA. 90035

PROTEST

" LADWP Water Rate Ordinance "

I Protest - I Protest

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BY _____ DEPUTY