



200 North Spring Street  
City Hall  
M125  
Los Angeles, CA 90012  
[goodfoodla.org](http://goodfoodla.org)

February 17, 2016

Councilwoman Felipe Fuentes, Chair  
Energy and Environment Committee  
200 N. Spring St., Rm 1010  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

**Re: Item 1 (CF: 15-1543) Reports from the Board of Water and Power Commissions and Office of Public Accountability/Ratepayer Advocate, Resolution No. 016-130 relative to the proposed Water Rate Ordinance and related matters.**

Dear Councilmember Fuentes,

On behalf of the Los Angeles Food Policy Council (LAFPC), I write you to express my concern with the proposed Department Water and Power rate increase that will affect community gardens across the City of Los Angeles. Community gardens, which currently pay the Schedule F discounted rate, will soon see bills increase by 289% under the new plan. We support the efforts of the Los Angeles Community Garden Council (LACGC) to raise awareness and mitigate the harm this increase could cause to community urban agriculture efforts and current projects.

LAFPC is a collective impact initiative, representing over 1,000 organizations, working to make Southern California a Good Food region for everyone—where food is healthy, affordable, fair and sustainable. Key objectives are to improve the health and wellbeing of residents, particularly in disadvantaged communities; develop a thriving “Good Food” economy; and strengthen agricultural and environmental stewardship throughout the region. Over the past five years, the Urban Agriculture Working Group has worked with dozens of organizations to identify policy priorities that will allow the City to become a leader in urban agriculture. One of our local leaders, LACGC, has worked hard to create a garden network in Los Angeles where people of all ages live healthy, active lives in a clean environment by growing fresh food.

Our City’s community gardens are places where residents and community members unite under the shared vision of creating beauty while growing good, healthy, fresh food. We believe the proposed rate hike will be a challenge and detriment for many community gardens, which currently offer many community neighborhood benefits, especially in underserved communities across this City.

I hope you consider the affects this rate increase will have on our community gardens, and instead of burdening these community oases, let’s work together to ensure and equip community gardens to be model water conservation sites. Let’s continue to uplift the work they already do to recharge our groundwater. The slowing and retention of water on-site at community gardens, promotes greater root growth, improving plants’ drought tolerance, resulting in increased water infiltration and soil moisture, and reduction of polluted runoff into storm drains, all while growing fresh food that nourishes a community.

Sincerely,

Clare Fox  
Executive Director  
Los Angeles Food Policy Council

CC:  
Councilmember Bob Blumenfield  
Councilmember Paul Koretz  
Councilmember Gilbert A. Cedillo  
Councilmember Mitch O’Farrell

January 27, 2016

The Honorable Felipe Fuentes  
Chair, Energy & Environment Committee  
Los Angeles City Council  
200 North Spring Street, Room 455  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

**Re: SUPPORT – Proposed Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) Rate Increases**

Dear Chairman Fuentes:

Established in 1924, the Central City Association (CCA) is Los Angeles's premier business advocacy organization, with 450 members employing over 350,000 people in the Los Angeles region. CCA submits this letter in support of the proposed LADWP rate increases that will be considered by your committee and the City Council.

CCA represents many of the largest property owners in Los Angeles, not only high-rise office towers but also universities, hospitals, light manufacturing and other properties with large footprints that are dependent upon LADWP services. In fact, commercial customers account for a majority of power rate revenue and a large percentage of water revenue.

In 2010, the Department came to CCA with a proposal for a substantial power rate increase. After analyzing it, CCA determined that the increase was driven by a political agenda. The Department's numbers attempting to justify the increase could not be validated. We opposed that increase and led a successful campaign against it.

For these proposed increases, LADWP General Manager Marcie Edwards and the Department's senior management team made two separate presentations to our members and property owners. They carefully explained the reasons for the revenue increases and why the size of the increases are needed. They also provided assessments of the impacts of the new rate structures for several of our members who are large LADWP customers but do not have their own LADWP representatives. The Office of the Ratepayer Advocate has stated these increases are necessary and justified. In addition, the recent Navigant IEA Study highlighted the need for LADWP to undertake these infrastructure improvements soon.

Property owners do not like the increases, but they know that more delays to maintenance and improvement projects on the aging power and water infrastructures will negatively impact their property and the local economy. CCA understands that various state and federal mandates must also be met or the Department faces penalties. It is clear current rates cannot support the

necessary investments to meet LADWP's obligations and the City must not delay vital LADWP infrastructure improvements. And even with these proposed increases, LADWP's rate still will fall below rates paid by users in every other major city on California.

For these reasons, CCA supports the proposed LADWP power and water rate increases. If you have any questions, please contact CCA's Director of Government Relations, John Howland, at 213-624-1213. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Carol E. Schatz", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Carol E. Schatz  
President & CEO

cc: Mayor Eric Garcetti  
Los Angeles City Council  
Marcie Edwards, LADWP



LOS ANGELES AREA  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

February 1, 2016

Los Angeles City Council  
200 North Spring St.  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

**Re: Los Angeles Department of Water and Power's Proposed Incremental Rate Increase**

Honorable Members of the Los Angeles City Council:

On behalf of the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce, which comprises over 1,600 member organizations, I am writing to express support for the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power's (LADWP) Proposed Water and Electric five-year rate increase.

The expenditure plan, as laid out by the LADWP and confirmed in reports by the Rate Payer Advocate, meets the priorities the Chamber Board had set as vital to their support. Those priorities include that new revenue go specifically towards replacing the City's aging power and water infrastructure, diversifying water and power supplies, improving customer service, and maintaining competitive rates with other utilities.

Additionally, the Chamber strongly believes every dollar of the rate increase should go towards desperately needed infrastructure improvements and not be subject to transfer to the City's general fund. After carefully reviewing the proposal by LADWP, the Chamber believes the City Council should waive the current eight percent power revenue transfer to the City's general fund under the new rate increases. This would be a powerful statement to Los Angeles residents and the business community that our elected officials are truly committed to accelerating the upgrades to our utilities and diversifying our water and power supplies.

Finally, I would like to commend the dedication and efforts of LADWP General Manager, Marcie Edwards and her staff for being transparent and forthcoming with stakeholders throughout their decision-making process. The business community knows that improvements to and maintenance of utility infrastructure is key to the health of our economy. Both the water and power proposals from the LADWP are fiscally responsible and accountable to the needs of the utility. For those reasons, we urge the council to support the increase

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gary Toebben".

Gary Toebben  
President & CEO



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- Mark DiNapoli, Suffolk Construction Co.
- Marcie Edwards, LA Dept. of Water & Power
- Harvey Englander, Englander Knabe & Allen
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- Amy Freilich, Ambruster Goldsmith & Deivac LLP
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- Sarah Shaw, JMB Realty Corporation
- Patti Shwayder, Aimco
- Lori Tierney, IIDA, Tierney Management, LLC
- Brooke Walbuck, IIDA, Unisource Solutions
- C.Y. Wang, Ernst & Young, LLP
- Christian Wenzel, Ontario Solar Provider Inc.
- Phil Williams, Delos
- Gillian Wright, Sempra Energy Utilities

February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Marcie Edwards  
General Manager  
LADWP  
111 North Hope Street  
Los Angeles, CA

**RE: SUPPORT FOR LADWP'S PROPOSED FIVE-YEAR WATER & POWER RATE ACTION**

Dear General Manager Edwards,

On behalf the Los Angeles Business Council (LABC), we express our strong support for the Los Angeles Department of Water & Power's (LADWP) five-year rate increase proposal. The LABC is an organization with over 450 members representing various business sectors across Los Angeles. Our mission is to provide research and advocate on behalf of policies and programs that both pursue economic and environmental sustainability, both at the core of this rate increase. After months of internal deliberations, we found the proposal to be necessary and crucial to Los Angeles' environmental and economic sustainability.

For years, Los Angeles has seen far too many broken water mains and experienced too many brownouts and blackouts. We know that repairing infrastructure costs three times more to fix reactively than proactively. Significant investment in the utility's aging infrastructure is necessary to bring L.A. to a modern standard before our energy and water security are further compromised.

The nearly \$1.2 billion in new rates will support upwards of \$17 billion in investment in our City's crumbling water and power infrastructure over the next five years. This means tens of thousands of new power poles, 800 new transformers and hundreds of miles of new water mains. And as we look to the future, this investment will translate into more solar power to meet strict state mandates, and more water recycling and storage facilities to reduce our reliance on market-driven water purchases that are only expected to rise in cost.

This investment will not only bring LADWP's infrastructure into the modern era, but will also expand clean energy and energy efficiency programs that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions, expand access to clean energy for low-income communities, create thousands of local jobs, and drive millions of dollars in private investment each year. As such we are glad to express our support for the five-year rate increase proposal and look forward to working with LADWP on making the investments that will provide the infrastructure for L.A.'s future water and power needs.

Sincerely,

**Mary Leslie**  
President  
Los Angeles Business Council



CC:

The Honorable Felipe Fuentes, Chair, LA City Council Energy & Environment Committee  
The Honorable Bob Blumenfield, Vice-Chair, LA City Council Energy & Environment Committee  
The Honorable Gil Cedillo, Member, LA City Council Energy & Environment Committee  
The Honorable Mitch O'Farrell, Member, LA City Council Energy & Environment Committee  
The Honorable Paul Koretz, Member, LA City Council Energy & Environment Committee  
Mel Levine, President, Board of Commissioners, LADWP  
Guy Lipa, Chief of Staff, LADWP