



February 29, 2016

Councilmember Felipe Fuentes
Chair, City of Los Angeles Energy and Environment Committee
200 North Spring Street, Room 455
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Subject: Los Angeles Department of Water and Power Proposed Rate Increase - SUPPORT

Dear Councilmember Fuentes,

The Valley Industry and Commerce Association (VICA), which represents over 400 businesses across California, urges your support for the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) proposed water and power rate increases.

Since LADWP first considered a potential rate ordinance, the department has ensured a transparent and fair process for the business community. After multiple presentations and briefings from LADWP, VICA members were satisfied that the proposed increase is necessary and well-thought through with clear accountability. The city of Los Angeles needs significant investments in utility infrastructure. Its aging water pipes and power lines pose significant concerns for residents and businesses.

LADWP has fairly balanced the need for infrastructure improvements with current struggles to meet existing state utility mandates. Increased funding from the new rate ordinances will provide the necessary tools for the department to improve failing infrastructure and meet long-term energy goals.

Local residents and business owners rely on LADWP to provide safe, efficient and reliable utilities. This rate proposal balances those needs and protects the city's long-term economic success. We support the water and power rate ordinances as a tool to ensure substantive, long-term improvements of DWP utilities.

Sincerely,

Kevin Tamaki
Chair

Stuart Waldman
President

cc:

Councilmember Bob Blumenfield
Councilmember Paul Koretz
Councilmember Gilbert A. Cedillo
Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell