

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

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April 24, 2017

Honorable Paul Krekorian, Chairman
Honorable Mitchell Englander, Vice Chair
Honorable Nury Martinez, Member
Honorable Bob Blumenfield, Member
Honorable Mike Bonin, Member
Budget and Finance Committee
City Council, City of Los Angeles
Room 435, City Hall
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Committee Chair and Members:

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the Mayor's proposed 2017-18 budget for the Office of Public Accountability/Ratepayer Advocate (OPA).

The proposed budget provides funding for OPA's Charter mandate to provide public independent analysis of Department of Water and Power (DWP) actions as they relate to water and electricity rates. The total cost of the OPA will continue to be reimbursed by DWP, and collected in accordance with standard City billing procedures.

Funding provided in 2016-17 is continued in the proposed 2017-2018 budget, positions, and unappropriated balance.

OPA requested to augment the unappropriated balance from \$750,000 to \$1,200,000. This was not included in the 2017-18 proposed budget. An increase in the unappropriated balance for 2017-18 is important to provide flexibility for the OPA given planned rate reviews, and potentially requested special studies.

In addition, the OPA would like to reclassify an Executive Administrative Assistant III position to an Executive Legal Secretary II, to accurately reflect the duties of this position. This change has no fiscal impact. The person currently serving is now an Executive Legal Secretary II.

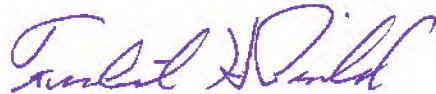
The proposed budget authorizes the City Clerk to provide administrative support services for the OPA, instead of the Office of the City Administrative Officer (CAO). The City

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Clerk provides support already to the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment. OPA will become a separate City department, with administrative support (e.g., payroll, IT) provided by the City Clerk, instead of the CAO's office. The details of these changes are also contained in the proposed 2017-18 budget documents pertaining to the CAO and City Clerk.

I am readily available for you or your staff for any questions or assistance.

Regards,



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Office of Public Accountability/Ratepayer Advocate