

RESOLUTION

1) CITY CLERK FOR PLACEMENT ON NEXT
REGULAR COUNCIL AGENDA TO BE POSTED

#52

Recognizing the Human Rights to Water and Sanitation

WHEREAS, almost 2 billion people around the world do not have access to clean drinking water, 4 billion people face severe water scarcity, and 2.5 billion people do not have adequate sanitation; and

WHEREAS, on September 23, 2011, the United Nations Human Rights Council passed a resolution on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation and called on governments to take concrete action by developing plans of action, establishing monitoring and accountability mechanisms, and ensuring affordable services for everyone; and

WHEREAS, on September 25th, 2012, Governor Jerry Brown signed AB 685, which states that "every human being has the right to safe, clean, affordable, and accessible water adequate for human consumption, cooking, and sanitary purposes," and requires water-related state agencies to update their long-term plans to address this issue; and

WHEREAS, the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP), which is the largest municipal utility in the United States, provides water to all households within the City of Los Angeles, and the quality of tap water provided by LADWP exceeds state and federal drinking water standards; and

WHEREAS, the LADWP has implemented several payment and discount assistance programs to low income customers, seniors, and people with disabilities in order to prevent shutoff of water and power in residences; and

WHEREAS, the City of Los Angeles established the Utility Maintenance Program which ensures that tenants living in master-metered apartments subject to Rent Stabilization Ordinance do not have their water or power shut off in the event that the property owner fails to pay the utilities; and

WHEREAS, On July 1, 1997, the City began to offer a 31% discount on the Sewer Service Charge for the first 18 HCF of water per two-month billing period for low-income customers who are 62 years of age or older or are permanently disabled; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor's 2019 Sustainability pLAn Update calls for the installation and refurbishment of hydration stations at 200 sites, prioritizing municipally-owned buildings and public properties such as parks, by 2035, the establishment of permanent drinking water access in Skid Row, and the development of programs to provide assistance to customers to address on-site plumbing issues, including old drinking water pipes; and

WHEREAS, a "Blue Community" is one that adopts a framework that treats water as a shared resource to be governed by principles that allow for reasonable use, equal distribution and responsible treatment in order to preserve water for nature and future generations; and

WHEREAS, recognizing the rights to water and sanitation is one of three steps needed to declare the City of Los Angeles a Blue Community;

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Los Angeles declares itself a Blue Community, recognizing that water and sanitation are fundamental human rights as well as committing to use the principle of the Human Right to Water when developing or reviewing any municipal water-related policy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Los Angeles will continue to work diligently with low income customers, seniors, people with disabilities, and others to assist them with the payment of water and sewer bills through discount programs and payment plans, and will continue to make efforts to work with residents to remediate their utility bills before imposing punitive measures; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Los Angeles will call on the federal government to enshrine the principles of the human rights to water and sanitation in federal law, and to develop a national plan of action to implement the human rights to water and sanitation.

Presented by: Paul Krekorian
PAUL KREKORIAN
Councilmember, 2nd District

Seconded by: [Signature]

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