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Phasing Out the Sale of Single-Use Bottled Water in Municipal Facilities and at Municipal Events

WHEREAS, the City of Los Angeles through the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) operates and maintains a regulated and sophisticated water treatment and distribution system that meets some of the most stringent water quality requirements in the world; and

WHEREAS, the regulatory requirements for monitoring water quality contained in bottled water are not as stringent as those that must be met by LADWP and single-use bottled water is up to 3,000 times more expensive than water from the tap provided by LADWP, even though bottled water can originate from municipal water systems; and

WHEREAS, resource extraction, packaging and distribution of bottled water creates unnecessary air quality and climate change impacts, consumes unnecessary resources such as oil in the manufacturing of plastic bottles and fuel used in the transportation of bottled water to the consumer, and creates unnecessary recycling and waste disposal costs; and

WHEREAS, LADWP's tap water is safe, healthy and accessible to residents and visitors, is readily available at most indoor public facilities, and is substantially more sustainable than bottled water; 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; and

WHEREAS, a "Blue Community" is one that adopts a water commons 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, banning or phasing out the sale and provision of bottled water in municipal facilities and at municipal events is one of the three steps needed to declare the City of Los Angeles a Blue Community;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Los Angeles declares itself a Blue Community and supports a target to phase out single-use bottled water sales at municipal facilities by 2028, working towards the development of a policy whereby the City will no longer purchase or provide single-use bottled water at municipal meetings and events where access to municipal water exists; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the phase-out policy for single-use bottled water should include, but not be limited to, the following: 1) the increased availability of water jugs with municipal water at municipally-organized meetings and events, and 2) the development of public awareness campaigns to support the rationale for these important changes.

MAY 0 7 2019

Presented by: PAUL KREKORIAN Councilmember, 2nd District

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