

COMMUNICATION FROM CHAIR AND MEMBER, ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE relative to the feasibility of using reclaimed water in the Los Angeles Freeway irrigation system.

Recommendation for Council action, pursuant to Motion (LaBonge - O'Farrell):

NOTE and FILE the March 10, 2015 Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) report relative to the feasibility of using reclaimed water in the Los Angeles Freeway irrigation system, inasmuch as this report is for information only and no Council action is required.

Fiscal Impact Statement: Not applicable.

Community Impact Statement: None submitted.

Summary:

On November 19, 2013, a Motion (LaBonge - O'Farrell) was introduced calling for the LADWP to work with the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) to study the feasibility of using reclaimed water in the Los Angeles freeway irrigation system. According to the Motion, the Southern California freeways are a network of interconnected freeways in Southern California, serving a population of 22 million people. Los Angeles County has 527 miles of freeway and 382 miles of conventional highway. On the average day, 92 million vehicle miles are driven in L.A. County. The City is continuously finding ways to improve their freeway irrigation system for the purposes of maintaining landscape properties along parts of the freeways. These automated irrigation systems not only reduce safety hazards for maintenance workers but they are also designed to help conserve water. An important part of the City's expanding emphasis on water conservation is the concept that water is a resource that can be used more than once. Because all uses of water do not require the same quality of supply, the City has been developing programs to use reclaimed water for suitable uses.

On January 7, 2015, the Energy and Environment Committee considered the above Motion and after consideration and having provided an opportunity for public comment, moved to continue this matter pending a full report from the LADWP.

Subsequently, on April 1, 2015, the Chair and one member of the Committee considered a March 10, 2015 LADWP report in response to the above Motion. According to the LADWP, the City freeways are owned and maintained by Caltrans. Caltrans currently uses potable water to irrigate landscaping along the freeways with the exception of three locations within the LADWP service area where recycled water is used. These locations collectively offset three acre-feet per year (AFY) of potable water. The LADWP selects routes for existing and planned recycled water infrastructure based on the locations of large water demand customers, such as golf courses, parks, and schools. These high-demand customers are not typically adjacent to City freeways, creating limited opportunities for recycled water use at Caltrans facilities. Regardless, the LADWP and Caltrans are partnering to identify more opportunities and study the feasibility of using recycled water for irrigation along City freeways.

After further consideration and having provided an opportunity for public comment, the Committee Chair moved to not and file the March 10, 2015 LADWP report. This matter is now submitted to

Council for its consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,

COUNCILMEMBER FELIPE FUENTES, CHAIR



ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>VOTE</u>
FUENTES:	YES
BLUMENFIELD:	ABSENT
LABONGE:	ABSENT
HUIZAR:	ABSENT
KORETZ:	YES

ARL  
4/1/15

**-NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL COUNCIL ACTS-**