

ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT relative to managing drought conditions in arid climates.

Recommendation for Council action:

RECEIVE and FILE the September 16, 2014 Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) report in response to Motion (Cedillo - Blumenfield) relative to managing drought conditions in arid climates and recommendations for implementing effective drought-management and water conservation strategies, 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 September 17, 2014, your Committee considered a September 16, 2014 LADWP report in response to Motion (Cedillo - Blumenfield) relative to managing drought conditions in arid climates and recommendations for implementing effective drought-management and water conservation strategies. The LADWP report was received subsequent to the posting of the Committee agenda and presented in Committee. According to the Motion, the United States is undergoing a nationwide drought, producing a crisis that some scientists believe will have greater consequences than rising sea levels. The latest drought monitor released by the National Climatic Data Center shows that the entire state of California is under moderate drought conditions; but within that map, 76.6 percent of the state is experiencing extreme drought conditions, and for 24.7 percent of the state, the level of dryness is "exceptional."

As a result of these circumstances, on January 17, 2014 Governor Jerry Brown declared a State of Emergency over the severity of this drought. State water officials say that California's river and reservoirs are below their record lows. Manual and electronic readings record the snowpack's statewide water content at about 20% of normal average for this time of year. Extremely dry conditions have persisted since 2012 and will likely continue beyond this year, based on scientific projections regarding the impact of climate change on California's snowpack. This is not only devastating to our climate, but also on our economy. According to the UCLA Anderson Forecast, the ongoing drought in California could dampen employment growth in coming years and have a ripple effect on several industries in the state.

According to the LADWP, effective management of water resources in regions with arid climates requires both short-term response tools to address immediate dry conditions, and long-term planning to adapt communities to dry conditions and changing climate. Short-term response tools in urban environments typically focus on reducing water demand by encouraging, promoting, and/or requiring water conservation and water use efficiency measures. Short-term response measures in rural environments may include fallowing farmland, transferring water, implementing agricultural water-use efficiency measures, or reallocating water from non-essential uses. Short-term response tools are often outlined in drought-response or emergency water conservation plans and implemented through regulation or ordinance.

Long-term planning can incorporate many types of projects and programs. Capital projects to build or increase surface water or groundwater storage capacity, lower reservoir intakes, repair and upgrade infrastructure, or clean up contaminated groundwater supplies can be implemented. Programs can be developed to increase capture of stormwater to augment or offset potable water supplies, enhance conservation incentives, or promote recycled water use. Long-term efforts can also include the development, adoption, and implementation of new laws, regulations, ordinances, codes and standards. The City's long-term planning document to address dry conditions and climate change is the LADWP's 2010 Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP).

The UWMP is prepared and adopted every five years, as required under the California Urban Water Management Planning Act (1984). The main goal of UWMP is to forecast future water demands and water supplies under average and dry year conditions; identify future water supply projects over a 25-year planning horizon, such as recycled water pipelines and stormwater capture facilities; report on water conservation best management practices; and provide strategies for single and multiple dry-year scenarios. The LADWP is currently in the early stages of preparing the 2015 UWMP. The UWMP preparation process has become the mechanism for LADWP to regularly review, update, and report on both our short-term response tools and long-term water resource planning efforts.

After further consideration and having provided an opportunity for public comment, the Committee moved to receive and file the September 16, 2014 LADWP report, inasmuch as it is for information only and no Council action is required. This matter is now submitted to Council for its consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,

ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

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

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9/17/14

-NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL COUNCIL ACTS-