

Los Angeles  Department of Water & Power

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May 15, 2014

The Honorable City Council
Office of the City Clerk
Room 395, City Hall
Mail Stop 160

Attention: Councilmember Paul Krekorian
Chairperson, AD HOC Committee on Film and TV Production Jobs

Honorable Members:

Subject: Council File No. 14-0417 – Recreation and Parks Monitors/Improving
Efficiency/Processing Film Permits

This is in response to recommendations of the AD HOC COMMITTEE ON FILM AND TV PRODUCTION resulting from the April 17, 2014, meeting focusing on eliminating impediments to filming in the City of Los Angeles (City) and improving efficiency and coordination of film permits. The committee specifically requested that the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) report on:

1. Reevaluation of sites that have been determined to be off-limits because of Homeland Security concerns, or out-of-use.
2. Progress that has been made on providing power nodes for use in the Industry and whether there are additional ways to expand that program.
3. Ways in which LADWP might be able to alleviate some of the impacts of power rates on industry businesses.

Reevaluation of sites that have been determined to be off-limits because of Homeland Security concerns, or out-of-use.

LADWP is very supportive of the filming industry and continually works to accommodate their needs when at all possible. LADWP has reevaluated sites but must balance between its security concerns for LADWP's critical assets and the request for filming. Generally, we do not allow filming on any property, including tanks, reservoirs, or pump stations that the general public does not have access to.

Los Angeles Aqueduct Centennial Celebrating 100 Years of Water 1913-2013

111 N. Hope Street, Los Angeles, California 90012-2607 Mailing address: Box 51111, Los Angeles, CA 90051-5700
Telephone: (213) 367-4211 www.LADWP.com

All requests for filming on LADWP property is routed through the DWP film coordinator for approval. Approvals are subject to considerations regarding, but not limited to, security concerns, operational needs, access issues, crew size, and impacts to the community and environment.

Progress that has been made on providing power nodes for use in the Industry and whether there are additional ways to expand that program.

LADWP installed five film power nodes in 2010. Two were located at City Hall, two at LADWP's headquarters building, and one at the Old Zoo at Griffith Park. These were installed with collaboration from the studios, the power rental companies, and Film LA. To our knowledge, they have been only used twice for filming for all sites combined. The power node at the Old Zoo has been used on a regular basis by theatrical groups such as Shakespeare in the Park and the Haunted Hayride. This is not a model to repeat because the power is not where the filming is located.

A more sustainable solution, and one with more of an environmental benefit, would be to focus on plugging in the film base camp trailers. This could be done by developing a way to plug them in from level 2 (240Volt) electric vehicle (EV) charging stations. Each charging station can handle one or two trailers (up to a five-ton air conditioner). EV charging stations are appearing in commercial parking lots across the City and are used every day by EV drivers. To the extent the City promotes EV charging, it would also be providing a proliferation of places where the film trailers can plug-in. LADWP has business incentives for workplace charging and public charging. Additionally, LADWP has installed over 200 level 2 chargers on City property to date and recently was awarded a grant from the California Energy Commission (CEC) to install 104 public chargers on City property.

The challenge would be to develop an interface between the standard EV J1772 charger plug and the trailer(s). This could be done through a vendor and possibly funded by a grant from the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) or the CEC. Focusing on the trailers would be a great first step. Addressing portable generators for lighting could be done later. This concept should be validated with a meeting with film industry stakeholders.

Ways in which the LADWP might be able to alleviate some of the impacts of power rates on industry businesses.

If there is a need to discuss power rates for film nodes, LADWP would be happy to talk with stakeholders; and, if appropriate, implementation could be included in the fiscal year 2015-16 rate case.

In conclusion, the current pilot program does not support expanding the film node program; however, LADWP does recommend using existing and future EV charging

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stations to power base camp trailers. EV charging stations are usually complimentary; and if not complimentary, there is a back office billing system and the rates are typically a fraction of the cost necessary to run a generator.

If you have any questions or if further information is required, please call me at (213) 367-1338, or have your staff contact Ms. Winifred J. Yancy, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs and Community Relations at (213) 367-0025.

Sincerely,



Marcie L. Edwards
General Manager

MDM:mw:rr

c: The Honorable Felipe Fuentes, Chairperson
Energy and Environment Committee

The Honorable Curren D. Price, Vice-Chair
AD HOC Committee on Film and TV Production Jobs

The Honorable Mitch O'Farrell, Member
AD HOC Committee on Film and TV Production Jobs

Ms. Winifred J. Yancy