



JOSE HUIZAR
COUNCILMEMBER, 14TH DISTRICT

May 10, 2017

Honorable Paul Krekorian, Chair
Budget and Finance Committee
200 N. Spring Street, Room 435
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: LIFELINE FUNDING IN THE FY 2017-18 PROPOSED BUDGET

Dear Chairman Krekorian and Committee Members:

I am writing to urge a restoration of funding so that the maximum number of customers can benefit from the Lifeline Reimbursement Program.

As you know, the Lifetime Reimbursement Program provides subsidies to low-income, disabled, and senior residents in the City of Los Angeles, helping to offset the Solid Resources Fee and Sewer Service Charge. Subsidies to the Solid Resources Fee are capped at 51,400 customers.

While the number of potentially eligible customers far exceeds the cap, during FY 16-17, subsidies for the Solid Resources Fee served roughly 47,500 to 48,100 customers at any one time.

According to the Mayor's Proposed Budget, the \$306,000 reduction "reflects a decrease in the number of customers certified by LADWP for the Sewer Service Charge subsidy."

I believe it is important to provide low-income assistance to as many eligible customers as possible. For this reason, I request two actions:

- Budget sufficient funding such that the Solid Resources Fee can serve its maximum of 51,400 customers; and
- Restore \$306,000 to the FY 17-18 budget in order to return the Sewer Service Charge participation to last year's levels (approximately 2,400 additional customers).

Instead of being complacent about the attrition of verified-eligible customers, I believe City Departments and relevant agencies should be working to increase outreach efforts so that we verify and subscribe eligible customers. To maximize the benefits of this subsidy and allow for a fully subscribed program, we should provide the full allocation of funding.

With economic disparities continuing to rise, the Lifeline Reimbursement Program is needed more than ever. It is important to fully fund this program in order to protect vulnerable constituents across Los Angeles. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jose Huizar".

Councilmember José Huizar
District 14, Los Angeles