

MOTION

In order to slow the spread of COVID-19, the Mayor issued a Safer at Home order asking residents in the City of Los Angeles to stay in their homes and limit all activity aside from essential tasks. This has increased residential utility consumption and utility bills. It has also shut down many sectors of the economy resulting in unemployment and economic hardship for Angelenos.

The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) in partnership with the City's Office of Finance and Bureau of Sanitation (LASAN) offers low-income assistance to customers in need through the Low Income Discount Program (LIDP) and the Lifeline Program. In each of the last three fiscal years, the City issued an average of \$72 million in financial aid to nearly 279,000 households through these two programs.

The LIDP provides discounted power, water and other utility services to residents of all ages with annual gross incomes of \$33,820 or less. Lifeline offers discounted fees on utility services and full exemption from utility user taxes to residents with household incomes of less than \$41,800 who are at least 62 years old or permanently disabled. LIDP customers receive an average 18 percent discount on each bill, compared to a 31 percent discount with Lifeline.

In order to help Angelenos who are struggling with their bills, the City should expand the existing DWP programs to help those struggling due to Covid-19 hardship.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Department of Water and Power BE REQUESTED to immediately report on the feasibility of expanding the Lifeline program to include Covid-19 related economic hardship as a qualifying criteria or the creation of a new reduced rate program for low income customers who have been financially affected by Covid-19.

PRESENTED BY:   
MONICA RODRIGUEZ  
Councilwoman 7<sup>th</sup> District

SECONDED BY: 

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