

MOTION

California and the Los Angeles Region are currently suffering from a growing drought crisis. Low rainfall levels from prior rain seasons and continued demand for water is impacting state and regional water supplies. In an effort to address this, the Mayor and the City Council's *Los Angeles Green New Deal*, among other objectives, seeks to reduce dependence on imported water by increasing sustainable and environmentally-friendly practices.

If continued, this approach will help to establish and bolster local water supplies and meet future regional reliability and resiliency needs.

However, water conservation efforts and sustainability objectives can be difficult for small businesses to integrate into their operations. Small businesses usually do not have the financial resources nor the experience to implement viable water management and conservation practices.

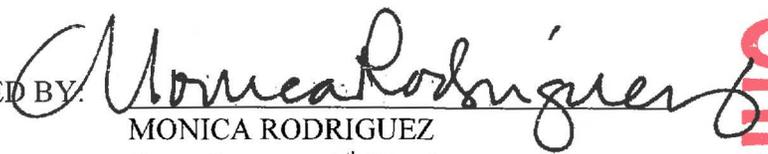
This situation is made worse by the recent impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on local small businesses. Often times, small businesses must deal with increasing water costs while struggling to remain open. The economic hardships on small businesses are evident throughout the City including the San Fernando Valley.

This matter can be addressed if there is an effective way for small businesses to integrate water conservation and sustainability objectives into their day-to-day activities. To achieve this, the Department of Water and Power (DWP) and the Bureau of Sanitation and the Environment (LASAN) can play a significant role in educating small businesses about effective water use and conservation practices inasmuch as they maintain expertise in these areas.

The DWP and LASAN may develop programs specifically geared for small businesses so that they may be able to maximize water conservation efforts and minimize water costs; thereby allowing small businesses to meet economic challenges.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Department of Water and Power and the Bureau of Sanitation and the Environment report to the Council in 30 days on the feasibility of developing a program on water use/water conservation and sustainability practices designed for small businesses, so they may effectively meet economic challenges.

PRESENTED BY:



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Councilwoman, 7th District

SECONDED BY:



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