

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

CALIFORNIA

HISTORIC HIGHLAND PARK NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

Post Office Box 50791
Los Angeles, CA 90050
<http://www.highlandparknc.com>
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DEPARTMENT OF NEIGHBORHOOD EMPOWERMENT

200 N. Spring St. Ste.2005
Los Angeles, CA 90012
Telephone: (213) 978-1551

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November 5, 2015

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti and the Members of the Los Angeles City Council
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Make DWP ratepayer hikes contingent on a real infrastructure overhaul with stringent oversight

The Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council represents over 60,000 Los Angeles stakeholders who reside, own property, or conduct business in our neighborhood. A significant portion of these live on limited budgets and will be more severely impacted by the proposed DWP rate increases than those of greater means.

We understand that the effectiveness of water abatement programs which has benefited the City by holding usage down has reduced net income to the DWP to the point that, as they charge customers based on HFC use, they are no longer able to cover fixed costs including needed infrastructure upgrades at the current rates. Similarly, technological improvements and increased solar use is affecting income on the power side.

For too long, the City has done quick patches and emergency responses for infrastructure failures which are costly and need to be redone again and again. We the people need to feel comfortable that this time the DWP engage in well-thought out long term planning of replacements and upgrades necessary for both its water and power infrastructures to significantly modernize, increasing the City's sustainability and resilience, and see our City through to the 22nd century.

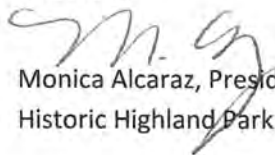
HHPNC/Make DWP ratepayer hikes contingent on real infrastructure upgrades with stringent oversight

Recent articles and reports have revealed the DWP involving itself in projects that, while commendable on the surface, are not part of its mission to provide water and power to City stakeholders. These functions, if continued, should be turned over to the appropriate City department or public-private entity. Additionally, the DWP must refrain from questionable activities since lawsuits only profit lawyers at the expense of the City and its stakeholders.

Furthermore, now is the time with the cost of financing at historic lows and the costs of labor and materials projected to grow to seize the opportunity to overhaul the City's aging and fragile power and water systems. But it needs to be done well, with quality materials and workmanship and with no political game-playing or financial shenanigans.

Therefore, the Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council insists that, before any DWP rate increase is approved, there be far-sighted planning, a robust bidding process, and stringent oversight for all infrastructure upgrades and improvements. In addition, the City needs to verify that the money from ratepayers is not used for purposes outside of stakeholders' water and power needs.

Sincerely,



Monica Alcaraz, President

Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council