

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

CALIFORNIA

HISTORIC HIGHLAND PARK NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

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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: Require a 60-day window between release of the Ratepayer Advocate's report and any action

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.

The City has yet to hear back from the LADWP's Ratepayer Advocate, Dr. Fred Pickel, as to his analysis of how the increases will affect our interests. Given Dr. Pickel's expertise and knowledge, it is essential that his input is taken under consideration before any formal decisions are made even at the Committee level.

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.

HHPNC/60-day window between release of the Ratepayer Advocate's report and any action

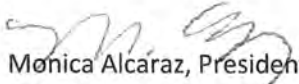
For too long, the City has done quick patches and emergency responses for infrastructure failures which are costly and need to be redone again and again. We the people need to feel comfortable that this time the DWP engage in well-thought out long term planning of replacements and upgrades necessary 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.

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.

There are public meetings going on but these do not carry the weight of the review by Dr. Pickel whose job it is to represent the interests of the stakeholders and the residents of our City.

Therefore, the Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council respectfully insists that any action on the DWP rate increase request be tabled until at least 60 days after both the public and the Council receives the written report from the Ratepayer Advocate.

Sincerely,



Monica Alcaraz, President

Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council