

**CITY OF LOS ANGELES**  
INTER-DEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

Date: March 22, 2024

To: City Council  
Honorable Chair & Committee Members, Personnel, Audits & Hiring Committee  
Office of the City Administrative Officer  
Office of the Chief Legislative Analyst  
Personnel Department

From: Frederick H. Pickel, Ph.D., Executive Director/ Ratepayer Advocate  
Office of Public Accountability 

Subject: **Office of Public Accountability / Ratepayer Advocate response to Motion Council File No 23-1429**

The Office of Public Accountability / Ratepayer Advocate (OPA) currently has an APR of 9 positions. OPA has 3 positions filled with regular authority and 1 with a sub authority for a 120 day appointment. OPA is preparing to fill an EAA-2 regular position, and 1 more request is in preparation for a second 120 day appointment under a sub authority. All professional staff have been exempt hires.

The OPA is in transition, with all 3 existing regular full-time professional staff likely to retire by August. This includes the replacement of the current Executive Director through the Charter-required Citizens' Committee for the Selection of the Executive Director of the OPA.

The next Executive Director should have the existing 9 positions when beginning the role as a new appointee. DWP's proposed capital and operating budget for 2024/25 is about \$9.3 billion, and OPA's budget is about \$4 million, or 0.04% to support the Charter role and efforts.

The OPA is a Charter amendment-created entity charged with public, independent analysis of factors that impact DWP water and power rates. The OPA Executive Director is appointed by the Citizens' Committee for a term of 5 years. DWP reimburses the General Fund for costs of the OPA, including personnel and general overheads.

The requested spreadsheet of positions is attached.

cc: Adam Acosta, CD15  
Jason Lopez, Office of City Clerk  
Maria Souza-Rountree, CLA  
Rafael Prieto, CLA  
Jacqueline Wagner, CAO  
Ida Rubio, CAO

**Office of Public Accountability / Ratepayer Advocate (Dept 11)**

Classification (Code)	Number of Vacancies	Departmental Program	Annual Salary Cost	Regular/ Resolution	Funding Source*	Original FY Authorized	Position Vacated	Exempt Charter Section [year]	Notes
<b>Current Vacancies</b>									
Utility Rate & Policy Specialist II (1681)	2	Ratepayer Advocate	\$ 184,475	Regular	GF reimbursed	2018		1001(b) [2020]	All least one 1001(b) exemption remains.
Utility Rate & Policy Specialist III (1681)	1	Ratepayer Advocate	\$ 210,596	Regular	GF reimbursed	2018		1001(a)(4) [2013]	
Executive Administrative Asst II (1117)	1	Executive	\$ 100,558	Regular	GF reimbursed	2023	2/13/21		Class changed 2021
<b>Positions filled or in process via Sub Authority</b>									
Utility Rate & Policy Specialist I (1681)	2	Ratepayer Advocate	\$ 175,267	Sub Auth	GF reimbursed	2018			One 120 day filled, one in preparation
<b>Position Vacancies via Retirement Expected by August 2024</b>									
Exec Director of OPA (0748)	1	Executive Director	\$ 343,601	Regular	GF reimbursed	2018	expected	683(b) [2011]	Term ended, replacement pending
Utility Rate & Policy Specialist II (1681)	1	Ratepayer Advocate	\$ 184,475	Regular	GF reimbursed	2018	expected	1001(b) [2013]	Retirement planned 8/1/24
Utility Rate & Policy Specialist III+ (1681)	1	Executive Dep Dir	\$ 233,761	Regular	GF reimbursed	2018	expected	1001(a)(4) [2013]	Retirement planned 7/15/24
<b>APR</b>									
	9								
<b>Vacancy % by Aug 2024 unless filled</b>	100%								

\* All OPA costs are budgetted via the General Fund, and are fully reimbursed by LADWP with federal level overhead recovery