

MOTION

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

The City of Los Angeles has faced numerous natural disasters and emergencies. The Department of Water and Power's (LADWP) responses to such events are critical in addressing and recovering from these situations. Our power and water infrastructure is crucial to the City's emergency response. It is essential to have detailed plans in place to restore power grids, prioritize water resources, and maintain the integrity of LADWP infrastructure during damaging natural events.

The recent windstorms and wildfires have consumed nearly 30,000 acres since January 7, 2025. The fires throughout Los Angeles have burned and destroyed thousands of structures, many of which are homes and small businesses. The ongoing fires within and outside of the City of Los Angeles are challenging the limits of our resources.

Although the cause of the fire is yet to be determined we do know that extreme wind conditions accelerated the fire at an unpredictable pace. In addition, there are reports that firefighting rescue efforts were hindered by low water supply in the area, inoperable fire hydrants, and/or poor communications relaying the most relevant information about available water so on-the-ground personnel could make a more informed decision to deploy or seek additional resources elsewhere. It is important for our departments to respond in real-time to emergencies and to have a process where it communicates relevant information to partner agencies that are dependent on accurate data so there isn't a cascading effect of ill-informed decisions hindering the most effective City response to an emergency.

The current wildfires and fierce windstorm should serve as an opportunity to make impactful and substantial changes to our emergency response plan, positioning our city to better prepare and respond to future emergencies. This is a crucial step in preventing future loss of life and property.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council request the Department of Water and Power, with the assistance of the Los Angeles Fire Department and the Emergency Management Department, to report within 60 days on the LADWP preparedness measures, planned emergency responses, and identification of gaps in current emergency procedures. The comprehensive report should include, but not be limited to, the following:

- Current emergency preparedness procedure, including preparations that are made in anticipation of widespread and damaging natural events.
- Proposed improvements in light of the current events.
- Steps taken by LADWP in preparation for the forecasted strong wind event prior to January 7, 2025.
- Actions that were taken in response to the fires and sustained high winds starting on January 7, 2025 and continuing through the following week.
- Communication plan(s) between LADWP, their customers, and the City family.

PRESENTED BY:

ADRIN NAZARIAN

Councilmember, 2nd District

SECONDED BY:

JAN 14 2025

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