

MOTION

Over the past few days, at least 25 people have died after multiple wildfires erupted in Los Angeles County. The Palisades, Eaton, Kenneth, Lidia, and Hurst fires have grown to a total of more than 36,000 acres combined.

Firefighting efforts have been inhibited by strong winds that continue to blow through the region, and there have been numerous reports of hydrants running out of water. Reports from February 2024, indicate that 8 billion gallons of water had been released from local reservoirs over the previous year out of an effort to keep water levels low should dams fail and inundate surrounding areas.

When the fires broke out throughout Los Angeles, they highlighted the susceptibility of existing LADWP infrastructure to adequately address a crisis of this magnitude. Outdated systems and untimely shutdowns due to maintenance may have contributed to firefighters losing water so early in their fight against the fires.

While water supplies from local fire hydrants are not designed to extinguish sweeping wildfires, such supplies improve and bolster firefighters' abilities to protect homes and evacuation corridors.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council request the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power to report to the Council on its existing protocols and procedures for LADWP infrastructure, particularly reservoir maintenance, how these measures can be made adaptable to account for extreme weather events and the longer-term impact of increasing climate change, such as the Santa Ana winds that blow yearly; and what contingencies are in place for our water conveyance systems in emergency situations.

PRESENTED BY:


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SECONDED BY:



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