

RESOLUTION

RULES, ELECTIONS & INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations, or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state, or federal governmental body or agency must have first been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, on March 4, 2020, Governor Newsom declared a State of Emergency related to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic; and

WHEREAS, emergency executive orders required Californians to shelter in place except to meet essential needs thereby impacting local, state, and national business activity; and

WHEREAS, social distancing and shelter in place requirements required the closure of non-essential businesses including bars, dine-in restaurants, and shops, and subsequent employee layoffs have impacted the ability of customers to stay current on utility payments, while at the same time shelter in place orders have caused increased usage of utility services; and

WHEREAS, publicly owned utilities and water agencies across California suspended utility shut-offs in response to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, on May 10, 2021, Governor Newsom announced his California Comeback Plan, which contained significant funding from the federal American Rescue Plan, and was subsequently approved with several new programs providing billions of dollars in financial assistance that specifically address utility bill debt that has accrued during the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, in July 2021, the State Water Board received \$985 million for a California Water and Wastewater Arrearage Payment Program (CWWAPP) and the Department of Community Services and Development received approximately \$993 million for the California Arrearage Payment Program (CAPP) to address electricity and natural gas debt; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Community Services and Development conducted a survey of publicly owned utilities to obtain data on the total number of residential and commercial customer accounts in arrears statewide and issued the results of the survey on October 28, 2021; and

WHEREAS, among public utility and electric cooperatives, the Department of Water & Power (DWP) maintains 68 percent of the total arrearages among applicants, amounting to approximately \$311.7 million; and

WHEREAS, the CAPP program notice indicates that DWP will receive an allocation of approximately \$202.7 million to address DWP customer accounts, leaving a significant customer arrearage shortfall;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles includes in its 2021-2022 State Legislative Program SUPPORT for legislation or administrative action to fully address any remaining financial gap in customer arrears held by publicly owned utilities under the California Arrearage Payment Program.


NOV 05 2021
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PRESENTED BY 
MITCH O'FARRELL
Councilmember, 13th District

SECONDED BY 

ORIGINAL