

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles (City) with respect to legislation, rules, regulations or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state, or federal government 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, the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, the largest municipal water and power utility in the nation, was established more than 100 years ago to deliver reliable, safe water and electricity to 4 million residents and businesses in Los Angeles; and

WHEREAS, LADWP provides its 681,000 water customers and 1.4 million electric customers with quality service at competitive prices; and

WHEREAS, as a revenue-producing proprietary department, LADWP's operations are financed solely by the sale of water and electric services; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 has economically devastated communities in Los Angeles. Since the beginning of the pandemic, LADWP has incurred \$827 million in utility debt or unpaid customer bills; and

WHEREAS, in February 2021, LADWP provided \$33.7 million to 67,000 low-income customers in a one-time utility debt relief action funded through the Biden Administration's California from the American Rescue Plan Act (CARES Act), which was disseminated through \$500 direct checks to customers; and

WHEREAS, in March of 2022, LADWP issued \$275 million in utility debt relief to 280,000 residential and commercial customers; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor's Office, LADWP, and the Bureau of Sanitation continue to advocate for additional utility relief at the State and Federal levels; and

WHEREAS, to meet customer demand, LADWP provides a plethora of low-income programs to help Angelenos get back on their feet after the economic setbacks of the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the EZ-SAVE Low Income Customer Assistance Program (formerly known as the Low -Income Discount Program) offers income-qualified residential customers with a discount to help reduce the cost of electricity, water, and sewer services; and

WHEREAS, the Lifeline Rate Program is a City of LA Office of Finance program that offers senior (62 years of age or older) and disabled citizens an exemption on their electric and other utility bills. This rate is available under provisions of the Los Angeles Municipal Code or the Revenue and Taxation Code of the State of California; and

WHEREAS, the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) helps eligible income-qualified households to manage and meet their immediate home heating and/or cooling needs; and

WHEREAS, the Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) provides financial assistance to help eligible income-qualified households pay down their outstanding residential water and sewer bills; and

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WHEREAS, LADWP partners with the United Way of Greater Los Angeles to help customers in need with their utility bills during winter. Through the LADWP Share Project, one-time tax-deductible donations from customers and LADWP employees are used to help offset qualified customers' utility bills with a bill credit; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that by adoption of this Resolution, with the concurrence of the Mayor, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2023-2024 State Legislative Program, Support or Sponsorship of legislation that would devote funding to, or implement programs that offset or reduce utility costs for low-income customers of publicly-owned utilities, including those that provide direct bill relief or pay down customer debt.

Presented by

Paul Kikorian

Seconded by

Mr. D. Davis

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