

MOTION

As a result of Friday and Saturday's (Feb 24-25) record breaking winter storm, the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) has experienced Level 3 damage to the electrical system, which is on par with the level of damage LADWP expects from a magnitude 6 earthquake or higher. An overwhelming number of neighborhoods across Los Angeles experienced and are continuing to experience multi-day power outages. Over 140,000 households across LA have had their service restored, but more than 12,000 are still currently without power.

Many of the outage incidents were due to high winds and heavy rains toppling trees that took down power poles and power lines, requiring crews to first take time to clear trees and repair poles before power could be restored. In other parts of the City, outages were a result of flooding and water intrusion into underground electrical systems, requiring crews to go from vault to vault to identify the source of the damage before repairs could take place, which can also be time-consuming.

While LADWP deployed all available personnel throughout the City, restoration times were still above 48 hours for most households which caused significant difficulties for residents and businesses, especially given the cold weather that accompanied the storm. Compounding the stress and frustration felt by many ratepayers was the limited information available on the LADWP Power Outage map, and the inconsistent information sent via the robocall system.

As the climate continues to change, we know that we expect to see longer, more severe, and more frequent heat storms, droughts, rain events, and other extreme conditions. Therefore, it is crucial that our power system is better able to withstand extreme weather conditions, including hardening the system, increasing available staffing when extreme weather is expected, and improving Department communication systems, protocols, and information sharing with other key departments to ensure the public gets the information they need during emergencies.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council instruct LADWP to immediately report to the City Council regarding the status of power outages throughout the City associated with the recent storm events; including the main causes by area, its response to the loss of service experienced by residents and businesses, and recommendations on system hardening against future extreme weather events.

I FURTHER MOVE that the City Council instruct LADWP to report on its staffing and operations, and whether its current staff level is adequate to respond to multiple power outages and urgent

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situations throughout the City; and ways it can improve its operations in order to mitigate the loss of service in the future.

I FURTHER MOVE that the City Council instruct LADWP to report on its data collection, outage notifications, and public communication protocols used during the recent storm events; and ways these protocols can be improved to ensure reliable information is provided to impacted residents and businesses in real time.

I FURTHER MOVE that the City Council instruct LADWP to coordinate with the Emergency Management Department (EMD) on their report back under CF 23-0214 related to managing and responding to weather-related emergencies and identifying channels for the communication of critical safety information between City departments, Council offices, and residents.

PRESENTED BY:


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ORIGINAL

SECONDED BY:



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