



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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COUNCILMEMBERS CALL ON DWP TO “C.O.O.L. LA”

COUNCIL WILL IMPROVE CUSTOMER SERVICE AND STRENGTHEN CITY’S INFRASTRUCTURE

A week after high temperatures and record demand caused the loss of power to nearly 30,000 Department of Water and Power customers, Council President Eric Garcetti, Councilmember Jan Perry and other members of the council’s Energy and the Environment committee launched “C.O.O.L. LA,” a program that will improve the city’s power infrastructure and provide reliable information to customers during emergencies year-round.

“Last week, people were left without power for days waiting to hear when they could expect some relief from the extreme heat. It is obvious that we need to work together to find a better way to anticipate and prevent blackouts and create a better system by which people can access information in a timely manner,” said Perry, who chairs the city council’s Energy and the Environment committee.

“DWP had a year to prepare for these outages,” said Garcetti. “They told the committee that they had the situation under control. They didn’t. We can expect temperatures to get warmer, especially during the summer months. We need a 21st-century system for a 21st-century city.”

“It is imperative that we reform our power infrastructure, not only for our safety, but also to ensure that taxpayer money is being spent effectively,” said Councilwoman Wendy Greuel, a member of the Energy and Environment Committee.

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C.O.O.L. LA is a four-pronged program—Customer Service, Operations, Oversight, and Load—that will scrutinize DWP’s operations and investigate its ability to provide power to its customers. It requires the department to improve its ability to respond to calls during a blackout, seeks an independent audit of the state of the city’s power infrastructure, requires DWP to report to council on their readiness monthly, and emphasizes the need for the department to intensify their energy-efficiency programs. The first hearing will be held in a special Energy and the Environment committee meeting on Wednesday, September 12 at 8:30AM.

The councilmembers will introduce the C.O.O.L. LA motion (available) during tomorrow’s city council meeting, the first meeting since the council’s recess.

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