

# MOTION

The City Council recently approved increases to the Department of Water & Power's water and electricity rates. Included in that action was an increase in the subsidy offered to qualified customers through the Low Income Discount Program from 15 to 20 percent.

The City also included a low income discount as part of the recently adopted Multifamily Bulky Item Collection Program, which is overseen by the Bureau of Sanitation. This was done to limit the impact of the modest monthly fee (64 cents) on low income tenants.

The City currently provides an exemption to its Solid Waste Collection, Recycling and Disposal Fee for senior citizens and the disabled [Muni. Code 66.41 (1)(b)]. No discount is offered to those customers who qualify for DWP's Low Income Discount program.

With one-fifth of DWP customers having trouble paying their bimonthly bills before the newly approved water and power rate increases take effect, the addition of higher trash fees will hit low income homeowners and multi-family dwelling tenants particularly hard.

The Solid Waste Collection, Recycling and Disposal Fee will have increased by 230 percent for single-family dwellings (\$26.32 more a month) and 235 percent for multiple-family dwellings (\$17.06) since August of 2006 once the latest increase goes into effect.

Providing a 20 percent discount to residents will save over \$87 a year for low income homeowners and more than \$58 a year for multifamily building residents whose buildings have their trash collected by the City. These are significant amounts of money.

With an estimated 50,000 customers who would qualify, providing this discount would cost the General Fund a few million dollars. This action is needed as many of these customers will be hard pressed to pay their bills if some relief is not provided to them.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Attorney, with input from the Bureau of Sanitation, and CLA, be requested to prepare an Ordinance amending the Solid Waste Collection, Recycling and Disposal Fee ordinance to include a Low Income Discount Program identical to the one offered by DWP for its customers.

I FURTHER MOVE that this matter be referred to the Ad Hoc Committee on Ending Poverty in Los Angeles, in addition to any other committee that has issue jurisdiction.

CO-PRESENTED BY:

\_\_\_\_\_  
JOSE HUIZAR  
Councilmember  
14<sup>th</sup> District

\_\_\_\_\_  
RICHARD ALARCON  
Councilmember  
7<sup>th</sup> District

\_\_\_\_\_  
TONY CARDENAS  
Councilmember  
6<sup>th</sup> District

SECONDED BY: \_\_\_\_\_