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PRESS RELEASE

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Councilmember Huizar Leads Effort to Reduce DWP Rates for Low Income Residents

Los Angeles (February 8, 2008) - Councilmember José Huizar urged the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (DWP) Board to increase the discount to eligible income-qualified City electricity customers from 15 percent to 20 percent at the DWP Board meeting today.

"I believe that DWP's rate discount program needs to be comparable with those offered by Southern California Edison and The Gas Company, they offer a flat 20% discount; I am also concerned that DWP is far behind the other utilities in providing this discount," said Councilmember José Huizar.

"I have been a strong advocate for this program because it provides essential support to the most vulnerable residents of Los Angeles – seniors on a fixed-income, the disabled and low-income individuals. It is absolutely vital to the estimated 22 percent of Angelenos who live below the poverty line."

"Today, given the continuing deterioration in the economy, and rising prices in all major necessities, whether it is gasoline, transit fares, milk or bread – it is absolutely imperative that the City act to protect its most vulnerable residents."

"I also believe that this program is one of the best kept secrets in town. There are many more customers eligible for this discount program, and only 80,000 have signed-up. The DWP must work harder and in partnership with relevant social agencies to let hard-to-reach customer know this assistance program is available."

The income eligibility guidelines to receive the low income customer discount are established annually by the State of California and have been adopted by DWP's Board. For more information on the Department of Water and Power and low income rates, please visit www.ladwp.com

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