



JOSE HUIZAR
COUNCILMEMBER, 14TH DISTRICT

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT:

George I. Gonzalez, (213) 473-5807

Cell (213) 200-9974

George.I.Gonzalez@lacity.org

Councilmember José Huizar Leads Effort to Increase the DWP Discount Offered to Income Qualified Residents

LOS ANGELES (April 9, 2008) – Councilmember José Huizar helped ensure at today's City Council meeting that the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (DWP) will increase the discount to eligible income-qualified DWP customers from 15 percent to 20 percent.

The increased discount will become effective May 1, 2008. Even with the increased water and electricity rates approved today by the Council, the discount will effectively lower power bills for qualifying customers.

"My biggest concern with the DWP rates increase was for income qualifying residents or those who live on fixed incomes such as senior citizens," Huizar said. "Statistics indicate that 33 percent of the children in my district live in poverty and I do not expect their families to pay higher rates. That is why I worked out a compromise with DWP to ensure that we increased the amount of Low Income Discount Rate program from 15 percent to 20 percent for qualifying customers."

For example, the average income-qualified customer's water and power bill for 2007-08 is \$55.63 per month (without the discount). After the May 1 rate increase, the average income-qualified customer's bill would rise to \$57.24. However, with the increased discount, the average income-qualified customer will see their average monthly bill drop from \$47.28 to \$45.79.

Additionally, thanks to Councilmember Huizar's efforts, the DWP's Low Income Discount Rate program outreach will be made more accountable. As part of today's approval, the DWP will be required to evaluate how well it communicates the program to residents and to improve its effectiveness in encouraging eligible rate payers to sign up.

- more -

City Hall Office • 200 N. Spring Street, Room 425 • Los Angeles, CA 90012 • Phone (213) 473-7014 • Fax (213) 847-0680

Boyle Heights Office • 2130 E. First Street, Suite 202 • Los Angeles, CA 90033 • Phone (323) 526-3059 • Fax (323) 526-3066

Eagle Rock/Highland Park Office • 2035 Colorado Boulevard • Los Angeles, CA 90041 • Phone (323) 254-5295 • Fax (213) 485-8788

El Sereno Office • 5150 N. Huntington Drive, Suite 111 • Los Angeles, CA 90032 • Phone (323) 226-1646 • Fax (323) 226-1644

Computer Generated, Labor Donated

Huizar Leads Effort to Increase DWP's Low Income Discount Rate Program

Page 2 of 2

“Unfortunately, this program is one of the best kept secrets in town. Only 87,800 have signed up, although it is estimated that there are 253,000 more customers who are eligible for this discount program. The DWP must work harder, and in partnership, with appropriate agencies to make sure hard-to-reach customers know this assistance program is available, and to measure how effectively its outreach works.”

“Income” means all income of all persons who live in the household. The income qualifying thresholds, established by the state of California and adopted by the DWP's board, range from an annual income of \$29,300 for a 1-2 person household to \$55,700 for a six-person household. For more information on the DWP and income qualifying rates, please visit www.ladwp.com.

#