

NEWS

From

Richard Alarcón

Councilmember, 7th District



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ALARCON CALLS ON PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT TO REPORT ON PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN LOW- INCOME PROGRAM FOR TRASH FEES AND PLANS TO INCREASE OUTREACH

Los Angeles, CA – Today, Los Angeles City Councilmember Richard Alarcón called on the Department of Public Works and Bureau of Sanitation to report on programs available and the percentage of eligible Los Angeles residents who are participating in the low-income programs for trash collection fees. According to the Bureau of Sanitation, there are discounts available for trash fees for low-income residents. These fee reductions are similar to the Department of Water and Power’s Lifeline and Low-Income programs, and are based on the same eligibility requirements. Councilmember Alarcón instructed the Bureau of Sanitation and Department of Public Works to report back to the Ad Hoc Committee on Ending Poverty in Los Angeles with the information on these programs, as well as their plans for outreach and increasing the number of eligible residents who participate in the programs. The request came as part of the City Council’s discussion on the trash collection fee increase that the City Council voted to approve.

“It’s infuriating that our City has programs available to help low-income people help pay their bills, but very few people know that these programs are available and the city is doing nothing to help more people participate,” said Councilmember Alarcón. “Los Angeles families are facing sky-rocketing gas prices, rising cost of food and foreclosure and the City must do all that it can to ensure that residents are aware of the assistance programs that are available to them and help get them signed up.”

On Friday, September 5th, Councilmember Alarcón will be holding a special meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee on Ending Poverty in Los Angeles (*Van Nuys City Hall, 2 PM*) to look at low-income and lifeline programs available through the Department of Water and Power (DWP), the participation rates and the plan for increasing the participation rate. The hearing will now also include the Department of Public Works and Bureau of Sanitation’s report on their Low-Income programs and participation rates, as well as their plans for increasing the number of families and individuals who are participating in the programs.

Councilmember Alarcón has been strongly critical of the number of eligible residents who are participating in the Department of Water and Power’s Lifeline and Low-Income services. The participation rates fall far below the participation rates for other utilities. He also called on the DWP to create a Low Income Oversight Board, comprised of residents who are eligible for reduced water and power rates, to review the programs, outreach and make recommendations on how to bring more Angelenos into the programs for which they are eligible.

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