

## LOS ANGELES DAILY NEWS

DWP rescinds 18% hike, decides on 11% instead

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The board that oversees the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power voted Tuesday to rescind its approval of an 18 percent, two-year increase in water rates in favor of an 11 percent, one-year hike, leaving open the question of seeking more next year.

The unanimous decision followed months of criticism that the Board of Water and Power Commissioners approved the 18 percent hike in December with little justification or public notice. The hike involved an 11 percent increase this year followed by a 7 percent boost next year.

However, the decision doesn't mean that the DWP can't or won't seek a future increase. DWP officials have said they will need millions of dollars in future revenue to offset the costs of improving the aging water infrastructure and adding safeguards against terrorism.

The DWP's action comes on the heels of a decision by the Los Angeles City Council to block the two-year, 18 percent increase until the DWP submits to an outside fiscal analysis of its future revenue needs.

But some council members indicated support for the plan approved by the DWP board.