

Date: April 13, 2004

To: Neighborhood Council Leaders

From: Greg Nelson, General Manager, Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment

Subject: AB 1314 – EXEMPTING NCs FROM PARTS OF THE BROWN ACT.
DWP-NC MOU APPROVAL HELD UP.

AB 1314 – EXEMPTING NCs FROM PARTS OF THE BROWN ACT.

Assemblyman Mark Ridley-Thomas has authored a bill regarding the state's Brown Act and Neighborhood Councils. It grew out of discussions with Neighborhood Councils in his Assembly District.

His office has supplied this fact sheet. It is scheduled for a hearing in the State Local Government Committee on April 14.

A fact sheet on the bill will appear on our home page later today when the computer "refreshes" itself. It will appear as the third item under Your Input is Requested at the bottom right.

DWP-NC MOU APPROVAL HELD UP

On Tuesday of last week, the Board of Water and Power Commissioners unanimously approved the written agreement between the Department of Water and Power and the Neighborhood Councils. However, there is a provision in the City Charter that allows the City Council to veto any action of a commission.

Section 245 provides that the City Council, if it acts within five Council meeting days, may take up the commission's action. A 2/3rds vote is required. That's 10 votes in the world of the City Council. Then they have 21 days within which they can veto the action, and the whole thing goes back to the commission. The City Council does not have the ability to amend the action.

Last Friday, Councilmembers Tony Cardenas and Greig Smith submitted such a motion. It is Council File 05-0675, and it comes to the City Council this Friday for the attempt at the 2/3rds vote. City Council approval was not needed for the MOU to be effective.

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