

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

CALIFORNIA



ERIC GARCETTI
MAYOR

FREDERICK H. PICKEL, Ph.D.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/RATEPAYER ADVOCATE
(213) 978-0220
Fred.Pickel@lacity.org

OFFICE OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY
200 N. SPRING STREET, SUITE 1736
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012

A message from the Executive Director of the Office of Public Accountability (OPA)

In July 2015, the Department of Water & Power (DWP) put forward recommendations for rate changes over five years, for both water and power rates. The DWP's Board, City Council and Mayor must approve a City Ordinance to adopt the rate changes.

The City Charter and related provisions require the OPA to provide "information to the Board, the City Council, the Mayor, the Neighborhood Councils, and the public on the reasonableness of rate actions and any modification to them." The OPA is an independent "watchdog" for consumers - to assure DWP transparency and accountability.

Our Office initiated its preliminary review of the DWP's rate proposal and financial plan in July. Since then, we have been working with the DWP to obtain all the necessary data to conduct a thorough review.

We have contracted for specialized professional services to assist us in performing the review. Navigant Consulting has been hired; and we are in the process of hiring a specialist to do a comprehensive review of all labor costs. Our report should be complete in early December 2015, provided the DWP's final proposed Ordinance is released and public.

We anticipate public review and discussion of the OPA's report and recommendations, when published. In addition, the OPA is expected to provide advice to the public, the DWP Board, the City Council, and the Mayor throughout the deliberations.

Ratepayers who wish to submit comments or suggestions via email can send them to opa@lacity.org. Our Office will provide regular public updates as to the status of our review before the issuance of our formal report at @RPAforLA. Finally, all the reports will also be available on OPA's web page <http://opa.lacity.org>.

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