

DWP/Neighborhood Council Meeting February 2, 2019 Highlights

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William Funderburk, who recently left the DWP Board of Commissioners, and Peter Brooks, Vice President of waterTALENT, a Los Angeles-based consultancy on water and waste water operations, spoke about recently passed Los Angeles County Proposition W that will impose a parcel tax of 2.5 cents per square foot of impermeable service on properties in the county. A website containing comprehensive background on this matter can be found at safecleanwaterla.org. However, the website calculator that the speakers said is available for parcel owners to calculate their Prop. W assessment appears not to be operable. The purpose of the tax is to help defray the costs to cities and the county for the cleanup of stormwater runoff as required by the Federal Clean Water Act. The tax is meant to collect \$300 million but this sum will not cover all costs. The implementation of the program is to be overseen by a 17-member Watershed Committee, but to date the committee has not been named. (The speakers complained of the general complexity of the bureaucracy proposed for managing Prop. W funds.) In the City, the Bureau of Sanitation has the lead on stormwater projects with DWP as a possible partner. At this time, DWP policy is not to participate in a project if the cost of the water derived is greater than the price of water available from the Metropolitan Water District, currently \$1200 per acre-foot.

Fred Pickel, head of the Office of Public Accountability and Ratepayer Advocate, spoke again of the upcoming "midterm review" of water and electricity rates. That review is due at the second board meeting in February, but to date his office has not seen anything from DWP. He did not give details, but water rates are up 4-6 percent higher than anticipated. An interim adjustment in water or electric base rates of +/- 2 percent is possible. Water usage has been below that anticipated and because water costs are driven in significant part by capital spending, water base rate are likely to increase, (Pickel has said more than once that the only way to pay less for water is to out-conserve your neighbor.) He reported that the reliability study for repowering of the present generators that use ocean-water cooling (so-called Once Through Cooling (OTC)) was past at the last commission meeting in January. However, a final decision of the repowering of the OTC generators is yet to be made. IN THE INTERIM BETWEEN THIS MEETING AND THE WRITING OF THIS REPORT, MAYOR GARCETTI ANNOUNCED THAT NONE OF THE OTC GENERATORS WILL BE REPOWERED.