

Department of Water and Power



the City of Los Angeles

ANTONIO R. VILLARAIGOSA
Mayor

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H. DAVID NAHAI,
Chief Executive Officer and General Manager

April 1, 2009

The Honorable City Council
c/o Office of the City Clerk
Room 395, City Hall
Mail Stop 160

Attention: Councilmember Jan Perry
Chair, Energy and Environment Committee

Honorable Members:

Subject: Council File No. 08-2782 - Parking at the Los Angeles Department of
Water and Power (LADWP)

This is in response to the motion made on October 14, 2008 (LaBonge-Perry), copy enclosed, requesting the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) to report with recommendations for reopening the LADWP parking lot on Hope Street for patrons of the Music Center complex, as well as other cultural and community events.

Since the events of September 11, 2001, security has been a primary concern and priority for LADWP. With guidance and direction from the Board of Water and Power Commissioners (Board), I, along with my executive management continue to ensure that LADWP is able to fulfill its mission of providing safe and reliable water and electricity to the 4.2 million residents and businesses in Los Angeles.

LADWP's Customer Parking Lot (Lot 6)

Lot 6 is the LADWP's customer parking lot serving customers who pay their bills and visitors conducting business with LADWP at the John Ferraro Building (JFB). Lot 6 was opened to Music Center patrons in September 1996 and with the exception of the events of September 11, remained available through August 2008.

LADWP's aggressive project schedules and corresponding increases in staffing have resulted in Lot 6 being no longer just for LADWP customers and visitors. Over 150 employees now park in Lot 6, including swing and late shift employees assigned to

Water and Power Conservation ...a way of life

111 North Hope Street, Los Angeles, California 90012-2607 Mailing address: Box 51111, Los Angeles 90051-5700
Telephone: (213) 367-4211 Cable address: DEWAPOLA

Recyclable and made from recycled waste.



LADWP's 24/7 operations. This number may increase in the foreseeable future, as will demand for employee parking, as project schedules progress.

Closing Lot 6 to Music Center Patrons

In November 2001 and July 2008, two confidential vulnerability assessment reports produced by separate expert security consultants identified the JFB as a critical LADWP asset. Over the years, functions contained in the JFB have dramatically changed. More than a general office building, the JFB houses key customer information technology, as well as water and power functions. As such, we have taken measures to improve security, both internally and externally, with continued guidance from expert security consultants, as well as the leadership of the Board's Security and Emergency Preparedness Committee.

In August 2008, the initial decision was made by senior LADWP staff to close Lot 6 to Music Center patrons. The closing followed the security consultant's vulnerability assessment report of July 2008, on vehicle access controls at the JFB.

In September 2008, LADWP hired Mr. Patrick K. Findley, a former Captain with the Los Angeles Police Department, as the new Director of Security Services and Emergency Management. Mr. Findley was immediately tasked with reviewing the security consultant reports and discussing issues with security personnel. Mr. Findley concurred that public parking should be eliminated due to the security risk to the JFB.

Board and Executive Management Discussions

In October 2008, Councilmember Tom LaBonge presented the above-referenced Motion. Immediately thereafter, the Board and executive management directed staff to revisit the parking situation and provide recommendations.

Several discussions were then held at successive meetings of the Board's Security and Emergency Preparedness Committee, chaired by Board President Lee Kanon Alpert, to review and thoroughly vet the facts, including the security consultant reports. Although alternatives were presented (i.e. tightening security measures, structural modifications, assigning more security personnel), the analysis strongly supported the same conclusion that opening Lot 6 to the public was one of the greatest threats and vulnerabilities to the JFB operations and building occupants, as indicated in the security consultant's report.

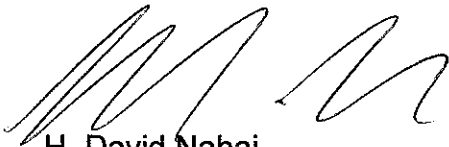
In summary, the above security factors and LADWP's current parking needs were considered and then vigorously discussed and weighed against the fact that Lot 6

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provides a convenient parking location for Music Center patrons and the downtown arts community. Given today's reality, the risk of keeping Lot 6 open to the general public comes at far too great a threat to LADWP's operations. Therefore, together with the Board President, I strongly support the decision to keep Lot 6 closed to the general public.

If there are any questions, please contact me at (213) 367-1338; or you may have a member of your staff contact Ms. Winifred J. Yancy, Manager, Government and Neighborhood Relations, at (213) 367-0025.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H. David Nahai', with a stylized, flowing script.

H. David Nahai
Chief Executive Officer
and General Manager

RR/MSR:ps
Enclosure

c/enc: Councilmember Eric Garcetti Vice Chair, Energy and Environment Committee
Councilmember Richard Alarcon, Member
Councilmember Tony Cardenas, Member
Councilmember Wendy Greuel, Member
Honorable Tom LaBonge, Councilmember, Fourth District
Ms. Maria Espinoza, Legislative Assistant
Board of Water and Power Commissioners (6)
Ms. Winifred J. Yancy

OCT 14 2008

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

MOTION

For a long time the Department of Water and Power (DWP) parking lot across Hope Street from the Music Center has served the Civic Center community and the arts community, including many performance-goers as an easy in, easy out, above-ground lot at reasonable parking rates compared with the Music Center's 1,000-space underground garage.


Since last month, however, the DWP lot has been made unavailable for this purpose. This has created many problems for Music Center patrons, resulting in some difficulties and hasty dashes to make opening curtains.

The 350 DWP parking spaces were made unavailable after the DWP decided that public parking during off hours and on weekends could pose a security problem.

Inasmuch as this parking lot is so important to the downtown arts community, we need to devise a way to re-open the DWP parking lot for patrons of the Music Center complex.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Department of Water and Power be requested to report with recommendations for reopening the DWP parking lot on Hope Street across the street from the Music Center for patrons of the Music Center complex performances as well as for other cultural and community events.

PRESENTED BY:


TOM LABONGE
Councilman, 4th District

SECONDED BY:



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