

MOTION BUDGET & FINANCE

In June 2026, a fire at the Lineage Logistics cold-storage warehouse in Boyle Heights burned for nearly a week, which forced residents to shelter in place and has raised lasting concerns over air and water contamination in a neighborhood already burdened by industrial pollution. For months, the City was burdened by the foul smell of rotting food as Lineage Logistics removed millions of pounds of food waste from the warehouse. In response to these conditions, residents turned to using air purifiers as a tool for both smoke and odor remediation.

Mayor Karen Bass issued Emergency Executive Orders directing City departments to provide financial and public health resources to affected residents and businesses, including support to help residents with payments of their Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) bills. This relief effort made clear that, especially amidst an environmental emergency, there is an urgent need for emergency utility bill assistance. However, the City's current trust fund mechanism for LADWP bill assistance is financed through ratepayer-funded surcharges, which means the cost of subsidizing bills for customers is supported by other ratepayers. This funding structure places the burden of relief on a customer base that includes many Angelenos who are struggling to afford their own utility bills.

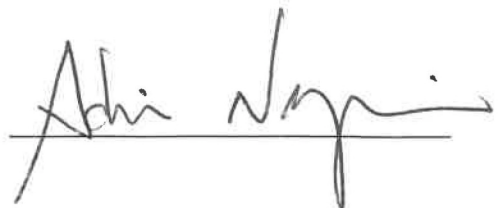
There is a need for an emergency assistance fund that does not rely on ratepayer contributions, but instead pulls from private donations, philanthropic partnerships, and other funding sources outside of ratepayers. Establishing such a fund would allow the City to expand emergency LADWP bill assistance without adding further financial strain to ratepayers, while creating a mechanism for private and philanthropic support to directly benefit Angelenos facing hardship.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council requests the City Attorney, in collaboration with the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power and the City Administrative Officer, to report on the feasibility of creating a trust fund for emergency support to impacted customers in covering portions of their city utility services bill. The funding of the trust should not be incurred by the ratepayer, but should be an available vehicle to accept private donations and contributions from philanthropic partnerships, and other funding sources separate from ratepayers.

PRESENTED BY


YSABEL JURADO
Councilmember, 14th District

SECONDED BY


SEP 22 2026

ORIGINAL