



**Mar Vista  
Community Council**

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Melissa Stoller

Bill Scheduling

**Community Director**

John Kuchta



Certified Neighborhood Council  
August 13, 2002

**OCTOBER 14, 2013  
VIA EMAIL**

- To:** The Honorable Mike Bonin, Councilmember, 11<sup>th</sup> District City of Los Angeles [mike.bonin@lacity.org](mailto:mike.bonin@lacity.org)  
The Honorable Paul Koretz, Councilmember, 5<sup>th</sup> District, City of Los Angeles [paul.koretz@lacity.org](mailto:paul.koretz@lacity.org)
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Andy Schrader, Deputy of Environmental Affairs and Sustainability CD 5 [andy.schrader@lacity.org](mailto:andy.schrader@lacity.org)
- Re:** **RATEPAYER ADVOCATE ACCOUNT FOR EXTERNALITIES**

Dear Councilmembers:

At the regularly scheduled meeting held October 8, 2013, The Mar Vista Community Council approved the following policy motion by a unanimous vote:

*WHEREAS, the Office of Public Accountability (OPA) is a Los Angeles City department established by voter-approved Charter Amendment I (adopted March 8, 2011) in order to shed greater light on the DWP's operations and finances and to serve as an independent watchdog, charged with analyzing proposed increases in water and power rates on a timely and continuous basis; and*

*WHEREAS, the term "environmental externalities" refers to the economic concept of uncompensated environmental effects of production and consumption that affect consumer utility and enterprise cost outside the market mechanism; and*

*WHEREAS, "natural capital" has been defined as "the finite stock of natural assets (air, water and land) from which goods and services flow to benefit society and the economy. It is made up of ecosystems (providing renewable resources and services), and non-renewable deposits of fossil fuels and minerals;" and*

*WHEREAS, without including the costs of negative externalities to natural capital in accounting for the production of energy and water, costs of production tend to be misrepresented; and*

*WHEREAS, some proposals may have positive externalities, such as the creation of local jobs as with building a local water supply and with the Feed In Tariff; and*

*WHEREAS, a 2013 report by TruCost, "Natural Capital at Risk: The Top 100 Externalities of Business" (NCR), estimates that the global top 100 environmental externalities are costing the global economy some \$4.7 trillion a year in terms of the economic costs of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, loss of natural resources, loss of nature-based services such as carbon storage by forests, climate change and air pollution-related health costs; and*

*WHEREAS, also according to NCR, coal power, natural gas power and several other high-impact business sectors face an economic loss when accounting for damages to natural capital; and*

*WHEREAS, the Community of Mar Vista considers accounting for natural capital in financial decisions an essential part of being a sustainable community;*

*NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that by adoption of this resolution, the Mar Vista Community Council respectfully requests that the Ratepayer Advocate include in all analyses of power and water rates a complete accounting of the positive and negative externalities to natural capital of the various available power and water options facing the City, so that the ratepayers of Los Angeles may have a more complete picture by which to base their support and opposition to DWP proposals.*

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of the matter,

Sharon Commins, Chair  
Mar Vista Community Council  
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