



**Mar Vista
Community Council**

P.O. Box 66871
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**Board of Directors
2011-2012**

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Community Director

Alex Thompson



Certified Neighborhood Council
August 13, 2002

August 20, 2012

Via Email to:

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Councilmember Jose Huizar, Chair
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Councilmember Tony Cárdenas
Councilmember Richard Alarcón
Councilmember Paul Koretz
Eric Villanueva, Legislative Assistant Eric.Villanueva@lacity.org

Re: Council File 11-0452-S2, DWP Office of Public Accountability

At its regular meeting, August 14, 2012, the Mar Vista Community Council approved the following policy motion:

Whereas the voters of Los Angeles created the DWP Office of Public Accountability in the municipal election of March 8, 2011 by an overwhelming 78% vote based on the description of an entity which would have independence, transparency and objectivity, and Whereas the City Council is now considering enacting enabling ordinances for the Office of Public Accountability [OPA], and Whereas at its July 6, 2012 meeting, the Los Angeles Neighborhood Council Coalition's DWP Advocacy Committee endorsed the recommendations made by a member of the public to the Council's Energy and the Environment Committee [E&E] at its June 20, 2012 meeting (see Council File 11-0452-S2), Mar Vista Community Council asks the E&E Committee to include in the enabling ordinance for the OPA these elements:

- a. Shielding the Office of Public Accountability from pressure by the Council and Mayor by creating a board equivalent to a Board of Commissioners that is not appointed by the Mayor or City Council.*
- b. Similar to the Memorandum of Understanding [MOU] between the DWP and the Neighborhood Councils, there should be an MOU between the OPA and the NCs.*
- c. The OPA should have a way of receiving complaints about the DWP, forwarding them to the appropriate liaisons at the DWP and following them up to see that the DWP is responding appropriately to the ratepayers.*
- d. The enabling ordinance for the OPA should direct that Office to make a best effort to provide the ratepayers with easily assimilated data on why the Office recommends or opposes whatever rate requests the DWP makes.*
- e. Provide for an Independent Legal Counsel separate from the City Attorney's Office.*

Kind regards,

**Sharon Commins, Chair
Mar Vista Community Council**