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## CCA Successful in Slowing Down LADWP Increases

At the behest of Council President Pro Tempore, **Jan Perry**, the Los Angeles City Council asserted jurisdiction over the Los Angeles Department of Water & Power ("LADWP") Board's action on March 18, 2010, to move forward with a 2.7 cents per kWh increase to the Energy Cost Adjustment Factor ("ECAAF") - a component of the electric rates that enables the LADWP to recover cost fluctuations for fuel, energy efficiency measures, and purchased power.

CCA President & CEO, Carol Schatz, strongly opposed the proposal during public comment at Tuesday's City Council meeting and Thursday's Special Energy & Environment Committee meeting, articulating the devastating effects the increase would have on large commercial property owners, hospitals, and businesses. Due in part to CCA's staunch advocacy, a second Special Energy & Environment Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 30, 2010, at 9:00 a.m. to further discuss this highly technical and controversial issue. The item is then expected to be heard by the full City Council at its meeting immediately following at 10:00 a.m.

CCA has been the business leader in opposing this proposal since it was brought to our attention in early March by the LADWP. Swiftly bringing together Jan Perry, the Mayor's Office, the Chief Legislative Analyst, LADWP, PA Consulting Group, the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce, the Valley Industry & Commerce Association, and CCA members to demand transparency and a meaningful opportunity to participate in the process, CCA was successful in slowing down this "runaway rates train."

We strongly urge you to attend the Special Energy & Environment Committee meeting on Tuesday, March 30, 2010, at 9:00 a.m. and the subsequent City Council meeting at 10:00 a.m. and add your voice to a united business front. Staff Contact: Director of Government & Member Relations, Tracey Chavira.

### Special Energy & Environment Committee Meeting

Tuesday, March 30, 2010, at 9:00 a.m.

City Hall, Room 1060

200 N. Spring Street

Los Angeles, CA 90012

(click [here](#) for Committee agenda)

## STAFF BRIEFS

• At the invitation of Councilmember Jose Huizar, CCA participated in a special breakfast meeting for Downtown Los Angeles community leaders to discuss collaboration and communication on Downtown projects with the Council office.

## IN THE NEWS

"People were very upset when they heard about this. They were shocked and upset, especially since the increase is so immediate," said Carol Schatz, chief executive of the Central City Association, which represents major downtown L.A. businesses and property owners. "This is all being shoved through so quickly that there's no opportunity to even notify tenants of the huge power bill increases," Schatz said. While building owners understand the city's desire to become more environmentally responsible, she said, 'that has to be balanced with the unbelievably difficult economy we're dealing with now. This is all happening at a time when tenants are leaving and landlords are having to renegotiate rents downward.' Schatz and other business leaders are urging city officials to put off the program until at least July 1 to give DWP executives and city officials more time to consider the financial and economic impacts the surpluses could have on local businesses

## EVENTS CALENDAR

APRIL 8

"The 16th Annual Treasures of  
Los Angeles" at the JW  
Marriott at L.A. Live

## UPCOMING COMMITTEES

Open to Executive Level  
Members Only

MAY 6

11:45 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Special Guest: City Controller  
Wendy Greuel

Open to Executive and  
Business Advocacy  
Members Only

MARCH 31

8:00 a.m.

Public Safety, Health &  
Homelessness Committee

"Homelessness White Paper"

APRIL 21

8:00 a.m.

Housing & Land Use  
Committee

**City Council Meeting**  
**Tuesday, March 30, 2010, at 10:00 a.m.**  
**City Hall, Room 340**  
**200 N. Spring Street**  
**Los Angeles, CA 90012**



Terry Miller, CSC; CCA President & CEO Carol Schatz; Randi Levin, ITA; David Barber, CSC; and Rob Hupp, CSC.

## **Randi Levin Discusses City's Move to Cloud Computing with CCA Members**

**Randi Levin**, Chief Technology Officer of the City's Information Technology Agency, joined CCA members for a breakfast on March 24 at the **Marriott Downtown Los Angeles**.

Councilmember **Tony Cardenas**, Chair of the Information Technology and Government Affairs Committee and champion of the City's new cloud computing system with Google, introduced Ms. Levin to the attendees, thanking her for her efforts and emphasizing the financial and technological significance of the move to cloud computing.

The City's IT budget has declined almost 40% over the last two years, despite the City's critical need for substantial upgrades to its systems and servers. However, funding continues to be an issue because of the budget crisis. Cloud computing provides a means to increase capacity and capabilities without an investment in hardware. The City will be using the new systems for its email, contacts, and calendar programs, as well as virus protection, collaboration, instant messaging, virtual storage, and video conferencing, among others. Although many expressed concerns over the security and ownership of the data, Ms. Levin emphasized that the City has complete ownership of the data and the security method meets all of the requirements of the California Department of Justice. In addition to increased efficiency and productivity, the City expects to save \$4-5 million over three years with the new system.

CCA thanks Councilmember Cardenas and Randi Levin for joining us and **CSC**, which is responsible for the integration and implementation of the City's new system, for sponsoring this event.

and adjust the rates if necessary." "Also, Schatz noted that solar panels aren't very practical for high-rise office buildings and wouldn't generate excess power that could be sold back to the DWP." March 22, 2010, *Los Angeles Business Journal*, "Business Leaders Hope to Zap DWP Rate Hikes" by Howard Fine on DWP's proposed rate increase.

"You don't want to risk the jobs you have for the jobs you might have in the future," said Carol Schatz, president and chief executive of the Central City Assn., a downtown business group. "The goals are well intentioned," said Schatz of the Central City Assn. "But they need to be revised, just as every resident and business has revised their personal goals in light of this recession." March 25, 2010, *Los Angeles Times*, "Business leaders decry plan to raise DWP rates" by David Zahniser on DWP's proposed rate increase.

## **CONTACT US**

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*(click on image to view invitation)*

CCA's 16th Annual **Treasures of Los Angeles**, celebrating ten years of the Downtown Renaissance, will take place at the JW Marriott at L.A. Live. Sponsorship opportunities are available by contacting Joella Hopkins at (213) 624-1213 or **[jhopkins@ccala.org](mailto:jhopkins@ccala.org)**.