

PRESS RELEASE

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Greig Smith Council District 12



LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCILMAN GREIG SMITH

Several City Councilmembers Call for Investigation Into Causes of Power Outages and Prevention of Future Outages

Los Angeles—Councilmembers Greig Smith, Jan Perry and Wendy Greuel introduced motions to City Council Tuesday, July 25, calling for the Department of Water and Power (DWP) to report on the causes of the heat wave-related power outages, to find ways to prevent future outages, and to give residents more information on what they can do to help prevent and cope with power outages.

The extreme heat and heavy use of air conditioning and electricity burdening the City's electricity distribution system has led to several hundred power outages across the City. That has left tens of thousands of residents without power for several days, unable to use fans or air conditioners while the food in their refrigerators spoils.

“For vulnerable people, especially the elderly, this is not just a matter of inconvenience - it can be a matter of life and death,” Councilman Smith said. “With the City's vast resources and our experience with heat waves and power outages, we must be able to ensure a consistent supply of power and restore power quickly.”

“It is serious when people are left without power for days. Beside spoiled food, we are dealing with significant health issues from heat exhaustion in frail populations like the elderly, chronically ill, or young children and in some cases people rely on their power to run important homecare equipment,” added Councilwoman Perry. “I also want to ensure that the Department has an effective plan in place when power outages occur.”

Quote from CM Greuel

The Councilmembers invoked Council Rule 23, enabling them to hold an immediate Council hearing without the normal public notice requirements in order to receive

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information on the current status of the City's power supplies during the heat wave from DWP General Manager Ron Deaton and Los Angeles Fire Department personnel.

The DWP reported that the City was producing enough power, but the power distribution system was insufficient to keep up with demand, with so many people running air conditioning around the clock. That, combined with extreme heat beyond temperatures for which they were designed caused many hundreds of transformers mounted on power poles to break down. Crews have been working around the clock to replace burned-out transformers, and additional crews from other parts of California and from out of state have been brought in to help restore power as soon as possible.

While the heat wave and power outages continue, the City has mobilized emergency resources. All City recreation centers at City parks are now functioning as emergency cooling centers and will remain open until 8pm. Residents who have no power or air conditioning can rest in the air-conditioned recreation centers and receive cold water. To report power outages or for more information, please call the Department of Water and Power information hotline at (800) DIAL DWP (342-5397) or the City of Los Angeles information line at 3-1-1.

Wilkinson Senior Center in Northridge and Sunland Senior Center in Sunland have been activated to serve as 24-hour emergency cooling centers where residents can seek shelter from the heat overnight and receive cold water. Additionally, DWP have designated a number of cooling stations available where residents can cool off and avoid heat-related health situations:

Wilkinson Senior Center

8956 Vanalden St. (1 block South of Nordhoff, between Reseda & Tampa)
Northridge
(818) 756-7741

Sunland Senior Center

8640 Fenwick Ave. (cross street Foothill Blvd.)
Sunland
(818) 353-9571

Hollywood Multi-Purpose Senior Center

1360 St. Andrews Place
Hollywood, CA 90028

Centro Maravilla Service Center

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4716 Cesar Chavez Avenue
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Coalition of Mental Health Professionals

9130 S. Figueroa Street, #100
Los Angeles, CA 90003

East Los Angeles Service Center

133 North Sunol Dr.
Los Angeles, CA 90063

East Los Angeles Work Source Center

5301 Whittier Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90022

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