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Press Release: Fund the Controller to Audit LADWP

1 message

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 26, 2026

Controller Kenneth Mejia Responds to Mayor Bass: Fund the Controller Sufficiently to Audit LADWP

The Controller's Office continues their ongoing investigation of LADWP rates while exploring a potential in-depth audit

LOS ANGELES – The Controller's Office has received thousands of requests from frustrated Angelenos who are outraged by their unusually high LADWP bills. These utility costs are devastating for working families, residents on fixed incomes, and small businesses operating with thin margins. To better understand why certain rates have increased, how the Tier structure impacts significant cost increases, and ways to relieve the financial burdens peak seasons place on Angelenos, the Controller's Office started looking into LADWP rates the first week of October. Controller Mejia met with LADWP leadership and is waiting for LADWP to fully fulfill his data request.

The Controller's Office regularly assesses, audits, and evaluates City departments, including proprietary departments like LADWP. In addition to conducting performance audits in alignment with the Generally Accepted Government Auditing Standards, the Controller's professional auditors objectively oversee and facilitate work conducted by outside technical experts.

Under Mayor Bass's administration, the Controller's Audit Services Division has been cut, making it challenging to provide robust and continuous oversight. The Controller's Office currently has eight auditors to oversee over $46 billion annually, which includes proprietary departments like the LADWP. Despite limited audit resources, the Controller's Office is committed to investigating the concerns expressed by Angelenos. Weeks before the Mayor's announcement, Controller Mejia directed his team of civil service auditors to explore ways to initiate a separate LADWP audit or assessment related to LADWP rates.

Controller Mejia responds to Mayor Bass's call for an "outside of the City" audit of LADWP: "If the Mayor is serious about continuous transparency and accountability on our tax dollars, she should fund the independent watchdog elected by the people, instead of spending millions on outside companies that are not beholden to the people of Los Angeles."

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