



NEWS FROM

CITY CONTROLLER LAURA CHICK

City Hall East, Room 300, 200 N. Main St., Los Angeles, CA 90012

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CHICK CITES CITY OF LA ON \$5 MILLION ON REPLACING LIGHTBULBS

Los Angeles – After 12 years the City's in-house conservation program has spent nearly \$7 million predominantly changing light bulbs in a fraction of municipal buildings an audit by City Controller Laura Chick has found.

“My audit found that no one City department or agency has any oversight and accountability for coordinating the energy conservation efforts inside our own city government,” said Chick.

Since 1996 the City has spent \$5 million of \$7 million to replace light bulbs in 102 out of 958 City facilities. Piper-Tech was more extensively retrofitted, but proved to take too long in achieving cost recovery.

As the second largest City in America, Los Angeles owns over 1,000 buildings comprised of police and fire stations, libraries, office buildings, recreation facilities and senior centers using over \$27 million in electricity a year.

In 1996, the City Council created the Energy Conservation Program managed by the General Services Department. The Convention Center, Airport, Water and Power and Port all have their own energy conservation efforts they are pursuing, while Recreation and Parks is creating its own plan.

“The crux of the problem does not lie with the General Services Department, as it has not been given the resources nor the mandate to effectively manage our energy programs. Reducing energy usage in City buildings has never been included in the greening LA priorities set by our elected leadership,” said Chick.

“While General Services was required to report quarterly to the City Council on its energy conservation efforts, only one status report has been given in the last seven years. Further, there are no tracking measures in place to be able to clearly report to the public if these dollars were well spent and that this is the best we can be doing. In fact, energy usage and costs have actually increased in nine out of the ten buildings we surveyed that had been retrofitted with new light bulbs,” said Chick.

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“It’s rather astounding that LADWP, which provides expert technical and financial advice for all its retail customers, isn’t in lock step with General Services and the rest of the City advising and guiding. Instead, their only role has been to watch that their money is paid back, and that the City is charged between 4.52% and 6.18% interest.”

“Clearly, this program needs a complete overhaul. The Mayor and City Council need to decide if they want to make energy conservation a priority as part of our greening LA efforts,” concluded Chick.

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