Los Angeles Department of Water & Power General Manager David Wright Speaks at VICA's Leaders Forum

"We need to maintain competitive rates while remaining financially stable. There is no need to have us if the private sector can do it cheaper."

- General Manager of the Los Angeles Department of Water & Power David Wright during today's Leaders Forum.

This morning, VICA members enjoyed breakfast with Los Angeles Department of Water and Power General Manager David Wright. Wright provides leadership for the utility in providing reliable and competitively priced water and electricity while continuing to maintain and implement environmentally conscious policies and priorities. He discussed the importance of providing excellent customer service and resolving issues with over-billing, a problem the utility company has been experiencing over the last few years. "Customers should be the center of any organization," said Wright. Since beginning his role, he has worked on lowering rates and delivering reliable service to LADWP customers. Thank you to the presenting sponsors for the event, The Garland, Englander Knabe & Allen and the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California.

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Join more than 200 civic and business leaders for the region's premier advocacy trip to the nation's capitol. Attendees will meet with members of Congress and senior Administration officials on priorities important to Southern California.

**Early Bird Registration Fee:** $750 (Before April 21)

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For an additional $400, registrants will receive a one-stop Southwest Airlines roundtrip flight.

Send a letter to your legislators opposing AB 199 here.
Hot Issues

Transportation
The DMV has recently proposed new regulations for driverless cars, which will prepare for the move from testing to commercialization. It is estimated that about 3,000 people die on California roads every year, and self-driving cars could eliminate the human error that results in 90 percent of crashes.

Education
California will soon release the California School Dashboard, which will allow parents to compare their child's school with other schools. Viewers will be able to search for a school and be presented with an equity report that includes how a school performed on standardized tests, the progress of English-language learners, suspension rates, and graduation rates.

Environment
The Trump administration and California are headed towards increased tensions after President Trump directed the Environmental Protection Agency to put off aggressive vehicle fuel economy targets. Legal filing by the state claims that the weakening or delay of national standards will result in increased harms to the country's natural resources, economy, and people.

Governor Brown wants to extend the cap-and-trade program, which requires companies to buy permits to release greenhouse gas emissions. The extension is “necessary to meet...”

Committee Reports

Government Affairs Committee (03/15)
Hosted by Providence Tarzana Medical Center
- Somjita Mitra, Senior Economist at the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation (LAEDC) presented a summary of their recent report on Los Angeles’ economic forecast and outlook compared to other counties in California.
- The Committee recommended to support AB 279, which would address issues with minimum wage for developmental support service providers.
- The Committee recommended to oppose a bill which would require warning labels on all food and beverages containing food dyes, including on restaurant menus (SB 504) and to oppose a bill requiring that bottle caps on beverage containers were connected to the bottle (AB 319).
- The Committee recommended to oppose a proposal to extend provisional drivers licenses from age 18 to 21 (AB 63).
- Finally, the Committee recommended to support a bill which would make changes to Prop 47, by allowing law enforcement to aggregate the values of multiple thefts and apply stiffer penalties.

Transportation Committee (03/14)
Hosted by The Garland
- John Popoch, Deputy Chief of Staff to City Councilman Bob Blumenfield, presented a summary of the Los Angeles Metropolitan Transportation Authority’s (LA Metro) early 2017 budget, which highlights the organization’s continued commitment to the region’s transportation needs.
- The Committee recommended to support a bill which would make changes to Prop 47, by allowing law enforcement to aggregate the values of multiple thefts and apply stiffer penalties.

VICA Welcomes New Legislative Affairs Manager

David M. González will be serving as a VICA Legislative Affairs Manager overseeing the transportation, education, and aviation policy committees. Previously, David served as Education Deputy to LAUSD Board Member Mónica Ratliff for four years. In that capacity, he analyzed a variety of educational programs and developed policy recommendations to improve academic achievement throughout LAUSD. He also collaborated with school leaders, parents, and community members in the San Fernando Valley to foster greater public participation in education policy issues. David is excited to work with VICA members to advocate for public policies that increase economic opportunity and improve the quality of life throughout the Valley.

An LAUSD graduate, David earned his bachelor's degree in Asian and Middle Eastern Studies from Dartmouth College and studied abroad in the People’s Republic of China. David is fluent in Spanish and conversational in Mandarin Chinese. He is currently a Riordan Leadership Institute Fellow and member of the Southern California Leadership Network at the L.A. Area Chamber of Commerce.
The Legislative Analyst’s Office found that the price of allowances could rise to $50 over several years from its current price of less than $14.

State lawmakers are targeting a legal exception under which large projects can expedite their projects by gathering signatures for a ballot measure, and then have their projects approved by the city council. While praised by environmentalists, CEQA is often criticized for being burdensome to development.

Naresh Amatya, Acting Director of Transportation Planning for the Southern California Association of Governments, gave a presentation on the Regional Transportation Plan.

Sylvia Novoa, Public Affairs Officer for Metrolink, gave an update on the planned upgrades for the Van Nuys Station.

The Committee recommended to oppose AB 179, which would establish specific qualifications for 7 of the 11 voting members of the California Transportation Commission and create an Environmental Justice Advisory Committee.

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ABOUT VICA
Presenting the business perspective on behalf of employers in the San Fernando Valley cities of Los Angeles, Burbank, Glendale, Calabasas, Hidden Hills, San Fernando and Santa Clarita.

Read more about VICA at vica.com.

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