

**Los Angeles Equine Advisory Committee**  
**DWP notes / Meeting Minutes July 12, 2010**

**Issues raised by the Equestrian Advisory Committee and 50 stakeholders at their July 12, 2010 meeting** --Marty Adams provided a presentation on DWP water issues at this meeting

The issues raised fell into several categories: 1. Urgent needs 2. Economic impacts 3. Allotment amounts 4. Perception of DWP

Urgent needs – animal welfare, personal and economic hardship

All livestock owners and agricultural zoned lots should get discounted water rates; across the board rate change/rate relief for livestock owners is needed

Separate the livestock amendment from other water ordinance amendments, particularly any rate amendments, to enable livestock allotments and rate relief to amendments to move forward without delay

Horse boarding facilities have unique set of problems:

- Can't water arenas to comply with Building and Safety rules; \$4K monthly water bill; one owner has 3 acres and cares for 3 more acres
- Customers are cutting back on other uses to save water and money for their horses
- Increase in dust due to lack of watering has negative impact and increases costs
- Bathing of horses is a necessity that requires larger water allotments than for only internal consumption
- Boarding facilities will be driven out of business
- \*\* there is an urgency to get issues addressed and action taken by DWP soon driven by the pending heat waves of August and September potential loss of equine-related jobs if boarding facilities are forced to go out of business

Allow residential re-claimed water use for horse properties

Many people have experienced a 100% increase in their water bills

Recent wildfires in the area impacted horse properties due to the dust and ash exacerbating existing dry conditions

Dale Gibson and the northeast valley horse community invites DWP General Manager to visit some of their properties in person, including boarding stables, to see first hand the issues raised at this meeting and the urgency and need for immediate action on the part of DWP to address these issues.

Economic Impacts

Horse-related businesses generate nearly \$900 million in revenue annually in the City of Los Angeles

Are there Federal fines for not using reclaimed water?

A business plan for water rate impacts on horse properties should be developed.

K-zone overlay rate reductions

### Allotment amounts and issues

Explain water allotments for residential customers

An increase in the allotment of 1 HCF (748 gallons) per month per animal is not sufficient to meet the demands of a large horse

15% allotment cuts counteracted any previously proposed livestock additional allotments

5-animal limit is not realistic

1.5 HCF additional allotment per animal more accurately reflects need than 1 HCF

There are so many unlicensed animals, including horses, in the City that using ownership records for registering with DWP for additional livestock water allotments won't work. There are only 2500 horses registered in the City but there are an estimated 25,000 horses in the City that are not registered.

### Perception of DWP

\*\* The equine community in the northeast Valley is not getting its concerns addressed, questions answered and action taken by DWP; there is frustration with the lack of decisive action by DWP; what do livestock owners have to do to get action now?

There is no faith in the DWP to get the livestock allotment increased

Dale Gibson, Equine Advisory board member and past President of the Foothill Trails Neighborhood Council said that 2 years ago he spoke to then-general manager of DWP, David Nahai regarding supplying re-claimed water for Mr. Gibson's ranch. Mr. Nahai told Tom Erb, DWP head of water resources, to devise a plan to enable Mr. Gibson's request. However, the plan called for DWP to charge at 85% for the water after the costs incurred by the customer. This made the plan non-viable.