



July 21, 2015

HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
City of Long Beach
California**RECOMMENDATION:**

Declare Ordinance amending Long Beach Municipal Code Section 15.40.100(A), relating to meter tests, read the first time and laid over to the next regular meeting of the City Council for final reading. (Citywide)

DISCUSSION

The Long Beach Gas and Oil Department (LBGO) is responsible for the ongoing accuracy of its 150,000 natural gas meters in service. Current Long Beach Municipal Code Section 15.40.100(A) (Code) requires that whenever a meter is removed from service, the meter must be tested for measurement accuracy, even if there has never been any previous indication of inaccuracy.

The meter testing process is time and labor intensive, costly, and very rarely indicates faulty measurement of any significance. It is believed that customers would receive more value by reassigning staff currently performing meter testing services to providing other higher-priority customer services. Furthermore, given the extremely high volume of meters (well over 25,000 meters) that will be permanently removed from the field during the upcoming deployment of the Advanced Metering Infrastructure project, significant costs would be incurred if each of these meters is required to be tested. It is believed that testing of these old meters would provide very minimal, if any, customer benefits.

As a result, staff recommends amending the Code to adopt utility industry standards with regard to meter testing, which will result in random sampling of meters retired from service, rather than testing of every such meter. Using historical information of meter testing results, LBGO is able to determine which meters are best suited to be tested due to the meter type and specific operational conditions. To accommodate this change, it is recommended that Long Beach Municipal Code Section 15.40.100(A) be amended as recommended.

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This matter was reviewed by Deputy City Attorney Richard Anthony and by Budget Management Officer Victoria Bell on June 24, 2015.

TIMING CONSIDERATIONS

Approval of this recommendation is requested expeditiously to avoid delays and remain within project timelines.

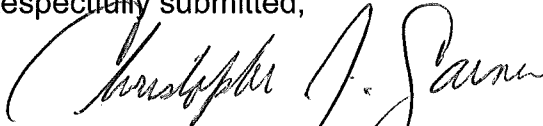
FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact or local job impact associated with this recommendation.

SUGGESTED ACTION:

Approve recommendation.

Respectfully submitted,



CHRISTOPHER J. GARNER
DIRECTOR OF LONG BEACH GAS AND OIL

APPROVED:



PATRICK H. WEST
CITY MANAGER

OFFICE OF THE CITY ATTORNEY
CHARLES PARKIN, City Attorney
333 West Ocean Boulevard, 11th Floor
Long Beach, CA 90802-4664

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ORDINANCE NO.

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF LONG BEACH AMENDING THE LONG BEACH
MUNICIPAL CODE BY AMENDING SUBSECTION
15.40.100.A RELATING TO METER TESTS

The City Council of the City of Long Beach ordains as follows:

Section 1. Subsection 15.40.100.A of the Long Beach Municipal Code is amended to read as follows:

15.40.100 Meter tests.

A. All meters shall be tested prior to their installation into service, and no meter shall be placed in service or be allowed to remain in service following any test which has an error in excess of two (2) per centum under conditions of normal operation. Meters removed from service shall be randomly tested at the reasonable discretion of the gas utility.

Section 2. The City Clerk shall certify to the passage of this ordinance by the City Council and cause it to be posted in three (3) conspicuous places in the City of Long Beach, and it shall take effect on the thirty-first (31st) day after it is approved by the Mayor.

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OFFICE OF THE CITY ATTORNEY
CHARLES PARKIN, City Attorney
333 West Ocean Boulevard, 11th Floor
Long Beach, CA 90802-4664

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I hereby certify that the foregoing ordinance was adopted by the City Council of the City of Long Beach at its meeting of _____, 2015, by the following vote:

Ayes: Councilmembers: _____

Noes: Councilmembers: _____

Absent: Councilmembers: _____

City Clerk

Approved: _____
(Date)

Mayor