

July 6, 2010

To the Mayor and City Council, my name is Charles H. Parks. My address has been filed with the City Clerk.

I am here to urge you to abandon the idea of merging the Water Department with the Oil and Gas Department. The Water Department operates effectively since being established by the City Charter. The Water Department employee's possess skills and training unlike any other department that allow them to carry out activities unique to its operations. Any other modification will destroy a highly effective organization.

As you are aware the City Charter causes the Water Commissioners to establish policies and procedures for the Water Department. This process is carried out by the General Manager in an autonomous manner and as a team player with other city departments, such as the fire department in maintaining its Class I status.

The Water Department has always sustained an enviable reputation for making good decisions in hiring good personnel to fill critical positions, and eliminating positions and practices which do not deliver excellent water supplies to the citizens of Long Beach in a cost effective manner. If the Water Department were not able to operate in its effective manner, it would have been difficult to conduct the following;

- Construct a new state of the art water treatment plant on existing property, and gave the excess land to the City to construct a multi-million dollar state of the art public safety communication center.
- Gave the City over 100 acres of land to construct the Town Center shopping center, along with two other parcels of land parallel to the I-405 Freeway for future City development.
- Fill a vacancy for a top water quality expert. As a result more than \$87,000 dollars in savings was realized within the first three months of his employment. And over a projected period of time, hundreds of thousands of dollars in savings are being realized.
- The Water Quality Expert invented the Long Beach Project for water desalination and the City received world wide recognition.
- The main office building was seismically retrofitted in a cost effective manner and seamless personnel work activities were conducted.

This has all been done while acting in the best interest of the City and operating within the realm of the Long Beach City Charter. I pray that the Mayor and City Council delay any intention of changing the City Charter where the Water Department is concerned. Thank you.