

WHEREAS, Aram Benyamin, Chief Operating Officer of the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP), is retiring January 1, 2025, after 44 years of a remarkable and impactful career in the public utility sector, including over 36 years at the largest municipal water and power utility in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Benyamin began his LADWP service on December 30, 1980, as a Civil Engineering Assistant in the Power System and progressively advanced in his career promoting to Structural Engineering Associate in 1989, Materials Testing Engineer in 1991, Power Engineering Manager in 2003, and as Senior Assistant General Manager - Power System in 2008; and

WHEREAS, throughout his long illustrious career at LADWP, Mr. Benyamin worked in many divisions including the Power Construction and Maintenance Division, the Power Supply Operations Division, the Power Executive Office, and the Office of the Chief Operating Officer; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Benyamin, as an engineering management and technology innovator, led efforts to implement earned value management as an LADWP process, measuring project performance and progress while considering the schedule, cost, and technical factors so that managers can forecast future performance and make more informed decisions that benefit the ratepayers; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Benyamin joined the Joint Safety Training Institute (JSTI) in 2008, playing a critical role in developing many programs that continue today including the enduring partnership with Los Angeles Trade Technical College to enhance training opportunities; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Benyamin's legacy of commitment to employee development is reflected in championing the New Engineering Associate Training program as well as the Department's Tuition Reimbursement Program; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Benyamin's commitment to employee safety is reflected in his work to successfully implement SafeStart and Safety by Design at LADWP, and his strong support and advocacy of the Worker Safety Group tour program; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Benyamin became Colorado Springs Utility's (CSU) General Manager of Energy Supply and later, Chief Executive Officer, managing CSU's Integrated Resource Plan, accelerating resiliency and conservation efforts, and directing innovative business solutions to leverage fiber, technology, and modernization; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Benyamin returned to LADWP in 2022 as Chief Operating Officer and in that role led to several LADWP initiatives to help enhance the customer experience, strengthen emergency response coordination, promote electric vehicle adoption,

modernize our distribution system, and adopt green hydrogen as a valuable source of clean energy; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Benjamin helped strengthen the Information Technology Services for the Department beginning with hiring the Chief Information Security Officer and Interim Chief Information Technology Officer. He also demonstrated support for the Enterprise Resource Planning project and set forth a technology forward vision that led to many innovative initiatives he shepherded in record time. Furthermore, Mr. Benjamin helped strengthen LADWP's cybersecurity posture and initiated the Department's Artificial Intelligence journey which will continue to mature; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Benjamin created the Advanced Technologies Infrastructure Division to implement Advanced Metering Infrastructure and Distributed Automation to modernize our infrastructure while enhancing the customer experience; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Benjamin led the John Ferraro Building Modernization Project with the goal of maximizing the sustainability features of the architectural landmark while further supporting the changing needs of the LADWP workforce, which led to the development of the Work Hub Project; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Benjamin is an unwavering advocate of the Joint Labor Management process, and is a tireless supporter of the Utility Pre-Craft Trainee program co-administered by LADWP with the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 18; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Benjamin has been a driving force behind the strategic direction of the Department, and as a result of his leadership, commitment, and tireless dedication - has left an indelible mark, creating a legacy that continues to influence and shape its operations; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Benjamin has strongly defended and strengthened the Department's vertically integrated structure, ensuring LADWP owns generation, transmission, and distribution assets, which has allowed the Department to continue to provide clean, affordable, reliable, resilient, and equitable power for all residents of the City of Los Angeles, despite continued climate, regulatory, and technological challenges facing the utility industry.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Water and Power Commissioners (Board) on behalf of the management of this Department, its employees, and the citizens of the City of Los Angeles, thank and commend Mr. Benjamin for his service as a highly dedicated, motivated, inspirational, and employee-oriented manager who embodied LADWP's values of professional excellence, and extends its best wishes to him for a productive, healthy, and long retirement.

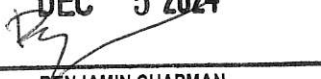
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board extends every best wish to Mr. Benjamin for a prosperous, long, enjoyable, and well-deserved retirement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary, Assistant Secretary, or Acting Secretary of the Board be instructed to place this Resolution in the minutes of this Board as a permanent record and that an engrossed copy of this Resolution be presented to Mr. Benjamin in recognition of his dedicated and faithful service to the people of LADWP.

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by the Board of Water and Power Commissioners of the City of Los Angeles at its meeting held on

Secretary

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY
HYDEE FELDSTEIN SOTO, CITY ATTORNEY

DEC 5 2024
BY 
BENJAMIN CHAPMAN
GENERAL COUNSEL