

# Ordinance Fact Sheet

**TO:** CITY COUNCIL

**DATED:** MAY 1, 2006

**FROM:** CITY ATTORNEY

**SUBJECT:** AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF PASADENA IMPLEMENTING VARIOUS CHANGES TO THE WATER AND POWER DEPARTMENT LOW INCOME ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR ELECTRICAL SERVICE CUSTOMERS

**TITLE OF PROPOSED ORDINANCE:**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF PASADENA IMPLEMENTING VARIOUS CHANGES TO THE WATER AND POWER DEPARTMENT LOW INCOME ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR ELECTRICAL SERVICE CUSTOMERS.

**PURPOSE OF ORDINANCE:**

The City Council directed the preparation of this ordinance on March 6, 2006. The purpose of this ordinance is to replace existing Utility Assistance and Lifeline Programs with new programs which provide increased customer participation and improved benefits for low income and/or disabled electrical service customers.

**REASONS WHY LEGISLATION IS NEEDED:**

The present utility low income assistance programs are set forth in sections 13.04.040(F)(1) and 13.04.045(F)(1) of the Pasadena Municipal Code. Code amendment is necessary to replace these sections with the new programs. Since the new programs allow a credit against otherwise applicable rates for electrical service, section 1403 of the City Charter also requires that they be prescribed by ordinance.

MEETING OF 05/01/2006

AGENDA ITEM NO. 11.A.2.

**PROGRAMS, DEPARTMENTS OR GROUPS AFFECTED:**

Low income, senior and/or disabled electrical service customers may be eligible for the reduced electricity bills provided in this proposed ordinance.

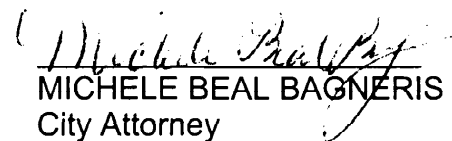
**FISCAL IMPACT:**

This fiscal impact will depend upon how many eligible customers sign up for the revised programs. The Water and Power Department estimates that the cost of low income programs will increase from \$132,000 annually to approximately \$570,000 to \$1,020,000 annually under the revised programs. This cost will continue to be funded from public benefit charge revenues and may result in reduced funding for some other programs paid for through the public benefit charge.


**POLICY CHANGES:**

There are no policy changes implicated by the proposed ordinance.

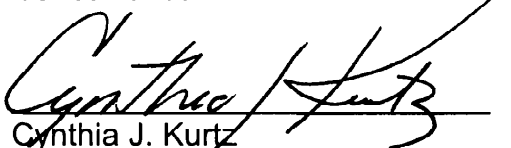
Respectfully submitted,

  
MICHELE BEAL BAGNERIS  
City Attorney

Prepared by:

  
Scott D. Rasmussen  
Assistant City Attorney

Concurrence:

  
Cynthia J. Kurtz  
City Manager

Introduced by \_\_\_\_\_

ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF PASADENA IMPLEMENTING  
VARIOUS CHANGES TO THE WATER AND POWER DEPARTMENT  
LOW INCOME ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The People of the City of Pasadena ordain as follows:

SECTION 1. Subsection F.1 of Section 13.04.040 of the Pasadena  
Municipal Code is hereby amended to read:

“F.1.a. Electric Utility Assistance Program (Basic Benefit). Any customer taking service under this schedule shall be eligible for a five dollar monthly credit against their electricity bills if the gross annual income per calendar year of the household in which such customer resides qualifies for rental assistance under the City’s low income rental assistance program. The department shall periodically certify that the customer is eligible for this Basic Benefit.

F.1.b Electric Utility Assistance Program (Pasadena Cares). Any customer eligible for the Basic Benefit shall also be eligible for a credit equal to the public benefit charge provided the customer is either: a) sixty-two years of age or older; or b) meets the criteria of disability as established by the Social Security Administration’s Supplemental Income Program for the Aged, Blind and Disabled under Title XVI of the Social Security Act, as amended. The department shall periodically certify that the customer is eligible for this Pasadena Cares benefit.

F.1.c Electric Utility Assistance Program (Medical). Any customer taking service under this schedule with doctor-prescribed life support equipment requiring electric utility service from the department in order to operate shall be eligible for the Basic Benefit regardless of income. To qualify, a customer must submit satisfactory proof to the department that a full-time occupant of the customer's premises requires a life support device. A qualifying life support device may be any one of the following or such other equipment as the department may deem eligible: aerosol tents, apnea monitors, compressors or concentrators, electrostatic or ultrasonic nebulizers, electric nerve stimulators, hemodialysis machines, kidney dialysis machines, intermittent positive pressure breathing machines, iron lungs, pressure pads, pressure pumps, respirators, or suction machines."

SECTION 2. Subsection F.1 of Section 13.04.045 of the Pasadena Municipal Code is hereby amended to read:

"F.1.a. Electric Utility Assistance Program (Basic Benefit). Any customer taking service under this schedule shall be eligible for a five dollar monthly credit against their electricity bills if the gross annual income per calendar year of the household in which such customer resides qualifies for rental assistance under the City's low income rental assistance program. The department shall periodically certify that the customer is eligible for this Basic Benefit.

F.1.b Electric Utility Assistance Program (Pasadena Cares). Any customer eligible for the Basic Benefit shall also be eligible for a credit equal to the public benefit charge provided the customer is either: a) sixty-two years of

age or older; or b) meets the criteria of disability as established by the Social Security Administration's Supplemental Income Program for the Aged, Blind and Disabled under Title XVI of the Social Security Act, as amended. The department shall periodically certify that the customer is eligible for this Pasadena Cares benefit.

F.1.c Electric Utility Assistance Program (Medical). Any customer taking service under this schedule with doctor-prescribed life support equipment requiring electric utility service from the department in order to operate shall be eligible for the Basic Benefit regardless of income. To qualify, a customer must submit satisfactory proof to the department that a full-time occupant of the customer's premises requires a life support device. A qualifying life support device may be any one of the following or such other equipment as the department may deem eligible: aerosol tents, apnea monitors, compressors or concentrators, electrostatic or ultrasonic nebulizers, electric nerve stimulators, hemodialysis machines, kidney dialysis machines, intermittent positive pressure breathing machines, iron lungs, pressure pads, pressure pumps, respirators, or suction machines."

SECTION 3. This ordinance shall take effect upon its publication or to bills rendered on and after the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2006, whichever occurs later.

Signed and approved \_\_\_\_\_ day of  
\_\_\_\_\_, 2006.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Bill Bogaard  
Mayor of the City of Pasadena

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing ordinance was adopted by the City  
Council at its meeting held \_\_\_\_\_, by the  
following vote:

AYES:


NOYES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jane L. Rodriguez, CMC  
City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Scott D. Rasmussen  
Assistant City Attorney