



**Office of the Mayor
City of Los Angeles**

ANTONIO R. VILLARAIGOSA

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MAYOR VILLARAIGOSA COMMENDS CITY COUNCIL FOR CONFIRMING NEW GENERAL MANAGER OF DWP

With official Council approval, the Mayor and H. David Nahai will set DWP on a path to increasing renewable energy use and reducing LA's carbon footprint

LOS ANGELES – Continuing his effort to make the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (DWP) the cleanest and greenest energy provider in the nation, Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa today commended the City Council for confirming H. David Nahai as the new general manager of the country's largest municipal utility.

"David Nahai is the right man at the right time to make our Department of Water and Power the leader in renewable energy and green power," Mayor Villaraigosa said. "David has the background and commitment to modernize the DWP, protect ratepayers and preserve our environment and natural resources."

On October 29, Mayor Villaraigosa nominated David Nahai to take the helm of the DWP and lead an unprecedented effort to modernize the utility and reduce its contribution to global warming.

With unified City Council support, Nahai is charged with developing and implementing new, innovative and bold policies centered on promoting renewable energy sources, increasing sustainability, ensuring the reliability of safe water and electricity, and putting in place a fiscal accountability program to protect ratepayers.

With a combination of experience and vision, Nahai has a proven track record of results in both the private and public sectors.

Nahai began his career in the private sector close to three decades ago working at some of the nation's largest and most respected law firms. For twenty of those years, he served as a partner or president, allowing him to hone his legal and financial skills, and earning him a reputation as a tough fiscal manager.

He has focused his legal practice on the areas of real estate, corporate and environmental law.

In September 2005, Nahai was appointed to the LA DWP Board of Commissioners by Mayor Villaraigosa and elected both Vice President and President by his fellow commissioners.

As President, Nahai led the effort to increase the department's use of renewable energy sources. Since 2005, LA DWP has nearly tripled its renewable energy portfolio going from three percent to eight percent and the department is on track to reach its ultimate goals of 20 percent by 2010 and 35 percent by 2020.

Because LA DWP is accountable for 98 percent of the City's municipal contribution to greenhouse gases, the City of Los Angeles has an incredible opportunity to significantly reduce its contribution to global warming by increasing its supply of renewable energy sources.

Nahai also led the Board of Commissioners to audit six departments (including the departments of procurement, custodial, security, and equal employment opportunity) within the agency that resulted in the implementation of new and modern management practices.

An overhaul of the LA DWP's contracting practices is also underway to ensure no contract is rewarded unless it is in the best interest of the ratepayers.

Nahai and the Board of Commissioners have also begun to cut wasteful spending from the department's budget. Hearings were held to cut spending from last year's budget and redirect money this year to fund the top priority of modernization.

Nahai is widely recognized throughout California as a leading expert in water issues. With over ten years on the state's Regional Water Quality Control Board, Nahai has been charged with safeguarding the quality of surface, ground and coastal waters while covering a jurisdiction of 11 million residents in Los Angeles and Ventura Counties.

At the Water Quality Board, Nahai served under both Democratic and Republican administrations first being appointed by Governor Pete Wilson, then re-appointed by both Governor Gray Davis and Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger. Nahai was elected by his peers to an unprecedented four terms as Chairman of the Board in 1999, 2000, 2001 and 2006.

Nahai has been the recipient of numerous awards and commendations. In 2003, he received the Environmental Champion Award from the Los Angeles League of Conservation Voters and was twice honored for community leadership.

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