

RESOLUTION NO. 6614(23)

**A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Lompoc,
County of Santa Barbara, State of California,
Amending the Electric Rate Assistance Program**

WHEREAS, Public Utilities Code section 385 requires publicly owned utilities to establish a usage-based charge to fund a number of investments by the utility including services for low-income electricity customers; and

WHEREAS, the City of Lompoc (City) has offered the Electric Rate Assistance (ERA) program to its residential electric utility customers since 1997, offering low-income electric utility customers a monthly credit of up to \$9 towards electricity charges; and

WHEREAS, increasing the amount of maximum monthly billing credits towards electricity charges for program participants from \$9 to \$18 would enhance assistance to low-income community members; and

WHEREAS, extending the applicant recertification period from one year to two years would streamline the recertification process; and

WHEREAS, the current requirement of three-month electric history usage verification for mobile home residents participating in the ERA program is no longer needed; and

WHEREAS, requiring submission of a zero-income affidavit from program applicants with no source of income further ensures program participants with no current source of income are qualified to participate in the ERA program.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LOMPOC, CALIFORNIA, DOES HEREBY RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. The City of Lompoc’s Electric Rate Assistance Program is hereby amended and restated as set forth in Exhibit A attached hereto and incorporated herein.

SECTION 2. Effective Date. This Resolution is effective on the day of its adoption. The ERA Program changes are effective January 1, 2024.

The foregoing Resolution was proposed by Council Member _____, seconded by Council Member _____, and was duly passed and adopted by the Council of the City of Lompoc at its regular meeting on November 7, 2023, by the following vote:

AYES: Council Member(s):

NOES: Council Member(s):

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ABSENT: Council Member(s):

Jenelle Osborne, Mayor
City of Lompoc

ATTEST:

Stacey Haddon, City Clerk
City of Lompoc

Attachment: Exhibit A

EXHIBIT A

Electric Rate Assistance Program

Program Objective: It is the objective of the Electric Rate Assistance Program (ERA) to grant credit against City of Lompoc electric bills to qualified low-income customers.

Program Operation:

All low-income customers of electric power provided by the City of Lompoc who meet the criteria are eligible for assistance.

I. Definitions

1. "Customer" is defined as the individual(s) whose name(s) is (are) listed on the City of Lompoc Utility bill, or mobile home resident(s) who have verified they pay utilities to the mobile home park in which they reside.
2. "Low-income" is defined as 80% of gross area household median income as established by the State of California Department of Housing and Community Development's (HCD) Income Limit for Santa Barbara County, as that definition may from time to time change.

II. Eligibility Criteria

1. To participate in the ERA program, electricity customers must submit a completed application, along with proof of current annual or monthly income for all household members over the age of 18.
2. Customers with no income may complete and submit a zero-income affidavit form to document their income status.
3. All Customers must meet the low-income definition to qualify for electric rate assistance.
4. Utility Conservation staff will determine whether an applicant meets the eligibility criteria.
5. The eligibility determination may be appealed to the Utility Director whose decision is final.

III. Program Credit

1. Eligible customers will receive the following:
 - a. Rate payers will receive a credit on their utility statement towards their electric usage each month. That credit will equal \$18 or their full electric usage for that month, whichever is less.
 - b. Mobile home residents will receive a reimbursement check equal to \$18 or their full electric usage for that month, whichever is less.

IV. Recertification

1. All eligible customers must recertify their eligibility once every 2 years to continue to qualify for the program.
2. Eligible customers must inform the Utility Conservation Division if their income exceeds the allowable limit at any time during their membership in the program.

V. Revocation

1. Eligibility in the ERA program will be revoked when:
 - a. Two years has elapsed after eligibility is established without recertification; or
 - b. It has been determined that a customer is no longer eligible; or
 - c. It has been determined that a customer submitted falsified information; or
 - d. The program funding is depleted.