Police Report

Contact CHRISTOPHER CADELAGO

Efficiency still in question

BY CHRISTOPHER CADELAGO
christopher.cadelago@latimes.com

CITY HALL — Burbank Water and Power officials are again forging ahead with an ordinance requiring homes and commercial buildings to have low-flow plumbing fixtures and appliances as a condition of resale. And again, Realtors are strongly opposing the measure.

The City Council is scheduled to review the ordinance March 2 after months of meetings between utility officials and representatives of the Burbank Assn. of Realtors in which the sides failed to strike a compromise.

It also comes as all multi-family residential, commercial and industrial water customers face steep fines if they fail to certify that certain water-saving fixtures have been installed effective June 30.

Burbank Water and Power reserves the right to inspect all properties for compliance and impose a surcharge on water bills for 12 months. If noncompliance continued, the surcharge would double, according to a notice sent to customers Jan 20.

City executives maintained that the installation of low-flow toilets, urinals, faucets and shower heads at the point of sale would save 7.5 million gallons in the first year alone, said Jeanette Meyer, the utility's marketing manager.

Accumulated water savings over five years could top 112 million gallons, according to city estimates.

Councilman Dave Golonski, a proponent of the measure, noted that agents would need to give written notice of the requirements to the buyer and seller only before the transfer of property title. The amended proposal places compliance in the seller's hands before the close of escrow, he said.

"I think it's something that we need to do," said Golonski, pointing to the fact that Los Angeles has had similar measures in place for 21 years. "And I don't really think it's a burden on the Realtors."

But legislative representatives for the Burbank Assn. of Realtors strongly disagreed, arguing that now is not the time to impose greater financial burdens, particularly when potential savings have been "greatly inflated."

"It's a green issue. It's a marketing issue. It's the right issue — we all agree that we need to conserve water," said Darin Chase, of Chase Company Real Estate. "But I see no reason why something like this can't be put off until one years time."

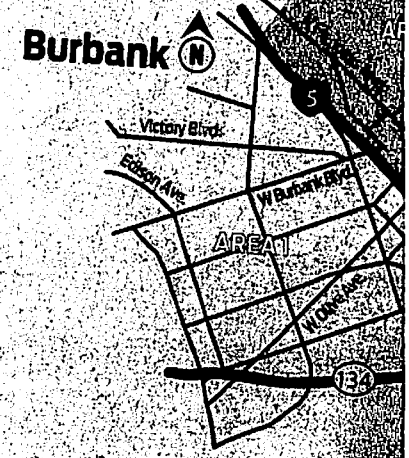
Chase chalked up much of the proposal push to officials being "a little out of touch" with financial realities.

"I think in the end people forget that they work for us, that they don't always have the answer," Chase said.

Allison Salibian, legislative committee chairwoman for the association, said agent surveys show 80% to 95% of homes have been retrofitted. It's the 5% to 10% of homeowners who haven't made the switch that would be burdened by the costs, she said.

"Our data shows that it will take 70 years for point-of-sale to be effective," Salibian said. "Selling a home is not a money-generating situation these days. It's a losing situation for most property owners."

The following were taken from daily booking reports from the Burbank Police Department.



AREA 1

• Buena Vista Street and Burbank Boulevard
Officers arrested Stephen Krikorian, 23, of Burbank, after he allegedly assaulted a 21-year-old man with a bottle outside a 7-Eleven market. Krikorian and an unknown man approached the victim and claimed gang affiliation before the attack, police said. The other suspect is described as a Latino man between the ages of 20 and 23, 5 feet 10 inches tall and 150 pounds.

• 2400 block of West Victory Boulevard
Police arrested a 50-year-old former pizza-parlor employee after he allegedly tried to hit his former boss with a chair at Round Table Pizza. Hovik Migoyan, of Burbank, allegedly returned to the restaurant the day after he was fired and attacked his former boss. He was booked on assault with a deadly weapon charges.

• Chandler Boulevard and Buena Vista Street
A 35-year-old Burbank man was riding his bike along the Chandler Bikeway when a man jumped out of the bushes and robbed him of his bicycle at knifepoint, police said. The victim said he feared for his safety so he turned over the bike. The suspect, who is described as 5 feet 10 inches tall and 180 pounds, then rode westbound on the Chandler Bikeway.

North Hollywood Way and West Verdugo Avenue
A 91-year-old Burbank woman was approached by a woman who told her she had struck another vehicle. The victim looked at the vehicle and noticed two small dents. The driver got out and told the victim she needed to pay

Briefly in Public Safety

Woman arrested on assault charges

A Los Angeles woman charged with assault with a deadly weapon in connection with a robbery this weekend is scheduled to be arraigned

Ladonni Young, 38, was arrested Saturday for allegedly assaulting a security guard with a razor after trying to steal mini mice from Vallarta Supermarket in Burbank, Police Sgt. Robert Quesada

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