On Wednesday, January 19, 2011, one or more LADWP employees removed the water meter, pipe union connections, and inserted a tamper-proof plug on the City water supply end, on private property, without knocking on the door, or ringing the doorbell to notify the owner and residence inhabitant(s) of the property that this water meter and water supply would be disconnected/shutoff.

I called the LADWP West Water yard trouble section, Friday, January 21, 2011 at (213) 367-5665, and Linda Urbina responded to the call. I expressed my dissatisfaction with the manner in which LADWP utility water workers disconnected the main water meter and inserted a tamper-proof plug on the DWP utility water supply end, on private property, without ever knocking on the door, or ringing the doorbell to notify the owner and inhabitants of the property that this water meter would be disconnected.

I also stated that my Mom, Mrs. Esther M. Lofton, a senior citizen lives at this residence too. Cutting off water would be an extreme hardship for anyone and even worse for a senior citizen. It is very wrong that the LADWP cuts off our water, while the LADWP retirement section continues to hold my retirement benefits without cause. It should be a no brainer to anyone with common sense that to deny retirement income, other earned Income belonging to a former employee of the LADWP without cause would have a direct impact on the ability of Michael L. Lofton to make LADWP utility bill payments.

Easement rights of the LADWP (or any other utility) do not give the LADWP complete authority to violate real property rights of any homeowner. The Constitutional, private property rights, and property interests of the owner take precedence over any easement right of the LADWP on privately owned property. The LADWP must notify the owner, the owner's representative, tenants, and/or the inhabitant(s) of a private residence on the day that work is taking place.

How well I know the correct procedure. As a former Senior Electrical Mechanic, one of my duties was to make written formal prior arrangement for an outage at customer stations, other private property for LADWP utility vault maintenance, and/or to accommodate a commercial and industrial property owner's need for an LADWP outage to maintain electrical equipment. Infringing upon the real property rights of any real property owner without notifying or gaining the consent of the owner is a serious matter, so much so, that the of the property owner(s) and property occupying tenants, if violated may result in civil liability to the LADWP and/or the City of Los Angeles.

From January 19, 2011 until February 13, 2012, there was no DWP supplied water at our residence. For our immediate survival, with my Mom's assistance to obtain water from a L.A. City Fire Hydrant, other sources, and/or through the benevolence of our Korean neighbors, we have been able to obtain necessary water for drinking, toilets, bathing, etc.