

## Drought, Power Loss, and Rate Hikes

Across California, electricity from hydropower plants has been cut almost in half over the past several years due to the drought. With less water, less power is generated. For the District, revenue from hydropower sales has decreased by just over 50% since 2019.

The District has decided to make working families pay double for the drought. First households must cut back on their water use or face surcharges due to the drought. But also, the District is jacking up rates to make customers help cover their lost power revenue. There's plenty of water wasters in the state and the district — like the large agriculture companies, and Chevron is the largest single water user in the Bay Area. They should have to pay more instead of just charging working families more money.

## Jackson, Miss: A Disaster by Design

For weeks residents of Jackson, Mississippi have been without clean drinking water. Jackson is the most populous city in the State, and also home to a population that is 82% Black, with 25% living below the poverty line. Many politicians in the state have blamed the flooding and water treatment failure on the excessive rain fall. But that is only half the story.

For years the water treatment plant in Jackson has been in need of significant repairs. But the state government has refused to help fund it. And the facility has been severely understaffed, and basically allowed to function at a bare bones level. It just took one large rainfall to break the system and ruin the water supply.



## Work Increasing Faster Than Staff

Since 2019, the District has only increased the number of full-time positions by about 1.9%. That's barely any new positions. Meanwhile, there are more people in the service area, many new lines, and a lot more work to do. No wonder it seems like the amount of work we are doing is going up ... because it is!

## Congress Unites Against Rail Workers

Republicans and Democrats in Congress can't agree on any anything when it comes to providing working people with things we need. But they sure agree when it comes to helping railroad companies fight against railroad workers if they go on strike.

An estimated 100,000 railroad workers could go on a nationwide strike as early as Friday, September 16, 2022. Workers have many grievances. Over the past three years, the railroad companies have made record profits but workers have not seen a raise. The companies have imposed massive layoffs, firing over 45,000 workers over the past five years, and dumping more work onto fewer workers, who are on call 24/7, often working alone for 80 hours per week.

And now both Republican and Democrats in Congress are working around the clock to strategize ways of sabotaging workers if they go on strike, including imposing a contract settlement. Just another reminder of whose side the politicians are really on.

## Energy Costs Go Up Again

Gasoline prices have finally dropped a little bit, by about 26% since June. Meanwhile, the cost of electricity and natural gas have shot up about 16% since June, and are still climbing. This is the biggest 12-month increase since 1981. So just as we might start to feel a little relief from gas prices, we get hit hard by energy costs just before winter.

*Working people are the majority in society. But the super rich – the bosses of the big corporations and banks – are the ones who call all the shots. This needs to change. Working people do all the work to make society run, and we can organize to overcome our divisions and unite. And when we do, we have enormous power to change things and make a better world.*

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