

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY BOARD AGENDA LETTER



Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Agenda Number:
Prepared on: 9/12/02
Department Name: Public Works
Department No.: 054
Agenda Date: 12/3/02
Placement: Departmental
Estimate Time: 10 Minutes
Continued Item: NO
If Yes, date from: 10/22/02

TO: Board of Directors
Mission Canyon Sewer District (CSA 12)

FROM: Phillip M. Demery, Public Works Department Director
Roger E. Heroux, MPH, Public Health Department Director

STAFF CONTACT: Mark A. Schleich, Deputy Public Works Department Director
Martin J. Wilder, District Manager, Public Works Department (x8755)
Peggy Langle, Environmental Health Director, Public Health Department

SUBJECT: Extension of Tunnel Road Sewer Main in the Mission Canyon Sewer District, First Supervisorial District

Recommendation(s):

That the Board of Directors:

Authorize the district to prepare a study to assess the feasibility of extending a sewer main line in Tunnel Road in the approximate amount of \$17,500.

Alignment with Board Strategic Plan:

The recommendation(s) are primarily aligned with Goal No. 2. A Safe and Healthy Community in Which to Live, Work, and Visit.

Executive Summary and Discussion:

The County of Santa Barbara owns and maintains a sewer collection system serving the Mission Canyon area. The Mission Canyon Sewer District (County Service Area 12) was therefore formed on February 21, 1984 to address a state mandate to remove failing septic systems. A collection system was constructed shortly thereafter. Properties served with sewer collection are in the Service Area of the District. Wastewater from the collection system is conveyed to the City of Santa Barbara's El Estero wastewater treatment plant under a joint powers agreement between the City and County. Properties on the sewer collection system are assessed a sewer service charge of \$276 per year.

Properties within the District but on septic systems are in the Maintenance Area of the District. These properties are generally in the upper areas of the canyon and are less densely populated. The County utilizes Environmental Health Services to track septic system performance of these septic systems. Properties in the Maintenance Areas are assessed a nominal maintenance charge of \$24 per year.

Because many properties in the Maintenance Area have only marginal septic tank performance, several property owners have recently contacted the county to consider a sewer main line extension in Tunnel Road. A cursory review indicates that three alternatives exist in this area depending of the number of properties and streets that could be included. They are: (1) All of Tunnel Road and connecting access roads; (2) Tunnel Road up to and including Holly Road; and (3) A portion of Tunnel Road. Proposals to evaluate the alternatives were submitted by two firms on the Public Works Department Master Services Agreement. Based on qualifications the proposal from Penfield & Smith was selected. The Mission Canyon Sewer District sewer service expansion request has received support from Heal the Ocean, County Environmental Health Services, and the Mission Canyon Association. In addition, all residents that could potentially benefit from the sewer extension were mailed notification letters that the county is considering the study at the hearing on October 22, 2002.

This action requests the Board to authorize the execution of a contract to initiate a feasibility study. Upon approval of this action, which requires a 4/5 vote, the agreement for services would be executed. The resulting report will recommend a final project scope and conceptual design with cost estimates. The report will also provide the necessary information to those included in the final alternative to move ahead with the formation of an assessment district (special assessment zone within CSA 12) as a means to finance the construction. All the necessary steps required prior to district formation such as environmental documentation under CEQA, petition to the board for district formation meeting the requirements of Proposition 218, assessment engineering, and administration would be completely financed by the benefiting homeowners. Costs for the feasibility report are being paid for out of the Public Health Department's septic-to-sewer conversion program funds, which allows for \$300,000 in engineering design and feasibility studies under the workplan approved by the State Water Resources Control Board. Upon project completion, the property owners would be assessed the cost to pay off the bond in addition to an annual sewer bill (currently \$276 per year).

Mandates and Service Levels:

There are no changes to service levels with this action.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Funding for this feasibility study comes from the Public Health Department's septic-to- sewer conversion program. The workplan adopted by the Board of Supervisor's and approved by the State Water Resources Control Board allow for \$300,000 to be used for engineering design and feasibility studies for sewer extension projects. The State Budget Act for Fiscal Year 2000/2001 contained an appropriation of \$2,000,000 for the County of Santa Barbara to provide incentives for homeowners to convert existing onsite sewage disposal systems (septic systems) to the use of sanitary sewers for wastewater disposal. The Public Health Department, working in conjunction with Assembly Member Hannah Beth Jackson's office was successful in acquiring this funding for two specific projects: A Septic System Sanitary Survey Project and a

Septic-to-Sewer Conversion Program. The Board authorized the workplan at a Board of Supervisor's meeting on October 24, 2000.

Upon adoption of this recommendation, a budget revision will be prepared to amend the FY 02/03 adopted budget for the Public Works and Public Health Departments to incorporate this transfer of funds of approximately \$17,500. This will have the affect of increasing the Ocean/Creek Monitoring cost center found on page D-176 of the County's Operating plan from \$328,213 to \$345,664. In addition, the Solis Waste & Utilities' Operation cots center found on page D-304 would increase from \$11,963,841 to \$11,981,292.

There will be no need for additional facilities.

Special Instructions:

Please forward a copy of the certified minute order to the Public Works Department, Solid Waste & Utilities Division, attention Sheila Engellenner (x8750) and to the Public Health Department, Environmental Health Services Director, Peggy Langle (x4934).

Concurrence:

County Counsel