



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

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

Department Name: Public Works
Department No.: 054
For Agenda Of: 08/10/2010
Placement: Administration
Estimated Tme: N/A
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Scott McGolpin, P.E. x3010
Director(s) Public Works Director
Contact Info: Mark A. Schleich, P.E. x3600
Public Works Deputy Director
SUBJECT: Establishing Benefit Assessments for the North County Lighting District for Fiscal Year 2010-2011, 3rd, 4th, and 5th Supervisorial Districts

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence:

As to form: N/A

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Adopt the attached resolution setting a public hearing for the North County Lighting District on the administrative agenda for September 7, 2010.
2. At the hearing consider the following recommendations:
 - a. Receive and file a fixed charge fee report for fiscal year 2010-2011 with the Clerk of the Board, which proposes zero charge to the streetlighting benefit assessment rates within the North County Lighting District.
 - b. Adopt at the conclusion of the public hearing the attached resolution establishing streetlighting charges for the North County lighting District for fiscal year 2010-2011.
 - c. Approve Public Works Department Notice of Exemption pursuant to County California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines. (Post).

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Summary Text:

The North County Lighting District provides streetlighting services to the communities Los Alamos, Casmalia, Orcutt and the unincorporated areas of Lompoc and Santa Maria. Revenue to fund this service is collected from property tax distributions and benefit assessments. Currently, funding from property taxes alone is sufficient to cover streetlighting expenses. Therefore, this action recommends setting the benefit assessment and tract specific benefit assessment rates at zero dollars for fiscal year 2010-2011.

Background:

The Santa Barbara North County Lighting District was formed by Resolutions 94-148 and 94-308. These actions consolidated the Casmalia, Orcutt, and Los Alamos streetlighting districts as well as the streetlighting functions of County Service Area (CSA) 4 (unincorporated Lompoc) and CSA 5 (unincorporated Santa Maria). Streetlighting is the only service provided by this district. CSA 4 and CSA 5 also provide park and open space services (Parks Department).

The North County Lighting District currently provides for 2,855 streetlights. The Pacific Gas & Electric Company (PG&E) owns and maintains the poles and fixtures and provides electric service to the streetlights in the district. Maintenance accounts for 78% of the operating cost while electricity accounts for 22%. Streetlights are added to the district system through development (pursuant to Resolution 81-229) and must meet County Engineering Design Standards.

The North County Lighting District is funded with property taxes, benefit assessments from CSA 5 and tract specific benefit assessment zones. The property tax distribution varies with the tax rate area (TRA). The benefit assessment rate for CSA 5 has historically been \$14.73 per year for residential properties. Tract specific benefit assessment rates have been established for newer tracts such that the rate can be used to supplement property taxes to fully fund the streetlighting costs associated with that tract. Currently, property tax revenues within the North County Lighting District are sufficient to cover the annual costs. For this reason, staff recommends maintaining the CSA 5 and tract specific benefit assessment at \$0 for fiscal year 2010-2011.

Total property tax and interest revenue for fiscal year 2010-2011 is expected to be \$401,814. Operating and administrative costs are estimated to be \$403,502. \$1688 from fund balance will make up the difference, leaving an anticipated year end fund balance of \$302,572. Future year projections show a sufficient fund balance for the North County Lighting District See projections in Attachment A for further detail.

Performance Measure:

No change in programs or service level to the North County Lighting District is anticipated with the benefit assessment rates at \$0.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

This action recommends maintaining the CSA 5 benefit assessment and tract specific fixed charges at zero dollars. The revenue and costs are shown in the table below.

Fiscal Analysis:

<u>CSA, District or Zone</u>	<u>Assessment Revenue</u>	<u>Property Tax and Int Revenue</u>	<u>Street Lighting and Admin Costs</u>
North Co Lighting	\$ -	\$ 401,814.00	\$ 403,502.00
Total	\$ -	\$ 401,814.00	\$ 403,502.00

Staffing Impacts:

No new staffing positions are proposed in this budget.

Special Instructions:

- A. Request the Clerk of the Board to publish notice of the meeting, as set forth below, in the Santa Maria Times on August 24 and August 31, 2010, as provided in Section 6066 of the Government Code:

“Publication of notice to this section shall be once a week for two successive weeks. Two publications in a newspaper published once a week or oftener, with at least five days intervening between the respective publication dates not counting such publications dates, are sufficient.”

- B. Notice to be published:

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA
 STATE OF CALIFORNIA
 NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING.

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara, State of California on September 7, 2010, at 9:00 a.m. or shortly thereafter, in the Board of Supervisors Hearing Room, Fourth Floor, 105 East Anapamu Street, regarding the establishment of streetlighting benefit assessments for the North County Lighting District. Questions may be directed to the Santa Barbara County Public Works Department, 620 West Foster Road, Santa Maria, California at (805) 739-8750.

- C. Following Board approval, request Clerk of the Board to post the Notice of Exemption and forward a stamped copy to Resource Recovery and Waste Management, Attention: Joddi Leipner.
- D. Request the Clerk of the Board to forward a certified copy of the noticing resolution and the acceptance resolution to the Public Works Department, Resource Recovery & Waste Management Division, and Attention: Christy Angkahan.

Attachments:

Attachment A
Resolution setting public hearing
Resolution establishing streetlighting charges
Fixed charge fee report
Notice of exemption

Authored by:

Martin Wilder, P.E., Utilities Engineer Manager, x8750

Copy: Colleen Hankins, Resource Recovery & Waste Management Division Accountant
Mark Paul, Deputy Public Works Director of Finance and Administration