



**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

Submitted on:
(COB Stamp)

Department Name: Public Works
Department No.: 054
For Agenda of: March 18, 2025
Placement: Administrative
Set Hearing
(03/18/2025)
Departmental
Hearing
(05/13/2025)
Estimated Time: 15 minutes on
5/13/2025
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors, acting as the governing authority of County Service Area 3, County Service Area 31, and the Santa Barbara North County Lighting District

FROM: Department Director(s): Chris Sneddon, P.E., Director
(805) 568-3010
Contact Info: Martin Wilder, P.E., Deputy Director
(805) 803-8750
Mostafa Estaji, P.E., Deputy Director
(805) 568-3064

SUBJECT: **Establishing Benefit Assessments for County Service Areas 3, 31, and the Santa Barbara North County Lighting District - All Supervisorial Districts**

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors acting as the governing authority of County Service Area 3, County Service Area 31 and the Santa Barbara North County Lighting District:

- a) Adopt the resolution setting a Departmental Hearing on May 13, 2025 to establish benefit assessments for County Service Area 3, County Service Area 31 and the Santa Barbara North County Lighting District; and
- b) At the Departmental Hearing on May 13, 2025 consider the following recommendations:

- i) Receive and file Benefit Assessment Reports for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 for County Service Area 3, County Service Area 31, and the Santa Barbara North County Lighting District with the Clerk of the Board;
- ii) Adopt the resolution establishing streetlighting charges (no changes proposed), for County Service Areas 3 for fiscal year 2025-2026;
- iii) Adopt the resolution establishing streetlighting charges (no changes proposed), for County Service Areas 31 for fiscal year 2025-2026;
- iv) Do not establish the benefit assessments (set to zero) in those portions of the Santa Barbara North County Lighting District authorized to do so for fiscal year 2025-2026; and
- v) Determine that the above actions are exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CCR 14 Section 15273(a)(1),(2),(3) and (4) of the State CEQA Guidelines because they are for the establishment of benefit assessment rates for services provided by County Service Areas 3 and 31, that no expansion of services or facilities will result, that revenues will be used for meeting operating expenses and financial reserve needs and requirements, and approve the filing of a Notice of Exemption on that basis.

Summary:

This item is on the agenda in order to establish the benefit assessments for streetlighting services in County Service Area 3 (CSA 3) at \$24.00 per residential parcel (factored for other development types), County Service Area 31 (CSA 31) at \$12.93 per residential parcel (factored for other development types), and to not establish (set to zero) the benefit assessment for zones in the Santa Barbara North County Lighting District (SBNCLD) that have benefit assessments. These amounts remain unchanged from last year.

Discussion:

Setting streetlighting benefit assessment rates as recommended above will generate the revenue required to fund streetlighting services in the respective county service area and streetlighting district.

Background:

Streetlights used in public road rights of way are owned and operated by the Pacific Gas & Electric Company (PG&E) in the north county and by the Southern California Edison Company (SCE) in the south county. Revenue to fund the operational costs of streetlighting comes from the County Road Fund, property taxes and benefit assessments. The Road Fund provides for streetlighting services not located within a lighting district or county service area where property taxes and benefit assessments are generated. In total, the County operates two streetlighting districts and three county service areas that provide streetlighting services. Of these, County Service Area 3 (unincorporated Goleta and Santa Barbara), County Service Area 31 (Isla Vista), and portions of the Santa Barbara North County Lighting District generate revenue from benefit assessments. Establishing the benefit assessment is required annually pursuant to the Government Code and the Streets and Highways Code.

County Service Area 3 (CSA 3) – 1st and 2nd Supervisorial Districts

CSA 3 currently provides for 1,435 streetlights and serves the unincorporated area between the cities of Goleta and Santa Barbara. Annual streetlighting operation and administrative costs are approximately \$275,200. The current streetlighting benefit assessment rate of \$24.00 per residential parcel (factored for other development types), is proposed to remain unchanged for

next fiscal year and will generate approximately \$206,200. Property tax contributions of approximately \$69,000 will be used to cover the remaining costs.

County Service Area 31 (CSA 31) – 2nd Supervisorial District

CSA 31 currently provides for 443 streetlights and serves Isla Vista. Annual streetlighting operation and administrative costs are approximately \$116,500. The current streetlighting benefit assessment rate of \$12.93 per residential parcel (factored for other development types) is proposed to remain unchanged for next fiscal year and will generate approximately \$34,000. Property tax contributions of approximately \$82,500 will be used to cover the remaining costs.

Santa Barbara North County Lighting District (SBNCLD) - 3rd, 4th, and 5th Supervisorial Districts

SBNCLD currently provides for 3,015 streetlights in five zones consisting of the Los Alamos, Casmalia, Orcutt, unincorporated Santa Maria, and unincorporated Lompoc areas. Portions of the Santa Maria and Lompoc zones can assess benefit assessments if needed within tract specific subzones. Annual streetlighting operation and administrative costs are expected to be approximately \$703,200. Property tax revenues to this fund are approximately \$765,500. The current reserve is approximately \$660,400. Because property tax revenue is sufficient to cover costs and because the fund balance is sufficient, staff is recommending that the zone benefit assessments remain at zero (do not establish) for next fiscal year.

Fiscal Analysis:

Proposed revenues to fund streetlighting services are summarized in the table below. Note that CSAs also generate revenue for other services not related to this action.

Funding Source Table

Funding Source	Benefit Assessment	Property Tax	Fund Reserve	Total Revenue and Costs
CSA 3	\$206,200	\$69,000	\$0	\$275,200
CSA 31	\$34,000	\$82,500	\$0	\$116,500
SB NCLD	\$0	\$703,200	\$0	\$703,200
Total	\$240,200	\$854,700	\$0	\$1,094,900

Special Instructions to Clerk of the Board:

- A. Request the Clerk of the Board to publish notice of the meeting as set forth in the enclosed notice. **The recommended dates for publication are April 29 and May 6, 2025.**
- B. Request the Clerk of the Board to forward a certified copy of the resolution setting the hearing to the Public Works Dept., Santa Maria, attention: Angela Arredondo.
- C. After the May 13, 2025 hearing, if the recommended actions are approved request the Clerk of the Board to post the Notice of Exemption and forward a stamped copy to the Public Works Dept., Santa Maria, attention: Angela Arredondo. Public Works to post the Notice of Exemption at the Office of Planning and Research, State Clearinghouse.
- D. After the hearing, request the Clerk of the Board to forward a certified copy of the rate resolutions (CSA 3 and CSA 31) to:
 - Public Works Dept., Santa Barbara, attention Ivan Lazaro; Santa Maria, attention: Angela Arredondo
 - Auditor-Controller

Attachments:

Attachment A: Resolution to Set Public Hearing

Attachment B: Public Hearing Notice

Attachment C: Benefit Assessment Report for CSA 3

Attachment D: Benefit Assessment Report for CSA 31

Attachment E: Benefit Assessment Report for SBNCLD

Attachment F: Resolution establishing streetlighting benefit assessments for CSA 3

Attachment G: Resolution establishing streetlighting benefit assessments for CSA 31

Attachment H: Notice of Exemption

Authored by:

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Copy:

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Ivan Lazaro, Transportation Division Accounting (805) 568-3069

Angela Arredondo, Supervising Accountant