



**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER**

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

Agenda Number:

Submitted on:
(COB Stamp)

Department Name: PW/Flood Control
Department No.: 054
Agenda Date: June 9, 2026
Placement: Set-Hearing
Estimated Time: 10 minutes on 7/7/26 on the Dept Agenda and 7/14/26 on the Admin Agenda
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Directors, Flood Control and Water Conservation District
FROM: Department Director: Chris Sneddon, Public Works Director *CS-DS*
Contact: Matt Griffin, Deputy Director – Flood Control District *MG*
SUBJECT: Flood Control Benefit Assessment Program for Fiscal Year 2026-27,
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 Directors:

Set a hearing on the departmental agenda to consider recommendations regarding the Flood Control Benefit Assessment Program from Fiscal Year 2026-27 as follows: **(Set hearing for July 7, 2026. Time estimate: 10 minutes)**

- a) Consider and approve the introduction (first reading) of an Ordinance Amending Ordinance 3150, the Flood Control Benefit Assessment Ordinance, Relating to Benefit Assessment for Flood Control Services imposing a Flood Control Benefit Assessment for Fiscal Year 2026-27 (Attachment A);
- b) Read the title of the Ordinance and waive full reading of the Ordinance;
- c) Receive and file a Report regarding Flood Control Benefit Assessment for Fiscal Year 2026-27 (Attachment B); and
- d) **Continue the hearing to the administrative agenda of July 14, 2026** to consider recommendations, as follows:

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- i) Make a determination upon each assessment described in the Benefit Assessment Report for Fiscal Year 2026-27 filed by the Board at the July 7, 2026 meeting and direct staff to record the Report;
- ii) Adopt the Resolution confirming Flood Control Benefit Assessment for Fiscal Year 2026-27 (Attachment C);
- iii) Consider and approve the adoption (second reading) of an Ordinance amending Ordinance 3150, the Flood Control Benefit Assessment Ordinance, Relating to Benefit Assessments for Flood Control Services imposing Flood Control Benefit Assessments for Fiscal Year 2026-27 (ordinance introduced on July 7, 2026); and
- iv) Find that the assessment revenue will be used for operating expenses, including employee wage rates and fringe benefits, purchasing or leasing supplies or equipment, materials, financial reserve needs and requirements and obtaining funds for capital projects necessary to maintain service within existing service areas; and that the recalculation and imposition of the annual Flood Control Benefit Assessment are therefore exempt from California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15273(a)(1, 2, 3, and 4); and direct staff to file the attached Notice of Exemption (Attachment D) with the Clerk of the Board.

Summary Text:

The agenda item schedules two hearings: the first to introduce an ordinance titled “An Ordinance Amending Ordinance 3150, the Flood Control Benefit Assessment Ordinance, Relating to Benefit Assessments for Flood Control Services,” and the second to consider adopting the ordinance along with a resolution confirming the Flood Control Assessment for FY 2026–27. The proposal calls for a 3.4% rate increase (proposed rates are shown below) across all Flood Zones for the 2026–27 fiscal year, reflecting the Consumer Price Index (CPI) as determined by the US Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The Benefit Assessment Report for FY 2026-27 outlines the purpose, structure, and ongoing need for the Flood Control Benefit Assessment Program. The report will remain on file with the Clerk of the Board until the hearings are concluded.

Discussion:

The Flood Control Benefit Assessment Program restored the District’s revenue to roughly 80% of its pre–Proposition 13 level, and the ordinance establishing the program authorizes annual rate adjustments up to the CPI increase for the previous twelve months. These CPI-based adjustments are designed to maintain consistent service levels by preserving the District’s purchasing power from year to year.

Annual CPI increases prevent inflation from eroding Flood Control District revenues and ensure that the assessment continues to fund essential flood control services at the level intended by voters. By aligning rates increases with the CPI, the District retains the ability to deliver reliable public services without the gradual decline in resources that would otherwise occur.

Background:

The Flood Control Benefit Assessment Program was created in the aftermath of Proposition 13, which reduced the District’s tax revenue by roughly 60%. Facing an immediate funding shortfall and the risk of being unable to maintain essential flood control facilities, the Board of Directors adopted the Flood Control Benefit Assessment Program on March 24, 1980, and implemented it for the

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1980–81 fiscal year prior to voter approval. The Board determined that postponing action would jeopardize critical maintenance and increase the likelihood of flooding. A ballot measure to continue the Program was subsequently placed before voters in each Flood Zone during the November 4, 1980 Statewide General Election.

On November 4, 1980, Santa Barbara County voters approved the continued levying of benefit assessments in all Flood Zones to support the cost of providing flood control services. The assessment revenues were designated to fund a defined set of priority services and programs, including:

- **Emergency response** — Rapid action during storm events and flood threats.
- **Operation and maintenance** — Upkeep of channels, basins, levees, and related infrastructure.
- **Storm emergency rehabilitation** — Repair of damage caused by major storm events.
- **Dam safety** — Inspection, monitoring, and maintenance of District dams.
- **Debris control** — Removal and management of sediment and debris to maintain system capacity.
- **Major repair** — Restoration of facilities requiring significant structural work.
- **Correction of flooding and erosion problems (new construction)** — Capital projects to address known hazards.
- **Floodplain management** — Development review and planning to reduce flood risk.
- **Countywide rain and river flow gauge system** — Monitoring networks that support forecasting and emergency response.

These priorities were established to protect life and property while supporting public safety, economy, public services, and conservation.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes

The annual assessment increase of 3.4% was calculated using the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index based on the change from March 2025 to March 2026.

Fiscal Analysis:

The FY 2026-27 Recommended Budget includes a total of \$4,602,400 in Benefit Assessment revenue across the Flood Control District’s ten flood zones. These funds support capital improvement projects, maintenance and operations activities such as debris removal, vegetation management, and facility inspections and repairs that protect life, property, and infrastructure from flood-related risks. These assessments are collected annually and are essential to sustaining core flood control services throughout the County.

<u>Funding Source</u>	<u>Fiscal Year 2026-27 Revenue</u>
Flood Control Benefit Assessment – All Zones	<u>\$4,602,400</u>
Total	<u>\$4,602,400</u>

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Special Instructions:

After the June 9, 2026 Hearing direct the Clerk of the Board to:

1. Publish the Notice of Public Hearing (Attachment E) pursuant Sections 54716 and 6066 of the Government Code (publish notice on June 18, 2026 and June 25, 2026) in the Santa Barbara Independent and the Santa Maria Times (publish notice on June 23, 2026 and June 30, 2026) .
2. Email a copy of the minute order and signed copy of the Notice of Public Hearing to clopez@countyofsb.org.

After the July 14, 2026 Hearing direct the Clerk of the Board to:

1. File and post the Notice of Exemption (Attachment D).
2. Send a certified copy of the Resolution to the Property Tax Division of the Auditor-Controller's Office.
3. Email Christina Lopez at clopez@countyofsb.org to pick up: 1) a signed original (wet signature) of the Resolution, 2) copies of the signed Ordinance, stamped NOE, and minute order.
4. Publish a copy of the amended ordinance (or summary of) with names of the members of the Board of Directors voting for or against the amendment in the Santa Barbara Independent within 15 days of adoption of the ordinance.

Attachments:

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| Attachment A - | Ordinance Amending Ordinance 3150 (Signature Required) |
| Attachment B - | BA Report FY 2026-27 |
| Attachment C- | BA Resolution FY 2026-27 (Wet Signature Required) |
| Attachment D - | Notice of Exemption |
| Attachment E - | Notice of Public Hearing |
| Attachment F - | Ordinance Amending Ordinance 3150 (strikethrough version) |

Contact Information:

Matt Griffin

Deputy Director – Flood Control District

mgriff@countyofsb.org

PROPOSED RATES FOR FY 2026-27

	Group A		Group B		Group C		Group D		Group E	
	FY 2026-27		FY 2026-27		FY 2026-27		FY 2026-27		FY 2026-27	
	\$/Ac	Min \$ Assmt	\$/Ac	Min \$ Assmt	\$/Ac ¹ (over 0.3 Ac only)	Min \$ Assmt	\$/Ac	Min \$ Assmt	\$/Ac	Min \$ Assmt
Bradley	\$ 59.20	\$ 17.76	\$ 44.39	\$ 13.32	\$ -	\$ 8.94	\$ 2.21	\$ 0.65	\$ 0.21	\$ 0.06
Guadalupe	\$ 31.34	\$ 9.39	\$ 23.51	\$ 7.07	\$ -	\$ 4.72	\$ 1.18	\$ 0.36	\$ 0.12	\$ 0.03
Lompoc City	\$ 132.23	\$ 39.67	\$ 99.16	\$ 29.73	\$ -	\$ 19.84	\$ 4.98	\$ 1.49	\$ 0.47	\$ 0.14
Lompoc Valley	\$ 51.64	\$ 15.47	\$ 38.70	\$ 11.61	\$ -	\$ 7.72	\$ 1.93	\$ 0.58	\$ 0.20	\$ 0.05
Los Alamos	\$ 65.66	\$ 19.71	\$ 49.26	\$ 14.76	\$ -	\$ 9.85	\$ 2.46	\$ 0.73	\$ 0.24	\$ 0.06
Orcutt	\$ 39.35	\$ 11.82	\$ 29.51	\$ 8.86	\$ -	\$ 5.92	\$ 1.47	\$ 0.44	\$ 0.15	\$ 0.05
Santa Maria SMR	\$ 125.89	\$ 37.78	\$ 94.42	\$ 28.40	\$ -	\$ 18.87	\$ 4.73	\$ 1.43	\$ 0.44	\$ 0.14
Levee	\$ 33.97	\$ 10.19	\$ 25.47	\$ 7.65	\$ -	\$ 5.11	\$ 1.26	\$ 0.39	\$ 0.14	\$ 0.03
Santa Ynez South	\$ 29.01	\$ 8.71	\$ 21.75	\$ 6.52	\$ -	\$ 4.34	\$ 1.08	\$ 0.33	\$ 0.12	\$ 0.03
Coast	\$ 220.98	\$ 66.30	\$ 165.73	\$ 49.71	\$ -	\$ 33.15	\$ 8.28	\$ 2.49	\$ 0.82	\$ 0.24

GROUP A - Commercial Industrial.

GROUP B - Institutions and Apartments.

GROUP C - Single-family residential and small multiple (2 to 4 units), cemeteries.

GROUP D - Irrigated agriculture, golf courses.

GROUP E - Dry farmed agricultural, vacant ground.

Note: A \$1.00 per parcel assessment is added per Resolution No. 82-209 pursuant to Government Code Sections 29304 and 51800.

Minimum assessment included up to 0.3-acre lot. Any single family "Group C" LOT AREA over 0.3 acres will be additionally charged in accordance with the schedule for "Group D."