

# Benefit Assessment Report for Streetlighting Services in the Santa Barbara North County Lighting District for Fiscal Year 2021-2022

Los Alamos, Casmalia, Orcutt, Unincorporated Santa Maria, Unincorporated Lompoc  
Expense Fund 2670, Benefit Assessment Collection Fund 2146

The Board adopted Resolutions 94-307 and 94-308 to approve the consolidation and annexation of certain territories receiving streetlighting services in the north county to the Santa Barbara North County Lighting District. The Santa Barbara Local Area Formation Commission (LAFCO) approved these actions pursuant to LAFCO Resolutions 94-7 and 94-8 respectively. These actions consolidated the Casmalia, Orcutt, and Los Alamos streetlighting districts as well as annexing the streetlighting functions of County Service Area 4 (unincorporated Lompoc) and County Service Area 5 (unincorporated Santa Maria), all of which are served by Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E). Streetlighting is the only service provided by this district pursuant to the Streets and Highways Code. CSA 4 and CSA 5 still exist as they provide park and open space services (Community Services Department). Streetlighting is currently funded with property taxes and reserves. Benefit assessments may be assessed in certain zones but are not currently as reserves balances are adequate. In addition, zones of benefit may also be created when land is being subdivided and annexed to NCLD to ensure that streetlighting costs associated with new development are adequately covered.

The North County Lighting District currently provides for 2,829 streetlights. The poles and fixtures are owned by Pacific Gas & Electric Company (PG&E), which bills monthly for their operation and maintenance. Streetlights are added to the system through development (pursuant to Resolution 81-229) or other sources of funds and must meet County Engineering Design Standards. Zone benefit assessment rates vary by zone and can be imposed up to their approved maximums with Board approval. Existing zones are in the unincorporated Santa Maria area and tracts known as Clubhouse Estates, Providence Landing, Harp Springs, Mesa Verde, Old Mill Run, Stonegate, Vintage Ranch, Bradley Ranch and Oak Hills Estate. Currently all benefit assessment zone rates are zero since property taxes generate sufficient revenue. The benefit assessment rate is factored based on the various land uses as shown in the table below.

| <u>DESCRIPTION</u>              | <u>FACTOR</u> |
|---------------------------------|---------------|
| Vacant/farm land                | 0.5           |
| Residential (single and condos) | 1.0           |
| Residential (duplex, triplex)   | 3.0           |
| Apartments, courts              | 6.0           |
| Heavy commercial                | 9.0           |
| Light commercial                | 3.0           |
| Industrial                      | 6.0           |
| Churches, miscellaneous, other  | 2.0           |
| No benefit                      | 0.0           |