



**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  
**Agenda Date:** April 21, 2026  
**Placement:** Set-Hearing  
Departmental on  
June 9, 2026  
**Estimated Time:**  
**Continued Item:** No  
**If Yes, date from:**  
**Vote Required:** Majority

**TO:** Board of Supervisors  
**FROM:** Department Director(s): Chris Sneddon, P.E., Director  
Contact: Kevin Thompson, P.E., Utilities Manager  
**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 June 9, 2026 to establish benefit assessments for County Service Area 3, County Service Area 31 and the Santa Barbara North County Lighting District (Attachment A) ; and
- b) At the Departmental Hearing on June 9, 2026 consider the following recommendations:
  - i. Receive and file Benefit Assessment Reports for Fiscal Year 2026-2027 for County Service Area 3, County Service Area 31, and the Santa Barbara North County Lighting District with the Clerk of the Board (Attachments C, D, and E);
  - ii. Adopt the resolution establishing streetlighting charges (no changes proposed), for County Service Areas 3 for fiscal year 2026-2027 (Attachment F);
  - iii. Adopt the resolution establishing streetlighting charges (no changes proposed), for County Service Areas 31 for fiscal year 2026-2027 (Attachment G);

- 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 2026-2027; 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 (Attachment H).

**Summary Text:**

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 approximately 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 \$211,900. Property tax contributions of approximately \$63,300 will be used to cover the remaining costs.

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

CSA 31 currently provides for approximately 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 \$33,600. Property tax contributions of approximately \$82,900 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 approximately 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 \$804,700. 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**

Agency	Operation and Maintenance Costs	Funding Source			Total Funding Source Revenue
		Benefit Assessment	Property Tax	Fund Reserve	
CSA 3	\$275,200	\$211,900	\$63,300	\$0	\$275,200
CSA 31	\$116,500	\$33,600	\$82,900	\$0	\$116,500
SB NCLD	\$703,200	\$0	\$703,200	\$0	\$703,200
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,094,900</b>	<b>\$245,500</b>	<b>\$849,400</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$1,094,900</b>

**Special Instructions:**

After the set hearing on April 21, 2026, direct the Clerk of the Board to:

1. Publish notice of this hearing, as set forth in the attached notice of public hearing (Attachment B) in the Santa Barbara Independent two times pursuant to Government Code Section 6066. **The two recommended dates for publication are no later than 14 and 7 days prior to the hearing.**
2. Email a minute order and copy of the resolution setting the hearing to the Public Works Dept.: Angela Arredondo at [amarredondo@countyofsb.org](mailto:amarredondo@countyofsb.org)

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

3. If the recommended actions are approved, post the Notice of Exemption (Attachment H) and email a stamped copy to the Public Works Dept. attention: Angela Arredondo [amarredondo@countyofsb.org](mailto:amarredondo@countyofsb.org). Public Works to post the Notice of Exemption at the Office of Planning and Research, State Clearinghouse.
4. Email the rate resolutions (CSA 3 and CSA 31) to:
  - a. Public Works Dept - Ivan Lazaro at [ivlazaro@countyofsb.org](mailto:ivlazaro@countyofsb.org) and Angela Arredondo at [amarredondo@countyofsb.org](mailto:amarredondo@countyofsb.org)
  - b. Auditor-Controller at [auditor@countyofsb.org](mailto:auditor@countyofsb.org)

**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

**Contact Information:**

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**Copy:**

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

Angela Arredondo, Supervising Accountant