



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:** 3/12/2024  
**Placement:** Set hearing  
**Estimated Time:** 15 minutes on 5/7/2024  
**Continued Item:** No  
**If Yes, date form:**  
**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) Scott D. McGolpin, PE, Director, (805) 568-3010

Contact Info: Martin Wilder, PE, Interim Deputy Director, (805) 882-3605  
Chris Sneddon, PE, Deputy Director, (805) 568-3064

**SUBJECT:** Establishing Benefit Assessments for County Service Areas 3, 31, and the Santa Barbara North County Lighting District - 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> Supervisorial Districts

**County Counsel Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

**Auditor-Controller Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

**Other Concurrence:** N/A

As to form: N/A

**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 public hearing on May 7, 2024 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 hearing on May 7, 2024 consider the following recommendations:
  - i) Receive and file Benefit Assessment Reports for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 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 2024-2025;

- iii) Adopt the resolution establishing streetlighting charges (no changes proposed), for County Service Areas 31 for fiscal year 2024-2025;
- 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 2024-2025; and
- v) Determine that the above actions are exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to 14 CCR 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 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.

**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 1,367 streetlights and serves the unincorporated area between the cities of Goleta and Santa Barbara. Annual streetlighting operation and administrative costs are approximately \$274,700. 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 \$68,500 will be used to cover the remaining costs.

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

CSA 31 currently provides for 432 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 \$35,000. Property tax contributions of approximately \$81,500 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 3,016 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 \$630,300. Property tax revenues to this fund are approximately \$727,700 and there are approximately \$572,900 in reserves. Because property 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.

**Performance Measure:**

No changes to the streetlighting benefit assessment rates in County Service Area 3, County Service Area 31, or the Santa Barbara North County Lighting District are currently anticipated or proposed.

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

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.

<b><u>CSA, District or Zone</u></b>	<b><u>Benefit</u></b>		<b><u>Fund Reserve</u></b>	<b><u>Total Revenues and Costs</u></b>
	<b><u>Assessment Revenue</u></b>	<b><u>Property Tax Revenue</u></b>		
CSA 3	\$206,200	\$68,500	\$0	\$274,700
CSA 31	\$35,000	\$81,500	\$0	\$116,500
SBNCLD	\$0	\$630,300	\$0	\$630,300
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$241,200</b>	<b>\$780,300</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$1,021,500</b>

**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 in the enclosed notice.  
**The recommended dates for publication are April 23 and April 30, 2024.**
- 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 7, 2024 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. RRWMD 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 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: CEQA Notice of Exemption

**Authored by:**

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Angela Arredondo, Cost Analyst