



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 from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors, acting as the governing authority of County Service Area 12

FROM: Department Director(s) Scott D. McGolpin, PE, Director, (805) 568-3010
Contact Info: Martin Wilder, PE, Interim Deputy Director, (805) 882-3605

SUBJECT: County Service Area 12 (Mission Canyon Sewer District), Resolution Relative to Collection of Sewer Service Charges and Sewer Connection Charges on the Tax Roll – First Supervisorial District

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: 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 12, conduct a hearing on the Departmental Agenda on May 7, 2024 to consider the following actions:

- a) Receive and file with the Clerk of the Board a report entitled *County Service Area 12 Fixed Charges Fee Report for Fiscal Year 2024-2025*;
- b) Adopt the resolution authorizing the collection of sewer service charges and sewer connection charges for County Service Area 12 on the tax roll in Fiscal Year 2024-2025; and
- c) Determine that the above actions are exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Section 21080(b)(8) of the California Public Resources Code and Section 15273(a)(1), (2), (3), and (4) of the State CEQA Guidelines because they are for the establishment of service charges for services provided with County Service Area 12, that no expansion of services or facilities will result, that the fees 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 authorize the collection of County Service Area 12 (CSA 12) sewer service charges and connection charges on the tax roll in fiscal year 2024-2025. CSA 12 provides for sewer collection in the Mission Canyon area. Wastewater is conveyed to the City of Santa Barbara for treatment pursuant to a joint powers agreement. The annual service charge is proposed to remain at \$316.82 per user as adopted by the Board in Ordinance 5111 on July 7, 2020. The revenue from this service charge funds annual operating, maintenance, and reserve costs. The connection charge is a one-time fee paid for the use of system capacity by new development, which is proposed to remain at \$5,633.00 per residential unit.

Background:

CSA 12 was formed pursuant to Resolution 84-72 by the Board on February 21, 1984 in order to alleviate health and safety concerns related to poorly performing septic systems and in response to a Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) Basin Plan amendment (Resolution 83-04) that prohibited waste discharge from individual sewage disposal systems within the Mission Canyon area. A project to construct a sewer system serving the more densely developed area of Mission Canyon was completed on December 12, 1986 with connections made the following year. The CSA 12 sewer system is regulated by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) *Statewide General Waste Discharge Requirements for Sanitary Sewer Systems, Order No. 2022-0103*. Owners of homes that originally connected to the sewer system paid for the system construction through a bond, which was retired in 2003. New development pays a connection charge to CSA 12 for use of the community sewer system. The connection charge will remain at \$5,633 per residential unit.

CSA 12 serves the Mission Canyon area to provide wastewater collection services (provided by the Public Works Department) and track septic system performance (provided by the Public Health Department). A joint powers agreement with the City of Santa Barbara provides for the connection to the City sewer system and use of the City's wastewater treatment plant. Wastewater collection services involve the operation of two lift stations, sewer system cleaning, and sewer line video inspections. Capital repairs are funded from reserves and are based on condition assessment from the video inspections, which is repeated every 5 years. The costs to operate the system and maintain the reserve account will be accommodated by keeping the annual sewer service charge at \$316.82 (no change from last year). As provided in Ordinance 5111 adopted by the Board on July 7, 2020, this sewer service charge is in effect unless modified by a subsequent ordinance. This action authorizes the collection of the fiscal year 2024-2025 sewer service charges and sewer connection charges on the tax roll. Currently there are 803 assessed parcels.

Performance Measure:

This action is intended to collect sewer service charges sufficient to accommodate the fiscal needs of CSA 12 for its operating, capital, and reserve costs.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes

Fiscal Analysis:

<u>Funding Sources</u>	<u>Current FY Cost:</u>	<u>Annualized On-going Cost:</u>	<u>Total One-Time Project Cost</u>
Sewer Charges		\$ 277,883.00	
Total	\$ -	\$ 277,883.00	\$ -

The proposed annual sewer service charge assessed to each residential dwelling will generate approximately \$277,883 from 877.1 residential unit equivalent connections on 803 parcels to fund CSA 12 operation, maintenance, and reserve costs. The reserve is approximately \$1.7 million.

Staffing Impacts:

No new staffing positions are proposed in this budget.

Special Instructions:

- A. Request Clerk of the Board to publish notice of this hearing, as set forth in the attached notice. **The recommended dates for publication are April 23 and April 30, 2024.**

- A. After the May 7, 2024 hearing, if the recommend actions are approved, request the Clerk of the Board to post the Notice of Exemption and forward a stamped copy to the Public Works Department in Santa Maria, attention Angela Arredondo. RRWMD to post the Notice of Exemption at the Office of Planning and Research, State Clearinghouse.

- B. After the hearing, request the Clerk of the Board to forward a certified minute order of the resolution to:
 - Public Works Department in Santa Maria, attention Angela Arredondo.
 - Auditor-Controller

Attachments:

- Attachment A: Fiscal Charges Fee Report
- Attachment B: Resolution
- Attachment C: Notice of Exemption
- Attachment D: Notice of Public Hearing

Authored by:

Kevin Thompson, PE, Utilities Manager (805) 803-8756

Copy:

- Angela Arredondo, Cost Analyst
- Julie Hagen, CPA, Deputy Public Works Director of Finance and Administration