



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: 11/18/08
Placement: Administration
Estimated Tme: 12/9/08 – 15 minutes
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Scott McGolpin x 3010
Director(s) Public Works Director
Contact Info: Mark A. Schleich x 3600
Public Works Deputy Director
SUBJECT: County Service Area 31 Streetlighting Benefit Assessment for Fiscal Year 2009-2010 - 3rd Supervisorial District

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence:

As to form: Terri Maus-Nisich, County Executive Office

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- A. Adopt the attached resolution setting a public hearing on the departmental agenda for December 9, 2008 in connection with the street lighting districts listed below.
- B. Receive and file a fixed Charge Fee Report for fiscal year 2009-2010 with the Clerk of the Board, which reports the proposed benefit assessment for County Service Area 31, restoring the annual amount from \$8.00 to \$12.93, a restored addition of \$4.93 per year.
- C. Approve Public Works Department Notice of Exemption pursuant to County California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines. (Post).
- D. Adopt at the conclusion of the public hearing on December 9, 2008 the attached resolution benefit assessment charges for County Service Area 31 for fiscal year 2009-2010.

Summary Text:

Isla Vista receives streetlighting services through county service area (CSA) 31. Revenues to fund monthly streetlight operating costs to the Edison Company are generated from property tax allocations and benefit assessments. Currently these revenues are only sufficient to provide for existing

streetlighting services only. In total, the cost for existing streetlighting coupled with the costs for services managed by other departments has resulted in the decrease in the fund balance to the point that the reserve will be depleted in fiscal year 2012-2013. Two projects, the Pardall Road improvement project and the El Colegio improvement project include substantial additions to streetlighting services. These two projects are expected to increase annual streetlighting costs by approximately \$11,000 per year. To address this shortfall, the Office of the CEO and the Public Works Department recommend restoring the benefit assessment to historical levels in compliance with Proposition 218 from \$8.00 per residential unit per year to \$12.93 per residential unit per year (fiscal year 1992-1993 levels).

Background:

CSA 31 was formed December 16, 1963 by Resolution No. 23685. CSA 31 boundaries include the unincorporated community of Isla Vista, located west of the University of California at Santa Barbara. Authorized extended services include streetlighting; police protection; installation, maintenance and repair of sidewalks, curbs and gutters; and the planting, maintenance, and care of street trees. Currently, streetlighting services account for the operation of 276 streetlights of varying wattage at an annual cost of approximately \$36,400. Annual revenue from property taxes (approximately \$16,000 due to revenue sharing with the Isla Vista Redevelopment Agency) and benefit assessments (approximately \$20,800) total \$36,800 based on a residential equivalent benefit assessment rate of \$8.00 per year. The rate is factored for vacant land, multiple residential, apartments, commercial, industrial, churches, and government developments.

Last fiscal year at the streetlighting districts rate hearing, the Office of the CEO and the Public Works Department informed your Board that CSA 31 was running a deficient budget. The Board directed the Public Works Department and CEO's office to identify a remedy. The Government Code (Section 53750 (h)(2)(B)) and Article XIIC of the California Constitution do allow for the restoration of rates without a vote of the service recipients provided the rate does not exceed historical amounts prior to the passage of Proposition 218. This applies in this case because the restoration implements a charge not more than the level previously assessed by the agency, and the method used to determine the charge has not changed.

Because substantial new streetlighting improvements are proposed, additional revenue is required. The Isla Vista Redevelopment Agency is sponsoring a project to improve and enhance Pardall Road. This project will remove existing lights and install 44 new lights. The net increase in operating cost for this project will be approximately \$4,700 per year. The El Colegio improvement project, a joint effort between the County and UCSB, will remove eight lights and will add 18 high power (double mast head) lights. The net increase in operating cost for this project will be approximately \$6,200 per year. Both projects are expected to fully energize the new lights before the close of the current fiscal year with the Pardall Road project possibly requiring energy by the end of the calendar year.

In order to anticipate the increase in operating costs due to these additional streetlights, a restoration to the benefit assessment is proposed. The benefit assessment has varied over the years and experienced a high of \$12.93 per residential unit equivalent per year in fiscal year 1992-1993. Since that time, the rate had been reduced to decrease reserve balances considered to exceed requirements. In addition, the formation of the Isla Vista Redevelopment Agency further reduced revenue by shifting portions of the property tax away from CSA 31. Restoring the rate to the historical level will cover the added

streetlighting costs of these two road improvement projects. The estimated annual operating costs with the addition of the above projects are estimated to be \$47,200. The estimated annual revenue from property taxes and benefit assessments are estimated to be \$49,600. Not including other services, this will provide for near future streetlighting needs. The Department will continue to work with the CEO's office to provide options to enhance revenues to this fund or determine which services currently provided should be eliminated.

Performance Measure:

The two road improvement projects will enhance streetlighting services in Isla Vista. Restoring the benefit assessment rate to amounts necessary to fund these added streetlighting services would ensure the streetlighting infrastructure could be energized when construction of these projects is complete.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

The proposed restoration of the benefit assessment rate for CSA 31 provides the necessary revenues to provide existing and proposed streetlighting services. Property taxes and the proposed restored benefit assessment rates will meet the anticipated budget needs for fiscal year 2009-2010. If the restored rates are not adopted, reserves will be depleted and reductions in streetlighting services will occur prior to fiscal year 2012-2013. In addition, the streetlighting in two roadway projects should not be energized unless another source of revenue is available to cover their operating costs. The revenue and costs are shown in the table below as proposed for fiscal year 2009-2010.

Fiscal Analysis:

<u>CSA, District or Zone</u>	<u>Assessment Revenue</u>	<u>Property Tax Revenue</u>	<u>Street Lighting Costs</u>
CSA 31	\$ 33,424.00	\$ 16,207.00	\$ 47,172.00
Total	\$ 33,424.00	\$ 16,207.00	\$ 47,172.00

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 below, in the Santa Barbara News Press on November 25 and December 2, 2008, as provided in Section 6066 of the Government Code:

“Publication of notice to this section shall be once a week for two successive weeks. Two publications in a newspaper published once a week or oftener, with at least five days intervening between the respective publication dates not counting such publications dates, are sufficient.”

- B. Notice to be published:

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA
STATE OF CALIFORNIA
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING.

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara, State of California on December 9, 2008, at 9:00 a.m. or shortly thereafter, in the Board of Supervisors Hearing Room at the Betteravia Government Center located at 511 East Lakeside Parkway, to take public testimony on the written report for proposed charges for Streetlighting for County Service Area 31 entitled “ *County Service Area 31 Fixed Charges Fee Report 2009-2010*”. Copy of the said written report with the proposed amount set out therein can be seen during business hours the Santa Barbara County Public Works Department, 620 West Foster Road, Santa Maria, California. The proposed amount of each parcel can be obtained during business hours by a telephone call to the County Department of Public Works, Resource Recovery & Waste Management Division, and (805) 739-8750.

The public hearing to be held on December 9, 2008 is for the purpose of considering all objections or protests to the adoption of the proposed benefit assessment charges as set forth in said report or as modified by the Board of Supervisors on November 18, 2008.

Any objections or protest to the adoption of the proposed benefit assessment charges may be filed with the Clerk of the Board Supervisors before the public hearing scheduled for 9:00 a.m., December 9, 2008. The address of the Clerk of the Board is 105 East Anapamu Street, Santa Barbara, California 93101. The objections or protest may also be filed at the board meeting on November 18, 2008.

- C. Following Board approval, request Clerk of the Board to post the Notice of Exemption and forward a stamped copy to Resource Recovery and Waste Management, Attention: Joddi Leipner.

- D. Request the Clerk of the Board to forward a certified copy of the noticing resolution and the acceptance resolution to the Public Works Department, Resource Recovery & Waste Management Division, and Attention: Christy Angkahan.

Attachments:

Resolution setting public hearing
Fixed Charge Fee Report for FY 2009-2010
Notice of Exemption
Resolution establishing streetlighting charges

Authored by:

Martin Wilder, Civil Engineer Manager, x 8750
Public Works Dept, Resource Recovery & Waste Management Division

cc: Rochelle Camozzi, Public Works Department
Mike Ledbetter, County Counsel
Mark Paul, Auditor-Controller's Office
Terri Maus-Nisich, County Executive Office