



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: 4/22/2014
Placement: Set Hearing
Estimated Tme: 6/17/2014, Dept. 15 min
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: 2/3

TO: Board of Directors, Laguna County Sanitation District

FROM: Department Scott D. McGolpin, P.E., Director x3010
Director(s)

Contact Info: Mark A. Schleich, P.E., Deputy Director x3605

SUBJECT: Laguna County Sanitation District, Ordinance Relative to Service Charges, Connection Fees, and Trunk Line Fees and Resolution Relative to Collection of Service Charges on the Tax Roll; Third, Fourth and Fifth Supervisorial Districts

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence:

As to form:

Recommended Actions:

That the Board:

A. Receive and file with the Clerk of the Board a fixed charge report for fiscal year 2014-2015.

B. Set a public hearing on June 17, 2014 to:

1. Adopt an ordinance amending Ordinance No. 3130 to revise service charges, connection fees and other related fees;
2. Adopt a resolution relative to the collection of said charges on the tax roll;
3. Adopt the findings in the attached Notice of Exemption that the proposed action is for the establishment of rates for services provided by the Laguna County Sanitation District, that no expansion of services or facilities will result, and that any increased revenues will be used for meeting operating expenses and financial reserve needs and requirements, and that the action is therefore exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to 14 CCR Section 15273 and approve the filing of a Notice of Exemption on that basis.

Summary Text:

This action sets the rates for service charges, connection fees, and trunk line fees for fiscal year 2014-2015. A rate increase of 12% is recommended to service charges, which are consistent with the *Laguna County Sanitation District Wastewater Reclamation Facilities and Financial Master Plan* presented to your Board on October 11, 2011. Adjustments to the connection and trunk line fees are based on the appropriate index as noted below.

Background:

The Laguna County Sanitation District is a dependent special district of the County and provides wastewater services to customers in the Orcutt and unincorporated Santa Maria areas. It is regulated by the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) under Waste Discharge Requirements Order R3-2011-0217. The service territory is located in the Third, Fourth and Fifth Supervisorial Districts. The recommended actions address service charges, connection fees, and trunk line fees. Because county sanitation districts require a minimum of three board members, the adoption of this action requires a 2/3 vote per Section 5471 of the Health and Safety Code.

Service charges are billed on an annual basis to District customers for single-family residence, multiple-family residence, school, and commercial billing categories. They fund operational, maintenance, and replacement costs (including debt service and depreciation) for collection, treatment, and discharge services. The following service charge rate structure is proposed:

Dwelling Type	Current Sewer Charge		Proposed Sewer Charge	
	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly
Single Family Residence	\$725.93	\$60.49	\$813.04	\$67.75
Multiple Family/Condo/Mobile	\$653.33	\$54.44	\$731.73	\$60.98
Commercial	Based on type, flow and loading Minimum \$653 per year		Based type, flow and loading Minimum \$731 per year	
Schools per Staff/Student	\$37.88/capita	\$3.16/capita	\$42.43/capita	\$3.53/capita

The proposed rates are consistent with the *Laguna County Sanitation District Wastewater Reclamation Facilities and Financial Master Plan* presented to the Board on October 11, 2011 (see <http://santabarbara.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=973679&GUID=A032160F-7E27-4061-B60F-BDAC8C74A852>). At that time, a multi-year rate schedule was presented that is designed to accommodate the necessary replacement of aged equipment and facility upgrades anticipated to be implemented in the near future. As shown above, the proposed 12% rate increase will result in an annual increase of \$87.11 (\$7.26 per month) for a single family residential (SFR) unit. The average annual SFR rate countywide is \$669.00 (\$55.75 per month). Rate increases are noticed to land owners pursuant to Article 13D of the California Constitution. A majority of written protests by land owners presented to the Board would cause non-imposition of the increase.

Connection fees are equity buy-in fees that ensure new customers pay a fair share of existing facilities and necessary upgrades or improvements. This action increases the connection fee from \$6,415 to \$6,704 per residential unit equivalent (RUE) and from \$5,774 to \$6,034 for multiple family units based on the Los Angeles Construction Cost Index (CCI) as prescribed by ordinance, which was 4.5% for 2013.

The Dutard-Solomon trunk line fee is a developer impact mitigation fee for new customers that utilize the Dutard-Solomon segment of the Solomon Creek trunk sewer completed by the District in 2001.

Based on an increase in the Los Angeles CCI of 4.5%, the fee for RUE will increase from \$910 to \$951 per RUE.

The Bradley-Solomon segment of the Solomon Creek trunk line was constructed by a developer in 2006. The revenue from this fee reimburses the developer subject to the terms of the reimbursement agreement executed by the Board on January 15, 2008. The agreement uses the prime interest rate for annual adjustments which was 3.25% for 2013. Therefore, this trunk fee will increase from \$2,129 to \$2,198 per RUE.

Performance Measure:

This action will establish rates and fees intended to provide revenues to meet the District's operations and capital expense needs.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

The proposed rates and fees are based on the FY 2014-2015 operating budget (excludes capital expense) and reserve policy. The attached amending ordinance will adjust existing service rates and fees as discussed above.

Fiscal Analysis:

The proposed service charge revenue represents the District's proposed operating budget, including reserves, in the amount of \$10,103,300. The majority of this revenue is billed on the tax roll while governmental agencies are billed by mail. Revenue from fees will depend upon the number of new connections.

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 of Public Hearing, in the Santa Maria Times, pursuant to Section 6066 of the Government Code. **The recommended dates for publication are June 3 and June 10, 2014.**
- B. Request the Clerk of the Board publish a summary of the ordinance in the Santa Maria Times and post the full text of the ordinance, at least 5 days prior to the hearing; and publish a summary of the ordinance in the Santa Maria Times with the names of the board members voting for and against and post a certified copy of the ordinance with the names of the board members voting for and against, within 15 days of adoption, pursuant to Section 25124(b)(1) of the Government Code.
- C. Following Board approval, Clerk of the Board to post the Notice of Exemption and forward a stamped copy to Laguna County Sanitation District, attention Martin Wilder.
- D. Clerk of the Board to forward a certified copy of the executed ordinance and resolution to:
 - Martin Wilder, Laguna County Sanitation District in Santa Maria
 - Sheila de la Guerra, Resource Recovery & Waste Management Division in Santa Barbara

Attachments:

Fixed Fee Report
Ordinance
Resolution
Notice of Exemption
Notice of Public Hearing

Authored by:

Martin Wilder, P.E., Utilities Manager

Copy:

Mark Schleich, Deputy Public Works Director, Resource Recovery & Waste Man. Division

Mark Paul, Deputy Public Works Director of Finance and Administration

Colleen Hankins, Resource Recovery & Waste Management Division Accountant