



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: 5/5/2015
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Time:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Department Scott D. McGolpin, P.E. Director, x3010
Director(s)
Contact Info: Mark A. Schleich, P.E. Deputy Director, x3605

SUBJECT: Joint Powers Agreement with City of Santa Barbara – First Supervisorial District

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:

- A. Approve and authorize the Chair to execute the joint powers agreement (JPA) with the City of Santa Barbara modifying responsibilities for sewer service and maintenance responsibilities related to the County Service Area 12 (CSA 12) sewer system in the Mission Canyon area.
- B. Find that the proposed action is categorically exempt from CEQA under 14 CCR 15301 as it relates to the operation, repair, and maintenance of public sewerage facilities; and does not constitute a “Project” within the meaning of the California Quality Act (CEQA), pursuant to 14 CCR 15378 (b)(5), in that it is a government administrative activity that will not result in direct or indirect changes in the environment.

Summary Text:

CSA 12 provides for a sewer system to collect wastewater from the Mission Canyon area and transport it to the City of Santa Barbara’s El Estero wastewater treatment plant. This JPA with the City of Santa Barbara modifies the billing for the use of City facilities to be included in Mission Canyon residents existing City water bill and relieves the City of performing maintenance to portions of the CSA 12-owned sewer lines. The CSA 12 benefit assessment to fund operation, maintenance and replacement of CSA 12-owned facilities will remain on the tax roll but will be reduced by the cost of City services.

Background:

County Service Area 12 (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. A project to construct a sewer system serving the more densely developed area of Mission Canyon was

completed on December 12, 1986. To address certain operational and maintenance aspects of the CSA 12 sewer system (8" lines and two lift stations) as well as to pay for the collection, treatment, and disposal of the wastewater, the County entered into a JPA with the City of Santa Barbara, which was fully executed on September 18, 1984. The City is compensated twice annually for these services. The County is then responsible for operation and maintenance of other portions of the CSA 12 sewer system (6" lines) as well as for replacement of equipment and capital repairs.

Over the last several years, sewer rates have increased. However, the formula in the JPA is not set up to apportion these increases in the same manner as sewer rates charged to a city resident. For this reason and because of recent regulatory criteria adopted by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB), it would be beneficial for the City to bill Mission Canyon residents for City sewer services directly on their existing water bills (the City is the water provider in the Mission Canyon area). A sewer customer would be able to reduce their sewer bill based on water conservation efforts just as a city resident instead of a flat rate. In addition, it is believed that CSA 12 can more efficiently perform maintenance to the whole sewer system. This would entail expanding the scope of the existing private vendor and taking over operation of the two lift stations. The existing contract would be re-let to include the expanded services once the JPA is adopted.

This action replaces the existing JPA to allow the City to bill Mission Canyon residents for use of its sewer facilities in existing customer water bills and puts full operational activities under the control of the County.

Performance Measure:

This action will provide for more appropriate billing mechanisms for sewer services provided to Mission Canyon residents by both the County (through CSA 12) and the City of Santa Barbara.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

There is no cost associated with this action.

Fiscal Analysis:

The fiscal impact of this action is expected to reduce sewer charges. The portion to be billed on the tax roll will be reduced from \$810 to approximately \$264 per year based on operational, maintenance, repair, reserve and administrative costs in fiscal year 2015-2016. A Mission Canyon resident will be billed for sewer service on their water bill, proposed to for fiscal year 2015-2016 at an amount not exceeding \$45.37 per month (\$544.44 per year).

Staffing Impacts:

Legal Positions:

None

FTEs:

None

Special Instructions:

Retain one (1) original amendment for Clerk of the Board records and return the other two (2) original amendments to the Public Works Department, attention Martin Wilder.

Attachments:

Joint Powers Agreement (3 originals).

Authored by:

Martin Wilder, Public Works Utilities Manager, x8750

Copy:

Mark Paul, Public Works Chief Financial Officer