



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:** 4/7/2020  
**Placement:** Set hearing  
**Estimated Time:** 15 minutes on 5/5/2020  
**Continued Item:** No  
**If Yes, date form:**  
**Vote Required:** Majority

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**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, P.E., Director, 805-568-3010

Contact Info: Leslie Wells, Deputy Director, 805-882-3605

**SUBJECT:** Establishing Benefit Assessments for County Service Areas 3, 31, and the Santa Barbara North County Lighting District for Fiscal Year 2020-2021, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Supervisorial Districts

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**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 5, 2020 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 5, 2020 consider the following recommendations:
  - i) Receive and file Benefit Assessment Reports for Fiscal Year 2020-2021 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 2020-2021;

- iii) Adopt the resolution establishing streetlighting charges (no changes proposed), for County Service Areas 31 for fiscal year 2020-2021;
- 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 2020-2021;
- v) Adopt the findings in the Notice of Exemption that the proposed action is 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 that the action is therefore exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to 14 CCR Section 15273, and direct staff to file and post the 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. 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) - 2nd and 3rd Supervisorial Districts**

CSA 3 currently provides for 1,374 streetlights and serves unincorporated area between the cities of Goleta and Santa Barbara. Annual streetlighting operation and administrative costs are approximately \$205,000. 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 \$205,000 to cover the streetlighting costs without property tax contributions.

**County Service Area 31 (CSA 31) - 3rd Supervisorial District**

CSA 31 currently provides for 410 streetlights and serves Isla Vista. Annual streetlighting operation and administrative costs are approximately \$65,000. 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 \$33,600. Property tax contributions of approximately \$31,400 will be used to cover the remaining costs.

**Santa Barbara North County Lighting District (SBNCLD) - 3rd and 4th Supervisorial Districts**

SBNCLD currently provides for 2,831 streetlights in five zones consisting of the Los Alamos, Casmalia,

Orcutt, unincorporated Santa Maria, and unincorporated Lompoc areas in addition to several tract specific zones. Annual streetlighting operation and administrative costs are expected to be approximately \$608,500. Property tax contributions and revenues to this fund are approximately \$559,700 such that approximately \$48,800 will come from reserves.

Benefit assessments may be assessed in the unincorporated Santa Maria benefit assessment zone and several tract specific benefit assessment zones should there be a property tax funding shortfall. Because the fund balance is sufficient, staff is recommending that these 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.

<u>CSA, District or Zone</u>	<u>Benefit Assessment Revenue</u>	<u>Property Tax Revenue</u>	<u>Fund Reserve</u>	<u>Total Revenues and Costs</u>
CSA 3	\$205,000	\$0	\$0	\$205,000
CSA 31	\$33,600	\$31,400	\$0	\$65,000
SBNCLD	\$0	\$559,700	\$48,800	\$608,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$238,600</b>	<b>\$591,100</b>	<b>\$48,800</b>	<b>\$878,500</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. Recommended dates are April 21 and April 28, 2020.
- 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 hearing, 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.
- 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 the Public Works Dept., Santa Maria, attention: Angela Arredondo.

**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 NCLD
- 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:**

Martin Wilder, P.E., Utilities Manager, 805-803-8750

**Copy:**

Chris Sneddon, Transportation Division Deputy Director, 805-568-3064

Julie Hagen, CPA, Deputy Public Works Director of Finance and Administration, 805 568-3010