

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANTA BARBARA DECLARING ITS INTENTION TO RENEW THE WILDLAND FIRE SUPPRESSION ASSESSMENT WITHIN THE FOOTHILL AND EXTREME FOOTHILL ZONES; DECLARING THE WORK TO BE OF MORE THAN GENERAL OR ORDINARY BENEFIT AND DESCRIBING THE DISTRICT TO BE ASSESSED TO PAY THE COSTS AND EXPENSES THEREOF; PRELIMINARILY APPROVING THE UPDATED ENGINEER'S REPORT; STATING INTENTION TO LEVY ASSESSMENTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2013-2014; AND ESTABLISHING A TIME OF 2:00 P.M. ON TUESDAY, MAY 21, 2013, IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS FOR A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE WILDLAND FIRE SUPPRESSION ASSESSMENT

WHEREAS, the City of Santa Barbara is authorized, pursuant to the authority provided in California Government Code Section 50078 et seq. and Article XIID of the California Constitution, to levy assessments for fire suppression services;

WHEREAS, an assessment for fire suppression has been given the distinctive designation of the "Wildland Fire Suppression Assessment" ("Assessment"), and is primarily described as encompassing the Foothill and Extreme Foothill zones as defined in the Wildland Fire Plan of 2004;

WHEREAS, the Assessment was authorized by an assessment ballot proceeding conducted in 2006 and approved by 51% of the weighted ballots returned by property owners, and such assessments were levied by the City of Santa Barbara City Council by Resolution No. 06-064 passed on July 11, 2006; and

WHEREAS, although the methodology by which the assessments are applied to properties in the District does not change from year to year, a new Engineer's Report is prepared each year in order to establish the CPI adjustment for that year; the new maximum authorized assessment rate for that year; the budget for that year; and the amount to be charged to each parcel in the District that year, subject to that year's assessment rate and any changes in the attributes of the properties in the District, including but not limited to use changes, parcel subdivisions, and/or parcel consolidations.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANTA BARBARA AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. SCI Consulting Group, the Engineer of Work, has prepared an engineer's report in accordance with Article XIID of the California Constitution. The Report has been made, filed with the City Clerk and duly considered by the Council and is hereby deemed sufficient and preliminarily approved. The Report shall stand as the Engineer's Report for all subsequent proceedings under and pursuant to the foregoing resolution.

SECTION 2. It is the intention of this Council to continue to levy and collect assessments for the Wildland Fire Suppression Assessment for fiscal year 2013-14. Within the Assessment District, the proposed services to be funded by the assessments ("Services") are generally described as including but not limited to, the following: (1) continuation of the vegetation road clearance program to cover all public roads within the Foothill and Extreme Foothill Zones (continuing this program will reduce fuel, enhance evacuation routes, and decrease fire response times); (2) enhancing the defensible space fire prevention inspection and assistance program for all properties in the Foothill and Extreme Foothill Zones; and (3) implementation of a vegetation management program in the Foothill and Extreme Foothill Zones. As applied herein, "vegetation road clearance" means the treatment, clearing, reducing, or changing of vegetation near roadways in the Foothill and Extreme Foothill Zones where vegetation poses a fire hazard and does not meet Fire Department Vegetation Road Clearance Standards within the high fire hazard area (as provided in Santa Barbara Municipal Code Section 8.04.020.M). "Defensible space" is a perimeter created around a structure where vegetation is treated, cleared or reduced to slow the spread of wildfire towards a structure, reduce the chance of a structure fire burning to the surrounding area, and provides a safe perimeter for firefighters to protect a structure (as provided in Chapter 49, Section 4907 "Requirements For Wildland-Urban Interface Areas, Defensible Space" as adopted by the City of Santa Barbara pursuant to Santa Barbara Municipal Code Section 8.04.010). "Vegetation management" means the reduction of fire hazard through public education, vegetation hazard reduction, and other methods as needed to manage vegetation in areas with unique hazards such as heavy, flammable vegetation, lack of access due to topography and roads, and/or firefighter safety.

SECTION 3. The estimated fiscal year 2013-14 cost of providing the Services is \$245,287. This cost results in a proposed assessment rate of SEVENTY FIVE DOLLARS AND FOURTEEN CENTS (\$75.14) per single-family equivalent benefit unit in the Foothill Zone and NINETY THREE DOLLARS AND SEVENTEEN CENTS (\$93.17) in the Extreme Foothill Zone for fiscal year 2013-14. The Assessments include a provision for an annual increase equal to the change in the Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County Area Consumer Price Index ("CPI), not to exceed 4% (four percent) per year without a further vote or balloting process. The total allowable CPI adjustment for 2013-14 is 1.93% and the rates have been adjusted, accordingly.

SECTION 4. The public hearing shall be held, before the City Council in the City of Santa Barbara City Council Chambers, located at 735 Anacapa Street, Santa Barbara, CA 93101 as follows: on Tuesday, May 21, 2013 at the hour of 2:00 p.m. for the purpose of this Council's determination whether the public interest, convenience and necessity require the Services and this Council's final action upon the Report and the assessments therein.

SECTION 5. The clerk of the council shall cause a notice of the hearing to be given by publishing a notice, at least ten (10) days prior to the date of the hearing above-specified, in a newspaper circulated in the City.