

RESOLUTION NO. 15_____

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANTA BARBARA DECLARING ITS INTENTION TO CONTINUE VEGETATION ROAD CLEARANCE, IMPLEMENTATION OF A DEFENSIBLE SPACE INSPECTION AND ASSISTANCE PROGRAM, AND IMPLEMENTATION OF A VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PROGRAM 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; APPROVING THE ENGINEER'S REPORT, CONFIRMING DIAGRAM AND ASSESSMENT, AND ORDERING CONTINUATION OF THE WILDLAND FIRE SUPPRESSION ASSESSMENT DISTRICT; FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015-16

WHEREAS, on July 11, 2006, by its Resolution No. 06-064, after receiving a weighted majority of ballots in support of the proposed assessment, this Council ordered the formation of and levied the first assessment within the City of Santa Barbara Wildland Fire Suppression Assessment, pursuant to the authority provided in California Government Code Section 50078 et seq. and Article XIID of the California Constitution,

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;

WHEREAS, it is the intention of this Council to continue to levy and collect assessments for the Wildland Fire Suppression Assessment for Fiscal Year 2015-16. 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 of the California Fire Code, as adopted by the City of Santa Barbara pursuant to Santa Barbara Municipal Code Section 8.04). "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;

WHEREAS, by Resolution No. 15-031 the City Council preliminarily approved the Engineer's Report for said District and set a date for a Public Hearing;

WHEREAS, the Public Hearing was held on May 19, 2015;

WHEREAS, said report was duly made and filed with the City Clerk and duly considered by this Council and found to be sufficient in every particular, whereupon it was determined that the report should stand as the Engineer's Report for all subsequent proceedings under and pursuant to the aforesaid resolution, and that May 19, 2015, at the hour of 2:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, City Hall, 735 Anacapa Street, Santa Barbara, were appointed as the time and place for a hearing by this Council on the question of the levy of the proposed assessment, notice of which hearing was given as required by law; and

WHEREAS, at the appointed time and place the hearing was duly and regularly held, and all persons interested and desiring to be heard were given an opportunity to be heard, and all matters and things pertaining to the levy were fully heard and considered by the Council, and all oral statements and all written protests or communications were duly heard, considered and overruled, and this council thereby acquired jurisdiction to order the levy and the confirmation of the diagram and assessment prepared by and made a part of the Engineer's Report to pay the costs and expenses thereof.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANTA BARBARA DOES HEREBY RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. The public interest, convenience and necessity require that the levy be made.

SECTION 2. The Assessment District benefited by the fire suppression services and assessed to pay the costs and expenses thereof, and the exterior boundaries thereof, are as shown by a map thereof filed in the office of the City Clerk, which map is made a part hereof by reference thereto.

SECTION 3. The Engineer's Report as a whole and each part thereof, to wit:

- (a) the Engineer's estimate of the itemized and total costs and expenses of the fire suppression services and of the incidental expenses in connection therewith;

(b) the diagram showing the assessment district, plans and specifications for the fire suppression services and the boundaries and dimensions of the respective lots and parcels of land within the Assessment District; and

(c) the assessment of the total amount of the cost and expenses of the proposed fire suppression services upon the several lots and parcels of land in the Assessment District in proportion to the estimated special benefits to be received by such lots and parcels, respectively, from the maintenance, and of the expenses incidental thereto; are finally approved and confirmed.

SECTION 4. Final adoption and approval of the Engineer's Report as a whole, and of the plans and specifications, estimate of the costs and expenses, the diagram and the assessment, as contained in the report as hereinabove determined and ordered, is intended to and shall refer and apply to the report, or any portion thereof as amended, modified, or revised or corrected by, or pursuant to and in accordance with, any resolution or order, if any, heretofore duly adopted or made by this Council.

SECTION 5. The assessments for fiscal year 2015-16 shall be levied at the rate of SEVENTY SIX DOLLARS AND TWENTY-SEVEN CENTS (\$76.27) per single-family equivalent benefit unit in the Foothill Zone and NINETY FOUR DOLLARS AND FIFTY-SEVEN CENTS (\$94.57) in the Extreme Foothill Zone for fiscal year 2015-16 per single family equivalent benefit. The estimated fiscal year 2015-16 cost of providing the Services is \$252,046.

SECTION 6. The assessment to pay the costs and expenses of the fire suppression services for fiscal year 2015-16 is hereby levied.

SECTION 7. Based on the oral and documentary evidence, including the Engineer's Report, offered and received at the hearing, this Council expressly finds and determines (a) that each of the several lots and parcels of land will be specially benefited by the fire suppression services at least in the amount if not more than the amount, of the assessment apportioned against the lots and parcels of land, respectively, and (b) that there is substantial evidence to support, and the weight of the evidence preponderates in favor of, the aforesaid finding and determination as to special benefits.

SECTION 8. Immediately upon the adoption of this resolution, but in no event later than the third Monday in August following such adoption, the City Clerk shall file a certified copy of the diagram and assessment and a certified copy of this resolution with the Auditor of the County of Santa Barbara. Upon such filing, the County Auditor shall enter on the County assessment roll opposite each lot or parcel of land the amount of assessment thereupon as shown in the assessment. The assessments shall be collected at the same time and in the same manner as County taxes are collected and all laws providing for the collection and enforcement of County taxes shall apply to the collection and enforcement of the assessments, After collection by the County, the net amount of the assessments, after deduction of any compensation due the County for collection, shall be paid to the City of Santa Barbara Wildland Fire Suppression Assessment District.

SECTION 9. Upon receipt of the moneys representing assessments collected by the County,

the County shall deposit the moneys in the City Treasury to the credit of the improvement fund previously established under the distinctive designation of the Assessment District. Moneys in the improvement fund shall be expended only for the maintenance, servicing, construction or installation of the fire suppression services.

SECTION 10. The City Clerk shall certify to the adoption of this resolution and shall cause a certified resolution to be filed in the book of original resolutions.