



# CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

## COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

**AGENDA DATE:** June 10, 2008  
**TO:** Mayor and Councilmembers  
**FROM:** Water Resources Division, Public Works Department  
**SUBJECT:** Feasibility Study For Out-Of-City Sewer Extensions

**RECOMMENDATION:** That Council:

- A. Authorize the Public Works Director to execute an agreement with the County of Santa Barbara in the amount of \$58,850, providing County funding for the preparation of a preliminary Engineering and Feasibility Study for sewer main extensions to serve four out-of-City areas at the West end of the City;
- B. Increase the Fiscal Year 2008 Wastewater Operating Fund estimated revenues by \$58,850, based on Santa Barbara County approval of funding for the above-mentioned study, and appropriate the same to the Fiscal Year 2008 Wastewater Fund operating budget; and
- C. Authorize the General Services Manager to issue a purchase order to Penfield and Smith in the amount of \$53,500 for preparation of the above-mentioned study, and approve extra services up to a maximum of \$5,350, for a total spending authorization of \$58,850.

**DISCUSSION:**

There are four unincorporated areas adjacent to the City's western boundary that do not currently have sewer service. These areas are mostly developed, typically with single family residences or duplexes, and use septic systems for waste disposal. They would logically be served by the City's Wastewater System, if the septic tanks were to be abandoned. These four areas are shown on the attached diagram (Attachment) and include the Veronica Springs area, Northview Road/Vista Vallejo, Sunset Road/Fairfax Road, and Calle Cita west of La Cumbre Road. There are approximately 180 properties in the four areas.

Staff has received a number of requests for connection to City sewer from residents of these areas, primarily due to septic tank failure. There is also interest in facilitating abandonment of septic tanks to remove potential for contamination of creek and ocean water as a result of failing septic tanks. Accordingly, the Santa Barbara County Public Health Department (County) has reserved funding for preliminary engineering studies to help property owners get a better idea of the feasibility and cost of connecting to a public sewer system. While provision of City sewer service to unincorporated areas

raises a number of policy issues related to annexation, staff concurs that it is valuable to proceed with the technical assessment of feasibility and cost. We anticipate that the policy issues relating to providing municipal services to unincorporated urban areas will be discussed with Council in a work session to be scheduled during the coming months.

Staff requested proposals from three firms to conduct the feasibility study and selected the proposal from Penfield and Smith. The City will administer the work of Penfield and Smith in conjunction with County staff. The City will be reimbursed by the County upon completion of the study. Therefore, the finances of the Wastewater Fund will not be impacted.

The preliminary design study will provide property owners with a plan showing where sewer lines would be placed, and an estimate of the cost. This information will assist those owners in determining whether they are ready to make a commitment to the cost of proceeding with a project to extend the City's sewer system to serve their properties.

**ATTACHMENT(S):** Map of Study Areas

**PREPARED BY:** Rebecca Bjork, Acting Water Resources Manager/BF/spm

**SUBMITTED BY:** Paul Casey, Acting Public Works Director

**APPROVED BY:** City Administrator's Office

# Map of Study Areas

## Potential Out-of-City Sewer Extensions

