



Agenda Item No. \_\_\_\_\_

File Code No. 290.00

# CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

## COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

**AGENDA DATE:** June 17, 2008

**TO:** Mayor and Councilmembers

**FROM:** Fire Prevention Division, Fire Department

**SUBJECT:** Renewal Of Levy For Fiscal Year 2008-09 And Increase In Levy By Consumer Price Index For The Wildland Fire Suppression Assessment District

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council adopt, by reading of title only, 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 Levy of The Wildland Fire Suppression Assessment District for Fiscal Year 2008-09.

### **DISCUSSION:**

On July 11, 2006 the City Council adopted Resolution 06-064 declaring its intention to order expansion of 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. The District would be assessed annually for the expenses as provided in an approved Engineer's Report that outlines Wildland Fire Suppression District expenses and the assessment formula.

On June 19, 2007, the City Council adopted a resolution to renew the Wildland Fire Suppression Assessment District for Fiscal Year 2007-2008. In the District's second year, the Fire Department was able to continue to reduce the risk of wildland fires through the reduction of flammable vegetation. The Road Clearance program has resulted in the clearing of 14 miles of roadways in the high fire hazard areas. The Defensible Space Inspection Program was expanded to the entire assessment area and included more than 80 assists. Chipping services for homeowners continue throughout the District, providing a cost effective way to dispose of cut material. As of March 2008, 450 cubic yards of

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material had been chipped for residents of the area, sending less than 3% of cut material to the landfill. The Vegetation Management program completed a biological assessment and began treatment of the Las Canoas area, a prescription that will involve 19 acres of vegetation management in Fiscal Year 2008-2009.

The duration of the Assessment District was established as one year, allowing for an annual renewal with a Consumer Price Index increase not to exceed 4%, by approval of the City Council. The District may be annually renewed without a further balloting process. The new rate for Fiscal Year 2008-2009 as suggested in the updated Engineer's Report will be set at the annual rate of \$69.83 per single family parcel in the Foothill Zone and \$86.58 in the Extreme Foothill Zone. This amount includes an increase of 4%.

As required in the adopting resolution, an updated Engineers Report has been prepared and includes the proposed budget and assessment rate. The updated Engineers Report shall be considered by the City Council at a noticed public hearing and shall serve as the basis for the continuation of the assessments. The updated Engineer's Report is available for review at the Fire Department Administration Offices at 925 De La Vina Street and the City Clerk's Office at City Hall at 735 Anacapa Street.

On May 20, 2008, the Council adopted Resolution 08-039 to declare its intention to renew the Wildland Fire Suppression Assessment District within the Foothill and Extreme Foothill Zones and setting a time of 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 17, 2008, in the City Council Chambers for a public hearing on the Wildland Fire Suppression Assessment District. Staff recommends that the Wildland Fire Suppression Assessment District be continued for Fiscal Year 2008-2009, in order to fund and deliver these successful programs that assist in the control of Wildland Fires.

#### **SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT:**

Vegetation removed through vegetation road clearance or the inspection and assistance program is chipped and spread back on to the ground or spread in areas of local parks. The goal (which we exceeded) is reuse of at least 80% of all chipped material locally avoiding the cost of disposal fees, extra vehicle trips and landfill use. Non-native pest plants are not chipped and hauled off site to be disposed of properly.

**PREPARED BY:** Joe Poiré, Fire Marshal

**SUBMITTED BY:** Ron Prince, Fire Chief

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