

**City of Culver City, California
Agenda Item Report**

Meeting Date: 06/23/14		Item Number: PH-4	
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM: PUBLIC HEARING - Adoption of a Resolution Confirming the Assessment and Ordering the Levy for the Higuera Street Landscape and Lighting Assessment District - Fiscal Year 2014/2015			
Contact Person/Dept.: Mate Gaspar/DPW		Phone Number: (310) 253-5602	
Fiscal Impact: Yes ☒ No ☐		General Fund: Yes ☐ No ☒	
Public Hearing: ☒		Action Item: ☐ Attachments: ☒	
Commission Action Required: Yes ☐ No ☒		Date: _____	
Public Notification: (E-Mail) Agenda and Meetings – City Council (06/17/14); Public Hearing Notice published in the Culver City News on June 12, 2014. Property owners were mailed a courtesy notice on June 10, 2014.			
Department Approval: Charles D. Herbertson (06/12/14)		City Attorney Approval: Carol Schwab (by H. Baker) (06/16/14)	
Chief Financial Officer Approval: Jeff Muir (06/17/14)		City Manager Approval: John M. Nachbar (06/17/14)	

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the City Council adopt a resolution confirming the assessment and ordering the levy for the Higuera Street Landscape and Lighting Assessment District for Fiscal Year 2014/2015.

PROCEDURE:

1. Mayor seeks motion from City Council to receive and file the affidavits of publication and posting of notices and correspondence received in response to the public hearing notices; and,
2. Mayor calls for a staff report and the City Council Members may pose questions to staff as desired; and,
3. Mayor seeks a motion to open the public hearing; and
4. Mayor seeks a motion to close the public hearing after all public testimony has been presented; and,
5. City Council discusses the item and arrives at its decision.

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BACKGROUND:

On May 27, 2014, the City Council approved the Engineer's Report, declared its intention to order the assessment levy and collection of assessments, and set the date, time and place for this public hearing, for the Higuera Street Landscape and Lighting Assessment District.

The Higuera Street landscaping and street lighting improvements were installed in 1995 at the request of the property owners. The assessment district was formed, and the boundary includes properties on both sides of Higuera Street between Lindblade Avenue and Hayden Avenue. Each of the properties directly or indirectly benefits from the public improvements maintained in the District.

In December 2009, following two failed attempts to increase the assessment, the City Council approved the reduction of maintenance from 4 times a month to 2 times a month, removal of lantanas around the street trees, and reduction of landscape irrigation by 30%, in order for the District expenditures to match District revenues.

DISCUSSION:

The total proposed Fiscal Year 2014/2015 assessment levy for the District is \$19,402.24. The total proposed expenditure is \$20,067.00. The charge per linear frontage footage per parcel is \$4.35. The purchase of three new irrigation controllers in Fiscal Year 2009/2010 is being amortized over a five year period (which concludes in Fiscal Year 2014/2015) and, as a result, the District will have a projected operating deficit of \$664 until then. Nevertheless, staff is not recommending seeking an increase to the assessment levy for Fiscal Year 2014/2015 and recommends that the existing assessment levy be affirmed.

Staff will continue to monitor the rate of expenditure growth and recommend additional cutbacks to services to the District when deemed necessary.

Pursuant to Section 15.01.070.H of the Culver City Municipal Code (CCMC), any interested persons may file a written protest with the City Clerk (or withdrawal a previously filed protest) until the conclusion of the Public Hearing. Pursuant to CCMC Section 15.01.070.K, the City Council shall not impose an **increased** assessment if there is a majority protest. In this case, for Fiscal Year 2014/2015, the Engineer's Report does not propose an increased assessment. Therefore, notwithstanding any written protests received, the City Council may adopt the resolution confirming the assessment as determined by the Engineer's Report.

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Pursuant to CCMC Section 15.01.070 (J and K), the City Council may choose to order changes in any of the matters provided in the report, including changes in the improvements or services, or both, any zones within the district, and the proposed diagram or proposed assessment so long as the changes do not result in an increase of the rates above the voter approved maximum rates adjusted by an inflationary formula, if any (if such formula received prior voter approval), or it may choose to adopt a resolution confirming the diagram and assessment, either as originally proposed or as changed by it. Adoption of such resolution constitutes the assessment levy for Fiscal Year 2014/2015. The City Council may also choose to dissolve the District pursuant to CCMC Section 15.01.065.A.3 or pay for the assessment with the City's General Fund.

FISCAL ANALYSIS:

The Higuera Street Landscaping and Lighting Assessment District budget is 100 percent self-supporting for all expenditures. Property owners within the District are charged for their fair share of these costs, as described in the Engineer's Report.

ATTACHMENT:

1. Proposed Resolution

MOTION:

That the City Council:

Adopt a resolution confirming the assessment and ordering the levy for Higuera Street Landscape and Lighting Assessment District - Fiscal Year 2014/2015.