



City of Culver City

Mike Balkman
Council Chambers
9770 Culver Blvd.
Culver City, CA 90232
(310) 253-5851

Staff Report

File #: 22-1178, **Version:** 1

Item #: C-6.

CC - CONSENT ITEM: Adoption of a Resolution (1) Approving the Engineer's Report for the Sewer User's Service Charge, (2) Declaring the Intention to Order the Sewer User's Service Charge for Fiscal Year 2022/2023, and (3) Setting the Date, Time, and Place for Public Hearing.

Meeting Date: July 11, 2022

Contact Person/Dept.: Mate Gaspar/Public Works
Christopher Evans/ Public Works

Phone Number: (310) 253-5602
(310) 253-5621

Fiscal Impact: Yes ☐ No ☒

General Fund: Yes ☐ No ☒

Attachments: Yes ☒ No ☐

Commission Action Required: Yes ☐ No ☒

Public Notification: (E-Mail) Meetings and Agendas - City Council (07/06/2022);

Department Approval: Yanni Demitri, Public Works Director/City Engineer (06/29/2022)

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the City Council adopt a Resolution (1) approving the Engineer's Report for the Sewer User's Service Charge; (2) declaring its intention to levy and collect the Sewer User's Service Charges for Fiscal Year 2022/2023; and (3) setting a public hearing for August 8, 2022.

BACKGROUND

Culver City owns and operates a separate sewage collection system which is connected to the City of Los Angeles' system. Culver City sewage, which is deposited into the Los Angeles system, is treated at the City of Los Angeles' Hyperion Treatment Plant prior to its ultimate disposal in the Pacific Ocean or additional treatment by West Basin Municipal Water District for the production of recycled water that is used throughout the region. An agreement between the City of Los Angeles and a number of other cities called the Amalgamated Agreement (Agreement) requires Culver City to pay a proportionate share of the costs of conveyance, operation, maintenance, repair, and capital improvements to upgrade and improve the Amalgamated Sewerage system.

Federal law requires that all agencies using the City of Los Angeles' Hyperion Treatment Plant adopt a system of charges to assure that each property served by a public sewer pays its fair share of costs for the operation, maintenance, repair, and improvement of the Hyperion Treatment Plant. The "fair share" of each property is based on its contribution to the system in terms of flow quantity and sewage strength (biochemical oxygen demand and suspended solids). This is in addition to the cost experienced by Culver City in the collection, operation, and improvement of the City's own sewage collection and conveyance system.

In addition to formulating and adopting a system of Sewer User's Service Charges (SUSC), the City must also select a system for collecting these charges. In 1980, based on an engineering study and the City Engineer's recommendation, the City Council initiated a once-a-year billing procedure for Sewer User's Service Charges that places each property owner's charges on their property tax bill. This method of collection has proven to be very efficient and provides the lowest cost billing and collection service for Culver City.

DISCUSSION

Pursuant to a Resolution adopted by the City Council on May 9, 2022, the Public Works Director/City Engineer has prepared the Engineer's Report for the Sewer User's Service Charge and filed said Report with the City Clerk. A copy of the Engineer's report is attached to this report for consideration by the City Council.

For Fiscal Years 2020/2021 and 2021/2022, due to the severe impacts to both individuals and businesses caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, staff recommended, and the City Council agreed, that there be no increase to the Sewer User Service Charge.

Due to sufficient reserves, staff recommends the rates for Fiscal Year 2022/2023 remain unchanged and that an increase not be implemented. The sewer fund reserve has a sufficient balance to cover anticipated operational expenses in FY 2022/2023.

Staff recommends that the City Council adopt a resolution (1) approving the Engineer's Report, (2) declaring the City Council's intention to order the levy of Sewer User's Service Charge for Fiscal Year 2022/2023; and (3) setting the time and place for the public hearing as required by Culver City Municipal Code (CCMC) Sections 5.02.035.C and 5.02.040.

Should the City Council adopt the proposed resolution, pursuant to 5.02.040 of the CCMC, the City Clerk shall give notice of the August 8th public hearing by causing the Resolution of Intention to be published at least 14 days prior to the date of the hearing. Instructions on how to attend the meeting will be included in the published notice. During the scheduled Public Hearing, the City will consider all protests against any proposed increase and assessment.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

A detailed analysis of the revenues and expenses is contained in the Engineer's Report.

ATTACHMENTS

1. 2022-07-11-ATT-ID22-1178-2022_Engineer's_Report_SUSC_Final.pdf
2. 2022-07-11-ATT-ID22-1178-Resolution_of_Intention_SUSC.pdf

MOTION

That the City Council:

1. Adopt a Resolution
 - (1) Approving the Engineer's Report for the Sewer User's Service Charge.
 - (2) Declaring the City Council's intention to order the levy of Sewer User's Service Charge Fiscal Year 2022/2023, and
 - (3) Setting the Public Hearing for August 8, 2022.