



City Council Agenda Item

City Council Meeting Date: February 18, 2020

TO: Jim Throop, City Manager

FROM: Dean Albro, Management Services Director
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SUBJECT: Adoption of Resolution No. 6306(20) Directing SCI Consulting Group to Prepare the Engineer's Report for Fiscal Year 2020-2021, for the Continuation of Levying the Annual Assessments for the Park Maintenance and City Pool Assessment District No. 2002-01

Recommendation:

Staff recommends the City Council adopt Resolution No. 6306(20) (Attachment 1), directing SCI Consulting Group (SCI) to prepare the Engineer's Report for the Park Maintenance and City Pool Assessment District No. 2002-01 (District) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2020-2021 (Engineer's Report), for the continuation of the assessments that provide important revenues to fund the Lompoc Aquatic Center, as well as other park and recreation improvements and services.

Background:

In the spring of 2002, the City developed a proposed assessment for funding a portion of the cost of a new community swimming pool, park improvements and other park and recreation maintenance services, through the Landscape and Lighting District Act of 1972 (Act). That proposed assessment, the District, was approved by property owners in an assessment ballot proceeding conducted during June through August of 2002. In August 2002, the balloting period was closed and since a weighted majority of ballots returned were in support of the proposed assessment, the City Council approved and levied the assessments.

The assessments can be continued annually and can be increased by the change in the Los Angeles Area (Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County) Consumer Price Index-U, as published by the US Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics, not to exceed 3% per year. Since FY 2002-2003, the assessments have been continued annually and are providing important revenues needed to fund the community swimming pool, as well as other park and recreation improvements and services.

Resolution No. 6306(20) directs SCI, the assessment engineer, to prepare the Engineer's Report. That Engineer's Report will include the proposed budgeted expenditures, the

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updated proposed assessments for each parcel, and the proposed assessment per single-family equivalent benefit unit.

The services provided by SCI include the tasks required for the year-round administration of the District's assessments, which includes a comprehensive property-based auditing and levy accuracy confirmation on a parcel-by-parcel basis, to ensure the District receives the most accurate assessment revenues and directly responds to property owner inquiries on a toll-free taxpayer assistance line. SCI's services will also include evaluation of the most current legal requirements and developments for benefit assessments, including any court decisions for benefit assessments or Proposition 218, and updates to the assessment justification and engineering findings, if appropriate.

Discussion:

The Act requires an annual Engineer's Report be prepared by a licensed professional engineer. Resolution No. 6306(20) directs SCI to prepare the Engineer's Report, which is the first step in a three-step process required by the Act to continue the annual assessments.

The timetable (Attachment 2) provides additional information regarding the three-step process required to continue the annual assessment for FY 2020-2021. The second step is scheduled to occur on May 5, 2020, when the Engineer's Report will be presented to the City Council in substantially complete form, along with a recommendation to set a public hearing on the assessment. That public hearing is the final step in the approval process. Upon completion of the public hearing, the City Council may adopt a resolution accepting the Engineer's Report and levying the continued annual assessment.

Once all the approval steps are taken and completed by the City Council, the next step, coordinated by SCI, is the actual delivery of the assessment roll of the District to the County of Santa Barbara (County) in August, for inclusion with the individual property owner's tax bills. The tax bills are ultimately generated by the County and delivered in November to property owners. The assessments collected by the County are delivered to the City in January and April. As a "Teeter" City in the County, any uncollected assessments for the year will be remitted by the County to the City in June 2021. The burden for collection is then borne by the County rather than the City. The County would also retain any interest it collects.

Fiscal Impact:

The expected costs of preparing the Engineer's Report by SCI is included in the Biennial Budget FYs 2019-2021 (account 440PAD-537120) in the Assessment District fund (Fund 440) – a non-General Fund source. Therefore, there is no unanticipated fiscal impact attributable to the approval of this item.

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Conclusion:

After due consideration, staff recommends the City Council adopt Resolution No. 6306(20), directing SCI to prepare the Engineer's Report for FY 2020-2021, in order to continue to levy the assessment for the District.

Respectfully submitted,

Dean Albro, Management Services Director

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL TO THE CITY COUNCIL:

Jim Throop, City Manager

Attachments: 1) Resolution No. 6306(20)
2) Timetable for Fiscal Year 2020-2021