



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

File Code No. \_\_\_\_\_

# CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

## COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

**ITEM 6**

**AGENDA DATE:** May 19, 2015

**TO:** Mayor and Councilmembers

**FROM:** Water Resources Division, Public Works Department

**SUBJECT:** Joint Powers Agreement For Wastewater Collection, Treatment, And Disposal In The Mission Canyon Area

**RECOMMENDATION:** That Council:

- A. Introduce and subsequently adopt, by reading by title only, An Ordinance Approving a Joint Powers Agreement for Wastewater Collection, Treatment, and Disposal in the Mission Canyon Area, in Accordance With Section 521 of the City Charter; and
- B. Authorize the Mayor to execute a Joint Powers Agreement for Wastewater Collection, Treatment, and Disposal in the Mission Canyon Area with the County of Santa Barbara.

### **DISCUSSION:**

#### Background

On May 24, 1983, Council granted conceptual approval for the provision of wastewater service in the Santa Barbara County Mission Canyon Area (CSA 12). Council authorized staff to negotiate with the County Public Works Department to determine appropriate charges for connection and service. In addition, Council directed staff and the Planning Commission to advise Council of the mechanism that would provide for the interests of the City of Santa Barbara (City) while cooperating with the County of Santa Barbara (County) on planning issues. These efforts culminated in the creation of a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) between the County and the City, which was approved by Council on August 31, 1984.

The JPA established provisions for the CSA 12 properties to connect to and utilize the City's wastewater system for wastewater collection, treatment, and disposal purposes. The JPA delineated procedures and practices for property buy-in compensation and payment, annual wastewater service charges, City-performed maintenance services provided to CSA 12, and miscellaneous contract terms and conditions. The JPA also provided a funding arrangement for the County to pay for and construct new City sewer mains for the City's benefit.

### Current Update Process:

In 2013, County staff contacted the City to initiate a process to update the JPA. The County's primary goals in this update process are to:

- Transfer the annual sewer service billing process from the County's semi-annual billing cycle for property tax to the City's monthly water billing cycle, which would eliminate the County from acting as a pass-through agency for collecting CSA 12 property sewer fees on behalf of the City. This new transfer process allows the City to collect sewer service fees directly from CSA 12 properties that are being served by the City.
- Eliminate existing JPA provisions related to City wastewater collection system maintenance services of the CSA 12 sewer system. The portion of the CSA 12 system which the City maintains consists of about 11 miles of 8" diameter sewer mains and two sewer lift stations. The County now seeks to provide these maintenance services directly to CSA 12 residents.
- Update the JPA language to provide for contemporary documentation of inter-agency services and to eliminate documentation that no longer serves a useful purpose for either agency.

The draft JPA was developed during 2014, and is now being submitted for both City Council and County Board of Supervisors approvals.

### **BUDGET/FINANCIAL INFORMATION:**

County CSA 12 ratepayers will pay individual monthly sewer service fees directly to the City through the City's current water billing process, rather than County staff transmitting these fees semi-annually to the City on CSA 12 properties' behalf. The City will relinquish approximately \$250,000 annually by no longer performing sewer and lift station maintenance services for the CSA 12 wastewater collection system.

### **SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT:**

This action will enable City staff to reallocate its time and resources toward increased maintenance of the City's wastewater collection system infrastructure.

**PREPARED BY:** Joshua Haggmark, Water Resources Manager/CJT/mh

**SUBMITTED BY:** Rebecca J. Bjork, Public Works Director

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