



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Inter-Departmental Correspondence
Public Works



Date: January 6, 2015
Board Meeting Date: February 10, 2015
Special Notice / Hearing: None
Vote Required: Majority

To: Honorable Board of Supervisors, Acting as the Governing Board of the Pescadero Highway Lighting District

From: James C. Porter, Director of Public Works

Subject: Maintenance Costs Associated with Two Streetlights on Pescadero Creek Road near Butano Creek

RECOMMENDATION:

Acting as the Governing Board of the Pescadero Highway Lighting District, adopt a resolution authorizing the Pescadero Highway Lighting District to maintain two streetlights along Pescadero Creek Road near Butano Creek.

BACKGROUND:

On December 11, 2012, your Board adopted Resolution No. 072314, which authorized funding to support projects in the Pescadero area related to the flooding of Pescadero Creek Road (Road) and the water system serving the community of Pescadero. The funding, related to the flooding, included the installation of two streetlights on existing utility poles in close proximity to the segment of the Road that is subject to flooding.

DISCUSSION:

Pescadero Creek Road crosses Butano Creek (Creek) east of the CAL FIRE Station situated along the Road and west of the community of Pescadero. During relatively small storm events the Creek is not able to stay within its banks and water from the Creek floods the Road. The Road is the primary access route for residents of Pescadero from Highway 1. Through meetings with County Departments and the Pescadero Municipal Advisory Council, it was determined that the addition of two streetlights would benefit the traveling public, particularly at night when the Road is subject to intermittent flooding.

Your Board's prior action allowed funding for staff to apply for and obtain the required permits for the streetlights along the Road, contract with PG&E for the installation of the lights, and pay for the maintenance costs for one year.

The Pescadero Highway Lighting District (District) includes a portion of the Road east of the two streetlights, as well as, segments of Stage Road, North Street, and Goulson Street. The District currently maintains 28 streetlights within its boundaries. The two streetlights installed near the portion of the Road that floods annually are outside the boundaries of the District and the rural service center for Pescadero as defined in the Local Coastal Plan. However, installing and maintaining the two streetlights mitigate a public safety hazard that affects residents and business owners within the boundaries of the District.

Lighting districts are exempt from the Local Agency Formation Commission's (LAFCo) review based on their enabling legislation. However, if the installation and on-going maintenance associated with the two streetlights were subject to LAFCo review, LAFCo would have the authority to allow for an extension of lighting service outside the District's boundaries to mitigate a public health and safety threat.

The Department is recommending that the on-going maintenance and energy expenses for the two streetlights be paid by the District.

County Counsel has reviewed and approved the Resolution as to form.

Approval of this action contributes to the Shared Vision 2025 outcome of a Healthy Community by providing improved lighting in the flood prone section of the Road for motorists and residents of the District who use the Road on a regular basis.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The energy cost associated with the two streetlights based on PG&E's current rate schedule is approximately \$10.30 per month. Sufficient District funds are available to pay for the future energy and maintenance costs for these streetlights.

There is no impact to the General Fund.