SANTA YNEZ COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Michael LeBrun, Interim General Manager

DATE: March 16, 2022

SUBJECT: Consider Acceptance of Street Lights on Numancia Street

Recommendation

Review and consider a request for the District to assume responsibility for six streetlights recently installed on Numancia Street.

Policy Implications

The District activated lighting powers and assumed the duties of the Santa Ynez Lighting District from the County in the mid 1980's.

Fiscal Implications

At the time the District took over the local street lighting district, the county increased the District's pass-through property tax share by .0017 (an amount equal to what the County Lighting District was receiving at that time). This increased the District's property tax share from .0248 to .0265. Staff believes these tax share increments still apply today and is working to verify this.

If correct, this means 6.42% (.0017 of .0265) of the annual property tax revenue the District receives is linked to street lighting. Since at least 2006, the District has credited the Street Lighting reserves with \$4,000/annually. Costs to maintain the District's nine (9) current street lights is about \$1,400/annually. Therefore, reserves in the Street Lighting fund continue to grow under this arrangement

In fiscal 20/21, the District received about \$197,000 in property tax from the County, at 6.42% this equates to about \$12,648. This amount could be considered as available for street lighting services.

Alternatives Considered

Deny acceptance of the streetlights being offered to the District.

Discussion

As part of their project adjacent to Numancia Road, the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians (Chumash) were required to install six (6) streetlights in the public right of way. The County planning department and Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) coordinated on the lighting placement and design. PG&E constructed the light standards. The lights were completed and energized in June of 2021.

The District received a letter application requesting the District take over the responsibility for these six new lights.

These lights, like the District's existing lights, are on a fixed rate schedule with PGE. The cost covers the lighting and maintenance of the lights. These new lights are a slightly higher wattage than our existing lights and therefore the fixed cost is slightly higher \$11.20/month/light versus \$8.76/light/month.

Attachments:

1. February 28, revised March 7, 2022 from Summit Project Management

ITEM 7.E.

ATTACHMENT 1

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received by email

Michael LeBrun Santa Ynez Community Services District Interim General Manager 1070 Faraday Street Mail: P.O. Box 667 Santa Ynez, CA 93460 February 28, 2022 revised March 7, 2022

Dear Mr. LeBrun

I am writing this letter, as the Owner's Representative for Development Projects for the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians, to request that the Santa Ynez Community Services District (SYCSD) assume cost and maintenance responsibilities for the recently installed streetlights on Numancia Street in the township of Santa Ynez.

In coordination with the County of Santa Barbara and PG&E over the last many years the Tribe designed, coordinated, and paid for the furnishing and installation of six streetlights on the portion of Numancia Road across from the new Chumash Museum currently nearing completion. The streetlights are delineated on the attached plan set, labeled Attachment A. The streetlight installation was required by the County as part of the Numancia Street ROW improvements requested by the County in conjunction with the Tribe's on-reservation Museum construction. They were completed in May of 2021, inspected by PG&E in June of 2021, energized shortly thereafter and have been operating for approximately the last 8 months. Throughout this time the Tribe has been paying the utility bills with the understanding that, once the County has approved all Numancia Street improvements and the permit closed, responsibility for the utility and maintenance costs would transfer to the County. See Attachment B for a copy of the last 8 months of utility invoices.

As we approached the County Street improvements permit closure and transfer of streetlight administration costs, we learned that the County transferred responsibility for paying to light and maintain streetlights in Santa Ynez to the CSD. We have been therefore requested to make application to the CSD to formally accepted these light fixtures, and resultant costs for same, into CSD jurisdiction.

In considering this request we understand that the District is concerned about how to pay for these streetlight expenses without negatively impacting your balance sheet. While I cannot speak definitively to these issues, I have seen documentation to the effect that the District currently expends significantly less money to pay for the currently administered street light system than it receives from the County to do so, resulting in an annual surplus of these funds. Therefore, I believe that the District could absorb these utility bills, estimated to be about \$808.00 annually, without causing undue hardship.

Additionally, I have been advised by the County that, should the District be unwilling to take on this responsibility, the County will find a mechanism to pay for these lights, possibly by changing the nature of the current agreement to delegate responsibility for street lights to the CSD. In the meantime, however, not knowing what the result, or time frame, of such a County/District renegotiation might be, I hereby respectfully request that the CSD assume responsibility for the administration and costs associated with the new streetlights at your

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earliest convenience. Thank you for your consideration of this request and please feel free to contact me with any concerns or questions.

Very truly yours,

Steve Davis, AIA

Principal

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Cc: Mr. Kenneth Kahn, Chairman, Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians

Mr. Sam Cohen, General Counsel, Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians

Mr. Will Robertson, County of Santa Barbara

Encl:.

Attachment A, Streetlight plans Attachment B, PG&E utility bills

ATTACHMENT A STREETLIGHT PLANS



