

8. Hold public hearing to consider proposed Fiscal Year (FY) 2025-26 Benefit Assessment rates for County Service Area No. 17, Empire Acres, continue the public hearing to June 10, 2025, to allow for tabulation and certification of the ballots, and take related actions ()



County of Santa Cruz Board of Supervisors

Agenda Item Submittal

From: Community Development and Infrastructure

Subject: CSA No. 17, Empire Acres Benefit Assessment Rates for Fiscal Year (FY) 2025-26

Meeting Date: April 8, 2025

Formal Title: Hold public hearing to consider proposed Fiscal Year (FY) 2025-26 Benefit Assessment rates for County Service Area No. 17, Empire Acres, continue the public hearing to June 10, 2025, to allow for tabulation and certification of the ballots, and take related actions

Recommended Actions

1. Open the public hearing, and hear objections or protests, if any, to the proposed benefit assessments for County Service Area (CSA) No. 17 Empire Acres;
2. Request the submittal of all ballots for the proposed FY 2025-26 benefit assessments for CSA No. 17 Empire Acres;
3. Close the public comment portion of the public hearing; and
4. Continue the public hearing to June 10, 2025, to allow for tabulation and certification of the ballots.

Executive Summary

County Service Area No. 17, Empire Acres, located in Santa Cruz, wishes to increase their benefit assessment rate by \$75 for FY 2025-26 and thereafter to fund road maintenance and operations services to benefit the properties within the CSA. In order to complete the proposed benefit assessments, it will be necessary for the Board to open the public hearing, take testimonies, and consider objections or protests to the proposed benefit assessments.

Discussion

Community Development and Infrastructure received notification from County Service Area No. 17, Empire Acres, that they wish to increase their benefit assessment rate for the FY 2025-26 fiscal year. On February 11, 2025, the Board adopted a resolution of intention to authorize and levy an increased assessment for road maintenance and operations within CSA No. 17 Empire Acres. Additionally, the Board directed Community Development and Infrastructure to mail out ballots to the owners of record within the CSA and return today for the public hearing. CSA No. 17, Empire Acres in Santa Cruz consists of 53 parcels, 2 of which are not assessed as they are of token value, owned by a utility water company, have an assessed valuation of \$5,000 or less, or are unbuildable. Currently, the 51 parcels are assessed at \$125 annually. CSA No.17 proposes to increase the assessment for each parcel by \$75. Assessments will be levied on the 51 parcels at \$200 per parcel per year.

To continue with the benefit assessment proceeding, it will be necessary for the Board to hear objections or protests, if any; request ballots; close the public testimony portion of the public hearing; and continue the public hearing to June 10, 2025, to allow for tabulation and certification of the ballot proceedings.

Financial Impact

The proposed benefit assessment will continue to provide an adequate source of funding for the road maintenance operations of CSA No. 17, Empire Acres. CSAs are self-funded, and the FY 2025-26 assessment will have no General Fund impact.

The proposed increase affects No. 17, Empire Acres only, Fund 22150, GL Key 622150 GL Object 41582. If passed, the Election will increase revenue by \$3,825.00 annually, for total FY 2025-26 annual assessment revenue of \$10,200.00. If the election does not pass, the FY 2025-26 revenue for the CSA will be the prior year's amount of \$6,375.00. The proposed assessment will be levied on the CSA's 51 parcels at \$200 per parcel per year.

Strategic Initiatives

Operational Plan - Reliable Transportation

Submitted By:

Matt Machado, Deputy CAO / Director of Community Development and Infrastructure

Recommended By:

Carlos J. Palacios, County Administrative Officer

Artificial Intelligence Acknowledgment:

Artificial Intelligence (AI) did not significantly contribute to the development of this agenda item.