

August 20, 2002

The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
County of Los Angeles  
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**PROPOSITION 218 ASSESSMENT BALLOT–CITY OF SANTA CLARITA  
LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE ASSESSMENT DISTRICT NO. 1B  
(FIFTH) (3 VOTES)**

**IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:**

Support the assessment on County-owned property within the boundaries of the City of Santa Clarita Landscape Maintenance Assessment District No. 1B to provide long-term landscape maintenance programs within the district at an annual cost to the County of \$364, and direct the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) to cast the ballot in support of the assessment for the property.

**PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION**

Approval of the proposed new Landscape Maintenance District will allow long-term maintenance of the landscaping by the City of Santa Clarita on or adjacent to property within the proposed district. The assessment district contains the County-owned Assessor's Parcel No. (APN) 2836-016-904, occupied by the Santa Clarita Flood Maintenance Yard located at 21014 Golden Triangle Road, Santa Clarita, for which Public Works–Flood Maintenance (DPW) is currently the proprietor.

**IMPLEMENTATION OF STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS**

The Countywide Strategic Plan directs that we invest in public infrastructure in order to strengthen the County's fiscal capacity. Support for the benefit assessments levied against the County properties to facilitate servicing and maintenance of public common areas and street frontage fills an identified need and supports this strategy by complying with the Strategic Asset Management Principles (Goal 4, Strategy 4, Objective 2).

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### **FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING**

The proposed district's total assessment amount of \$68,214 for 2002-03 is for landscape maintenance. The annual assessments may be adjusted for any increases in the Consumer Price Index, All Urban Consumers for the Los Angeles-Anaheim-Riverside Area, normal Southern California Edison Company energy increases, or by a re-balloting of property owners.

We propose to charge the assessment to the proprietor, which is the benefiting department controlling the assessed parcel. Based on your Board's approval of other Proposition 218 assessments, this is in keeping with the current policy and practice.

The financial cost of paying this increased assessment on the budget of DPW can be absorbed within the department's 2002-03 budget appropriations.

### **FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS**

As a result of the passage of Proposition 218, property owned by government agencies, including Los Angeles County, became subject to assessment by various County and non-County assessment districts on July 1, 1997. The County, like other property owners, is able to cast ballots supporting or opposing the assessments and its ballots will be weighted to reflect its proportionate share of the total assessment. Publicly owned properties are not exempt from the assessment unless the parcels receive no special benefit. The agency cannot increase an assessment or impose a new assessment if a majority of the ballots returned oppose the proposed assessment.

The Santa Clarita City Council adopted a resolution relative to establishment of the new district on June 25, 2002. It is seeking property owner approval for the proposed district, for which it has scheduled a public hearing on August 27, 2002.

The method of assessment for this assessment district is determined by dividing the total cost of maintaining the landscaping within the district by the number of equivalent development units within the proposed district.

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DPW concurs with CAO's determination that the services to be financed by the assessment district will be of sufficient benefit to warrant your Board's support. Accordingly, we are recommending that your ballot be completed as supporting the assessments.

**IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)**

Approval of this benefit assessment will enhance maintenance and public safety of the public common areas and parkway areas within the assessment district.

**CONCLUSION**

It is requested that the Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors, return the adopted stamped Board letter to the CAO, Real Estate Division, 222 South Hill Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Los Angeles, CA 90012.

Respectfully submitted,

DAVID E. JANSSEN  
Chief Administrative Officer

DEJ:SNY  
WLD:RC:jf

Attachment

c: County Counsel  
Auditor-Controller  
Department of Public Works