

June 11, 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 BALLOTS - CITY OF BALDWIN PARK
CITYWIDE PARK MAINTENANCE DISTRICT
(FIRST DISTRICT) (3 VOTES)**

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

Support the assessments on County-owned properties within the boundaries of the City of Baldwin Park Citywide Park Maintenance District for the operation, servicing and maintenance of additional parks and recreational facilities at an annual cost of \$358, and direct the Chief Administrative Officer to cast the ballots in support of the assessments for the properties.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

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.

One such district which is in the process of seeking property owner approval for an assessment is a maintenance district in the City of Baldwin Park, identified as City of Baldwin Park Citywide Park Maintenance District. Since the County owns property within the boundaries of this district, it has the right to participate in the balloting on the assessment. This is a City of Baldwin Park assessment district and the public hearing on the proposed assessment is scheduled for June 19, 2002.

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The County properties which these ballots represent contain three parcels, identified as Assessor's Parcel Number (APN) 8544-016-900, occupied by the County Fire Department's (FD) Fire Station 29; and APN's 8437-012-900 and 8554-009-900, occupied by the Department of Public Works (DPW) Road Maintenance District No. 1 Yard and Traffic Sign Paint Shop and Yard, respectively. The City adopted an Ordinance of Intention to levy the proposed assessments, including the County-owned property. Each of these affected County departments have determined that the services to be financed by the City assessment district will be of sufficient benefit to warrant the Board's support. Accordingly, we are recommending that your ballots be completed as supporting the assessment.

In order to be approved under Proposition 218, the majority of property owners who return their ballots will have to approve the proposed assessments with their ballots being weighted according to their individual assessments based on the size, location, type of improvements and benefits received by the property. The proposed district's total additional annual assessment amount is \$989,461 to provide for ongoing operation and maintenance of the additional parks and recreational facilities which have been constructed during the past five years and other planned improvements necessary for the satisfactory operation of these services in the City recreational system for 2002-03.

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 landscaping fills an identified need and supports this strategy by complying with the Strategic Asset Management Principles (Goal 3, Strategy 3, Objective 3.3.2).

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

The total additional assessment for 2002-03 to be levied on the subject County property is \$358. The assessments may be adjusted annually for any increases in the Consumer Price Index, normal Southern California Edison Company energy increases, or by a re-balloting of property owners.

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We propose to charge the assessments to the benefitting departments which occupy the assessed parcels. Based on your Board's approval of other Proposition 218 assessments, this is in keeping with the current policy and practice of charging such assessments to the County departments occupying or deriving use from the assessed property.

The financial cost of paying this increased assessment on the budget of FD and DPW is not significant and can be absorbed within the departments' 2002-03 budget appropriations. Future financing for approved assessments will be addressed as part of the annual budget process.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

Proposition 218, approved by the voters in November 1996, requires public agencies to send ballots to all affected property owners prior to increasing or imposing a new assessment. The agency cannot increase an assessment or impose a new assessment if a majority of the ballots returned oppose the proposed assessment. The ballots are weighted according to the proposed assessment amount of the properties. In addition, publicly owned properties will no longer be exempt from the assessment unless the parcels receive no special benefit.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

Approval of this benefit assessment will help ensure the maintenance and public safety of the public parks and recreational facilities within the assessment district.

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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, 4th Floor, Los Angeles, CA 90012.

Respectfully submitted,

DAVID E. JANSSEN
Chief Administrative Officer

DEJ:SNY
CWW:RC:pb

Attachment

c: County Counsel
Auditor-Controller
Fire Department
Department of Public Works