

CITY OF SANTA ROSA
CITY COUNCIL

TO: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

FROM: SEAN MCNEIL, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, ENVIRONMENTAL
SERVICES, WATER DEPARTMENT
KATIE ROBINSON, RESEARCH & PROGRAM COORDINATOR

SUBJECT: PLACEMENT OF ANNUAL STORM WATER ENTERPRISE
CHARGES ON THE SONOMA COUNTY PROPERTY TAX ROLL

AGENDA ACTION: RESOLUTION

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended by the Water Department that Council, by resolution, adopt by 2/3 vote the Storm Water Enterprise Charge Report and approve placement of the Storm Water Enterprise charges on the Sonoma County Property Tax Roll to be collected by the Sonoma County Auditor-Controller-Treasurer-Tax Collector at the same time and in the same manner as Sonoma County property taxes are collected, unless those charges do not meet the county minimum of \$10 and/or parcel owner contact information is known to be incorrect.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this resolution is to adopt the Storm Water Enterprise Charge Report and approve placement of the Storm Water Enterprise charges on the Sonoma County Property Tax Roll to be collected by the Sonoma County Auditor-Controller-Treasurer-Tax Collector at the same time and in the same manner as Sonoma County property taxes are collected.

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BACKGROUND

The City of Santa Rosa is required under the federal Clean Water Act to obtain and comply with a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit and Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges from the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (Storm Water Permit). To comply with permit requirements and to control and reduce flooding, property damage, erosion, and storm water quality degradation in the City, the Council, in 1996, added Title 16 to the City Code, which created a Storm Water Enterprise and Utility ("Storm Water Enterprise") as an agency of the City. Under Title 16, the City Council is authorized to prescribe and collect charges (special assessments) for the services and facilities of the Enterprise. The Council's intention to collect the Storm Water Enterprise charges on the Sonoma County Property Tax Roll was stated in Resolution 22880, adopted in 1996, which levied the annual charges.

PRIOR CITY COUNCIL REVIEW

The City Council has passed resolutions adopting the Storm Water Enterprise Charge Report and approving placement of the established charges in the Report on the Sonoma County Property Tax Roll for collection each year since 1997.

ANALYSIS

1. The City's Storm Water Enterprise utilizes procedures which require an annual noticed public hearing for placing the annual charges on the Sonoma County Property Tax Roll. A notice of the public hearing to be held August 27, 2019, was published on August 12, 2019 and August 19, 2019. A Report showing the amount of the Storm Water and Drainage charges on each parcel of property within the City limits for fiscal year 2019-20 was prepared and filed with the City Clerk.
2. The annual charges of the Storm Water Enterprise and any credits allowed against those charges for fiscal year 2019-20 were fixed at \$34.97 per Equivalent Residential Unit (ERU) as set by Resolution RES-2019-073, adopted June 18, 2019. The 2019-20 rate of \$34.97 was calculated in accordance with Resolution 22880 and is a 4.3% increase from the 2018-19 rate of \$33.54 based on the Consumer Price Index for all Urban Consumers for the San Francisco–Oakland–San Jose area for a 12-month period ending in August.
3. The purpose of this public hearing is to adopt the Storm Water Enterprise Charge Report and approve placing the established charges in the Report on the Sonoma County Property Tax Roll for collection. The charges in the Report are based on the ERU calculated amount previously approved by the Council. Property owners may protest the placement of the Storm Water Enterprise charges on the Sonoma County Property Tax Roll by either speaking at the public hearing or submitting a written protest. Letters received in protest of placing charges on the tax roll will be provided to

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the City Council at the Council meeting.

4. If the Council finds that protest is made by a majority of parcel owners of properties in the Report, the Report shall not be adopted and the charges shall be collected separately from the tax roll.

5. Per Health and Safety Code, Article 4, Section 5473, "Any entity which has adopted an ordinance pursuant to this article or an order pursuant to Section 6520.5 may, by such ordinance or by separate ordinances or resolutions approved by a two-thirds vote of the members of the legislative body thereof, elect to have such charges collected on the tax roll in the same manner, by the same persons, and at the same time as, together with and not separately from, its general taxes." Therefore, a 2/3 majority vote by the Council is required.

6. In order to simplify the payment process for property owners and to reduce collection expenses, the City proposes to collect the charges on the Sonoma County Property Tax Roll. The charges have been collected annually on the tax roll since they were established in September 1996.

7. It is in the best interests of the City that those parcels not billed by the County due to the charges not meeting the County's \$10 minimum to bill and/or parcels with known incorrect ownership contact information shall not be separately billed by the City, as the cost of separately billing exceeds the potential revenue. Any charges not collected will not affect other parcel charges.

FISCAL IMPACT

Storm Water is an Enterprise Fund, and approval of this action does not have a fiscal impact on it or the General Fund.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

This action is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) because it is not a project which has a potential for resulting in either a direct physical change in the environment, or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment, pursuant to CEQA Guideline section 15378.

BOARD/COMMISSION/COMMITTEE REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Not applicable.

NOTIFICATION

Notices of public hearings were published in the Press Democrat on August 12, 2019 and August 19, 2019.

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ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment 1 – Link to “Report for Proposal to Place Storm Water and Drainage Charges on Sonoma County Property Tax Roll for Collection with County Property Taxes”
- Resolution

CONTACT

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