

CITY OF SANTA ROSA  
CITY COUNCIL

TO: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL  
SUBJECT: PUBLIC HEARING ON PLACEMENT OF ANNUAL STORM  
WATER ENTERPRISE CHARGES ON THE SONOMA  
COUNTY PROPERTY TAX ROLL  
STAFF PRESENTER: SCOTT WAGNER, ACCOUNTANT  
FINANCE DEPARTMENT  
AGENDA ACTION: RESOLUTION

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ISSUE(S)

Should the Council place the annual 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?

Note: Placement of the charges on the Sonoma County Property Tax Roll for collection requires the adoption of a resolution by the affirmative vote of at least five Council members.

BACKGROUND

The City of Santa Rosa was required under the federal Clean Water Act to obtain a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) 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 was 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, which levied the annual charges.

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 05, 2014, was published on July 21, 2014 and July 27, 2014 as required and a report has

been prepared and filed with the City Clerk which shows the amount of the storm water and drainage charge on each parcel of property for fiscal year 2014/15.

2. The annual charges of the storm water enterprise and any credits allowed against those charges for fiscal year 2014/15 are fixed at \$29.92 per equivalent residential unit (ERU) as set by Resolution 28504, adopted June 17, 2014. The 2014/15 rate of \$29.92 was calculated in accordance with Resolution 22880 and is a 2% increase from the 2013/14 rate of \$29.32 based on the Consumer Price Index for all Urban Consumers for the San Francisco–Oakland-San Jose area.
3. The only subject of this public hearing is whether to place the established charges on the Sonoma County Property Tax Roll. At the public hearing, property owners may protest the proposal to place the charges on the Sonoma County Property Tax Roll, but not the amount of the charges. Property owners may protest the proposal 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 the City Council at the Council meeting.
4. 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.

### RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended by the Finance Department that the Council, by resolution, place the storm water enterprise charges on the Sonoma County Property Tax Roll to be collected by the Sonoma County Assessor-Controller-Treasurer-Tax Collector at the same time and in the same manner as Sonoma County property taxes are collected.

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Attachments:

Attachment 1 – Cover, first & last page of public display report