

**REPORT TO MAYOR AND COUNCIL****TO THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND COUNCIL:**

DATE: January 14, 2014

SUBJECT: ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 14-1, AUTHORIZING THE CONTRA COSTA COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT TO ESTABLISH AN ANNUAL PARCEL ASSESSMENT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014/15 FOR DRAINAGE MAINTENANCE AND THE NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM PROGRAM

Report in Brief

The City of Concord is mandated by both State and Federal law to have a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit for stormwater discharge. As part of its NPDES permit conditions, Concord is required to implement a comprehensive Stormwater Management Plan (SWMP). The SWMP must include municipal programs, public participation, and inter-governmental coordination to reduce the discharge of pollutants into storm drains, creeks, the Delta, and San Francisco Bay.

The City annually authorizes the Contra Costa Board of Supervisors to direct the Contra Costa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District to establish a stormwater utility area for Concord and to impose assessments on parcels within the City of Concord. The revenue from this assessment funds activity required to implement Concord's SWMP. Adoption of Resolution No. 14-1 will continue the current Stormwater Utility Area (SUA) assessment of \$35 for a single family parcel through Fiscal Year 2014/15.

Staff recommends that the City Council adopt Resolution No. 14-1, authorizing the Contra Costa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District to continue an annual parcel assessment in Fiscal Year 2014/15 to fund the City's Stormwater Management Plan and the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Program by maintaining the current Equivalent Runoff Unit (ERU) rate of \$35 per single family parcel.

Background

Pollution carried in stormwater runoff has a significant impact on water quality and wildlife in the San Francisco Bay Area. Common pollutants found in runoff from urban areas include oil and grease from automobiles; heavy metals like copper, lead, and zinc from automobiles; polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons from vehicle exhaust and residential fireplaces; pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers from lawns and gardens; polychlorinated biphenyls from old industrial sites; mercury from florescent lights and thermometers; and biological pathogens. Without pollution prevention programs, these pollutants can be carried into municipal storm drainage systems and, ultimately, the Delta and the San Francisco Bay.

**AUTHORIZING THE CONTRA COSTA COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL &
WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT TO ESTABLISH AN ANNUAL
PARCEL ASSESSMENT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014/15**

January 14, 2014

Page 2

The 1987 reauthorization of the Federal Clean Water Act and California state legislation require local agencies to obtain a NPDES permit to discharge municipal storm drainage water into federal and state waters. The development and implementation of a joint municipal NPDES permit for stormwater discharge is coordinated by the Contra Costa Clean Water Program (CCCWP), which consists of the City of Concord, the Contra Costa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, Contra Costa County, and eighteen other Contra Costa cities (Antioch, Brentwood, Clayton, Danville, El Cerrito, Hercules, Lafayette, Martinez, Moraga, Oakley, Orinda, Pinole, Pittsburg, Pleasant Hill, Richmond, San Pablo, San Ramon, and Walnut Creek.)

On March 9, 1993, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 93-14 authorizing the Contra Costa Flood Control and Water Conservation District to establish an annual parcel assessment to fund NPDES Program activities such as street sweeping, public education, industrial outreach, and drainage system maintenance. Resolution No. 93-14 set the initial assessment at \$26 per Equivalent Runoff Unit (ERU) per year and capped future assessments at no more than \$35 per ERU per year. (A single family residential unit on a parcel with an area between 5,000 square feet and 20,000 square feet was defined as one ERU.) Vacant and agricultural lands are exempt from assessment. Concord's SUA generates about two million dollars each year.

In December, 2009, the San Francisco Regional Water Quality Control Board (SFRWQCB) consolidated the municipal permits from 67 cities and 14 agencies in Alameda, Contra Costa, Santa Clara, San Mateo, and Solano counties, into a single Municipal Regional Permit. This MRP requires the City of Concord to implement a comprehensive Stormwater Mitigation Plan (SWMP). The City's Stormwater Utility Area (SUA) assessment revenues finance the SWMP and other requirements in the MRP. To collect SUA revenues, the City annually authorizes the Board of Supervisors to direct the Contra Costa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District to establish a stormwater utility area for Concord and reaffirm the approved fee assessment.

Discussion

Stormwater Utility Area revenues are used for stormwater quality-related activities including street sweeping, catch basin and storm drain maintenance, creek channel maintenance, inspection and monitoring programs to eliminate illicit discharges and illegal connections to the storm drain system, and stream bank erosion control. These efforts are mandated strategies to reduce the amount of pollution reaching the creeks, Delta, and the San Francisco Bay and estuary system.

On April 4, 2000, the Council adopted Resolution No. 00-29 authorizing an increase to \$35 per ERU. The annual parcel assessment has remained at \$35 per ERU since June 2001. The \$35 rate can only be increased through a Proposition 218 ballot approved by two-thirds of the property owners.

Fiscal Impact

If the City Council adopts Resolution No. 14-1, the Contra Costa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District will reaffirm the annual ERU rate of \$35 to generate two million dollars in SUA assessments for the City of Concord to fund street sweeping, drainage maintenance, and SWMP implementation in Fiscal Year 2014/15.

**AUTHORIZING THE CONTRA COSTA COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL &
WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT TO ESTABLISH AN ANNUAL
PARCEL ASSESSMENT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014/15**

January 14, 2014

Page 3

Public Contact

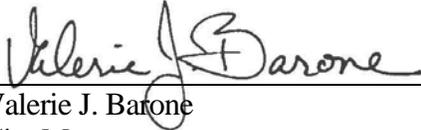
Posting of the Council agenda.

Recommendation for Action

Staff recommends that the City Council adopt Resolution No. 14-1, authorizing the Contra Costa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District to continue an annual parcel assessment in Fiscal Year 2014/15 to fund the City's Stormwater Management Plan and the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Program by maintaining the current Equivalent Runoff Unit (ERU) rate of \$35 per single-family parcel.

Prepared by: Jeff Roubal
Fleet Manager
Jeff.Roubal@cityofconcord.org

Reviewed by: Justin Ezell
Public Works Director
Justin.Ezell@cityofconcord.org



Valerie J. Barone
City Manager

Valerie.Barone@cityofconcord.org

Attachment No. 1 - Resolution No. 14-1

BEFORE THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CONCORD
COUNTY OF CONTRA COSTA, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

A Resolution Authorizing the Contra Costa County Flood Control & Water Conservation District to Establish an Annual Parcel Assessment for FY 2014-15 for Drainage Maintenance and National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Program

Resolution No. 14-1

WHEREAS, under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, [33 U.S.C. Section 1342(p)], certain municipal storm water discharges require a permit from the appropriate federal or state authorities pursuant to the National Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Program; and

WHEREAS, the City of Concord, in conjunction with other affected jurisdictions within Contra Costa County, applied to the State Regional Water Quality Control Board and received a Joint NPDES Permit to discharge storm water and developed a Storm Water Management Plan; and

WHEREAS, Assembly Bill 2768 (West’s Water Code Appendix, Section 63-12 and 63-12.9) authorizes the Contra Costa Flood Control and Water Conservation District (DISTRICT) to establish storm water utility areas and to impose annual benefit assessments for the purpose of carrying out the activities required under the NPDES Program; and

WHEREAS, the DISTRICT has completed the process for formation of a Concord Storm Water Utility Area (SUA), including the adoption of Storm Water Assessment Drainage Ordinance No. 93-74; and

WHEREAS, the SUA and Program Group Costs Payment Agreement between the City of Concord and DISTRICT requires the City of Concord annually to determine the rate to be assessed per Equivalent Runoff Unit (ERU) for the forthcoming fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, the City Council adopted Resolution 93-14, which established the range of annual assessment imposed by the DISTRICT within the storm water utility area at an amount not to exceed \$35 per ERU.

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