



Meeting Date: 03 / 28 / 06

ACTION	TYPE OF ITEM
<input type="checkbox"/> Approved Recommendation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Info/Consent
<input type="checkbox"/> Ord. No(s). _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Report
<input type="checkbox"/> Res. No(s). _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Hearing (Info/consent)
<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____

Prepared By: Martin R. Erickson

Agenda Item No. C-1

Reviewed By: City Manager [Signature]

City Attorney [Signature]

Finance [Signature]

Other (Specify) _____

DATE: March 27, 2006

TO: City Council

FROM: Ken Ortega [Signature]
Public Works Director

SUBJECT: Support of AB 2522 (Nava) Groundwater Protection: Septic Tank Systems

RECOMMENDATION

That City Council execute a letter of support for AB 2522 (Nava) Groundwater Protection: Septic Tank Systems.

DISCUSSION

The Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (LARWQCB) Resolution No. 99-13 of 1997 required that all septic systems in the Oxnard Forebay cease operation by January 1, 2008, because the Oxnard Forebay's water quality was being contaminated by nitrogen pollutants from residential septic tanks. Since that time, the City of Oxnard and the County of Ventura have been working toward planning and implementing the development of a wastewater system that will serve the 1,600 residential homes in the El Rio and Strickland communities.

The total cost of the infrastructure portion of the project is estimated at \$30 million. Although the County of Ventura has secured \$9.4 million through various federal, state, and local grants for the project, a \$20 million shortfall exists. In addition to these infrastructure costs, the residents of El Rio and Strickland will also be assessed the cost of a wastewater connection fee (\$3,539) to hook up into the new system, as well as the costs associated with installing a lateral connection to the system and abandoning the septic tanks (a combined cost between \$5,000 and \$8,000). Residents will also face new monthly wastewater fees that will be over \$100 per month if alternative sources of funding for the aforementioned costs are not found.

While the decision of the LARWQB to require septic-to-sewer conversion is necessary for groundwater protection, the residents of El Rio and Strickland should be given assistance to comply with the LARWQB's request. AB 2522 attempts to aid residents in paying for the wastewater connection fee costs, the lateral connection costs, and the septic abandonment costs. These are the expenditures that

Letter of Support for AB 2522 (Nava)
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the residents will have to finance. AB 2522 does not factor in the costs of the infrastructure project itself, which will also be assessed to the residents in the form of increased monthly wastewater fees.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There is no financial impact from this action.

Attachment #1 Letter of Support for AB 2522 (Nava)

March 28, 2006

The Honorable Ira Ruskin, Chairman
Assembly Committee on Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials
1020 N. Street, Suite 171
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Chairman Ruskin:

The City Council of the City of Oxnard supports AB 2522 (Nava), legislation that would aid residents of the El Rio and Strickland communities with the costs required for septic-to-sewer conversion.

The Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (LARWQCB) Resolution No. 99-13 of 1997 required that all septic systems in the Oxnard Forebay cease operation by January 1, 2008, because the Oxnard Forebay's water quality was being contaminated by nitrogen pollutants from residential septic tanks. Since that time, the City of Oxnard and the County of Ventura have been working toward planning and implementing the development of a wastewater system that will serve the 1,600 residential homes in the El Rio and Strickland communities.

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Please do not hesitate to contact Edmund Sotelo, City Manager, at (805) 385-7430 if you require any more information on this essential legislation.

Sincerely,

Dr. Thomas E. Holden
Mayor

Andrés Herrera
Mayor Pro Tem

Dean Maulhardt
Councilmember

John C. Zaragoza
Councilmember

Timothy B. Flynn
Councilman

cc: Assemblymember Pedro Nava

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