



Meeting Date: 04/14/09

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

Prepared By: Anthony Emmert

Agenda Item No. K-2

Reviewed By: City Manager [Signature]

City Attorney [Signature]

Finance [Signature]

Public Works [Signature]

DATE: April 2, 2009

TO: City Council

FROM: Mark S. Norris, Assistant Public Works Director
Public Works Department, Utilities Services Branch [Signature]

SUBJECT: An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Oxnard Amending Certain Portions of Ordinance No. 2709 and Adding Certain Portions to Ordinance 2709 Expanding the Connection Fee Deferral Program for Eligible Septic Systems in Oxnard

RECOMMENDATION

That City Council approve the first reading by title only and subsequent adoption of an ordinance amending and adding certain portions to Ordinance 2709 adjusting Wastewater Facilities Fees to expand the Financial Assistance Program for connection fee deferral for eligible septic systems in Oxnard.

DISCUSSION

The Oxnard Forebay Groundwater Basin (Forebay Basin) and the Oxnard Plain Groundwater Basin (Oxnard Basin) provide drinking water for approximately 250,000 people. Due to its geology, the Forebay Basin, which includes Saticoy, El Rio, and a portion of North Oxnard, is particularly susceptible to contamination from human activities on the surface. Over the years, private septic systems and agricultural fertilizer applications have contributed to nitrate contamination in both of these basins. Septic systems may have also contributed to bacteriological and viral contamination to the basins. Because of this, in 1999, the California Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), Los Angeles Region, issued Resolution No. 99-13 (Board Resolution), which prohibited the installation of new septic systems in the Forebay Basin and requires the removal of approximately 1,600 existing septic systems.

City neighborhoods directly affected by this Board Resolution are the El Rio West Neighborhood and the College Park Tract of the Rio Lindo Neighborhood. The unincorporated El Rio and Strickland Acres neighborhoods are also affected by the Resolution. In addition to the septic systems in the Forebay Basin, the McMillan Manor Tract in the Blackstock North Neighborhood and the Smith Tract in the Pleasant Valley Estates Neighborhood also utilize private septic systems for wastewater disposal. In response to this, the City of Oxnard designed and constructed extra capacity in its Redwood Trunk

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Page 2 of 2

Sewer Project, and will soon be completing construction of the Septic to Sewer Conversion Project, which extends the City's wastewater collection system to each of the residential properties in the four affected neighborhoods.

Although the City Project provides sewer laterals to each residential property, significant costs must still be assumed by property owners, including City wastewater connection fees, City plumbing permits, costs to properly destroy and abandon the septic systems, and costs to construct piping from the houses to the new sewer laterals. The wastewater connection fees total approximately \$3,539, held at the 2005 level (current wastewater connection fees are \$5,256). City plumbing permits are approximately \$200. The estimated cost to properly destroy and abandon a septic system is from \$1,000 to \$3,000, and the estimated cost to modify on-site plumbing and repair private driveways, walkways, or landscaping is between \$6,500 and \$12,000.

On September 25, 2007, the City Council approved the Financial Assistance Program for connection fee deferral for septic systems affected by the Board Resolution. The Financial Assistance Program offers an interest free loan secured by a lien against the property due only upon sale or refinance, but can be paid off in full at any time.

Staff recently discovered that there are a few remaining properties still on septic systems outside of the four neighborhoods and not eligible for the benefits of Ordinance 2709. Therefore, staff recommends the City amend Ordinance 2709 to include any other properties within the City limits that currently use private septic systems and to offer to the owners of such properties the 2005 level wastewater connection fees and the opportunity to participate in the Financial Assistance Program. Assisting property owners to quickly abandon their septic systems and to connect to the City's wastewater system will contribute toward groundwater quality improvements.

FINANCIAL IMPACTS

Amending Ordinance 2709 and expanding the Financial Assistance Program will have no financial impact to the City.

MSN:AAE:JOH:js

Attachment #1 -Ordinance Amending Certain Portions of Ordinance 2709 and Adding Certain Portions to Ordinance 2709

CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF OXNARD

Ordinance No. _____

(UNCODIFIED)

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF OXNARD AMENDING CERTAIN PORTIONS OF ORDINANCE NO. 2709 AND ADDING CERTAIN PORTIONS TO ORDINANCE NO. 2709 ADJUSTING WASTEWATER FACILITIES FEES

The City Council of the City of Oxnard does ordain as follows:

Part 1. The fifth paragraph on page 1 is amended to read as follows:

“WHEREAS, College Park and El Rio West Tracts are neighborhoods within the City that currently use individual wastewater disposal systems and are required by law to connect to the City’s wastewater facilities; and”

Part 2. The following paragraphs are added after the fifth paragraph on page 1 to read as follows:

“WHEREAS, McMillan Manor and Smith Tracts are neighborhoods within the City that currently use individual wastewater disposal systems, and each property owner in such neighborhoods may opt to connect to the City’s wastewater facilities; and”

“WHEREAS, the owner of any other parcel in the City that currently uses an individual wastewater disposal system may opt to connect to the City’s wastewater facilities; and”

Part 3. Subsection (e) is added to the end of Part 2, Section A on page 5 to read as follows:

“e. All parcels within the City limits.”

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Part 4. Within fifteen days after passage, the City Clerk shall cause this ordinance to be published one time in a newspaper of general circulation within the City. Ordinance No. _____ was first read on _____, 2009, and finally adopted on _____, 2009, to become effective thirty days thereafter.

AYES:

NOES:

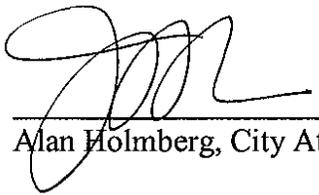
ABSENT:

Dr. Thomas E. Holden, Mayor

ATTEST:

Daniel Martinez, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

 for

Alan Holmberg, City Attorney
4.6.09