

Agenda Report

TO: CITY COUNCIL

July 13, 1998

FROM: Acting City Manager

SUBJECT: Agreement for Sewer Service to
Lots 2, 3, and 4 of Tract No. 43113,
City of La Cañada Flintridge

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council adopt a resolution authorizing the Acting City Manager to enter into an agreement among County Sanitation District No. 16 of Los Angeles County, the City of Pasadena, and Crescenta Valley Engineering, Inc. governing the conveyance, treatment, and disposal of wastewater from three proposed single-family homes at Lots 2, 3, and 4 of Tract No. 43113 in the City of La Cañada Flintridge.

BACKGROUND:

In recent years the City of La Cañada Flintridge in reviewing proposed residential developments for the hillside area easterly of the Flintridge Sacred Heart Academy has urged, and in some cases required, that proposed homes be provided with sanitary sewers. At many locations the site geology effectively precludes the use of septic tank systems.

The City of La Cañada Flintridge has no sewerage system of its own in this area. There is, however, an existing sewer line serving the Flintridge Sacred Heart Academy that is owned and maintained by the City of Pasadena.

The outlet for the conveyance of wastewater from the area served by this sewer line is the existing Linda Vista Avenue trunk sewer. A 1986 engineering study performed by a consultant to the Public Works Department found that, in general, the Linda Vista Avenue trunk sewer had substantial unused hydraulic capacity. A 1989 sewer outfall capacity analysis, based on actual flow measurements, confirmed that finding and revealed that wastewater flows had significantly declined. The sole identified downstream hydraulic problem was eliminated in connection with the Oak Grove Drive Sewer project in 1994.

The policy developed by the City Manager's office regarding sewer connections for properties within La Cañada Flintridge provides that this service be made available at no cost to the City

of Pasadena. This policy is designed to safeguard public health by preventing potential contamination of the local ground water supply. Since 1985, 13 separate agreements covering a total of 22 single-family homes plus a portion of the La Cañada High School have been approved under this policy.

Crescenta Valley Engineering, Inc. the owner of Lots 2, 3, and 4 of Tract No. 43113 has requested permission to connect to the existing City of Pasadena sewer. The owner proposes to construct three single-family homes along a proposed cul-de-sac street, Via Serrano, that will be reached from Saint Katherine Drive. The existing sewer runs through the middle of Tract No. 43113 down a steep canyon between upper and lower reaches of Saint Katherine Drive. This section of the sewer is in generally poor condition due to erosion that has exposed the pipe to the elements.

Construction of the three proposed single-family homes will require the relocation of the existing sewer. Plans for this work were prepared for a prior owner of these lots and were previously reviewed and approved by the Public Works and Transportation Department. They call for the construction of approximately 555 feet of new 8-inch diameter sewer plus four new manholes. The new facilities will be located within the lines of the proposed Via Serrano and its extension so that they will be readily accessible for future maintenance. All of the new facilities will be constructed at the sole expense of Crescenta Valley Engineering, Inc.

Crescenta Valley Engineering, Inc. has paid to the City a one-time Capacity Fee of \$3,414, which is comprised of \$3,000 for the privilege of being allowed to connect to the Pasadena sewerage system and \$414 to cover the prorated cost of the previously completed engineering study of the Linda Vista Avenue trunk sewer. The \$3,000 portion of the fee is non-refundable. It represents a one-time contribution by a new user towards the cost of facilities paid for by previous users and which require repair and occasional upgrading or replacement. This charge has been determined by the Public Works and Transportation Department to be a reasonable amount to charge for the provision of sewer service to sites in La Cañada Flintridge and to offset expenses incurred in connection with the preparation and execution of the proposed agreement. The \$414 portion of the fee will be subject to proportionate refunds, based on the number of homes involved, in the event similar agreements are executed with other property owners in the future.

Crescenta Valley Engineering, Inc. has also paid to the City a \$3,000 Sewer Inspection Fee to cover the cost of inspecting the reconstruction of the existing City of Pasadena sewer. This deposit will be subject to refund or additional billing depending upon the actual costs incurred in performing the inspection.

Future annual User Fees shall be equal to twelve times the monthly minimum fee for properties served by Pasadena's sewerage system but not subject to the "Water Rate Ordinance" as per the rates established pursuant to Section 4.52.020 of the Pasadena Municipal Code. These fees shall be collected by preparing annual bills each July following the Council's annual June adjustment, based on changes in the Consumer Price Index, of the rates therefor.

Inasmuch as the site is located in County Sanitation District No. 34 of Los Angeles County, which is an inactive district, and as sewers owned and maintained by the City of Pasadena are tributary to a sewerage system owned and operated by County Sanitation District No. 16 of Los Angeles County, the agreement contains that agency's requirements regarding the

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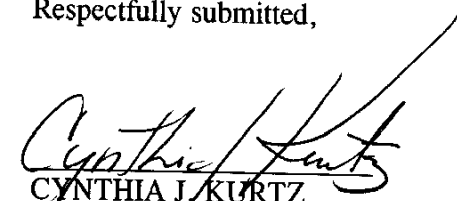
conveyance, treatment, and disposal of wastewater. After the agreement has been approved and executed by the City of Pasadena, it will be forwarded to County Sanitation District No. 16 for approval, execution, and recordation.

FISCAL IMPACT:

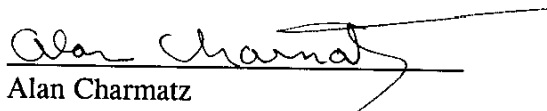
The \$3,000 non-refundable portion of the Capacity Fee collected pursuant to this agreement will be deposited in the Sewer Maintenance and Construction Fund (Account No. 7023-205). The \$414 portion of the Capacity Fee subject to refund will be deposited in a separate Sewer Fund (Account No. 3150-205-230123659) which has been set up to accommodate monies to be collected, disbursed, or refunded in connection with agreements for sewer service provided to La Cañada Flintridge property owners.

The \$3,000 deposit for inspection of the proposed reconstruction of the existing City of Pasadena sewer, that is subject to refund or additional billing depending on the actual costs incurred, will be deposited in Sundry Deposit Account No. 8179-105-762100 for Job No. 60089.

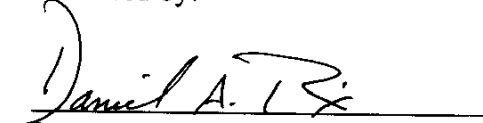
Respectfully submitted,


CYNTHIA J. KURTZ
Acting City Manager

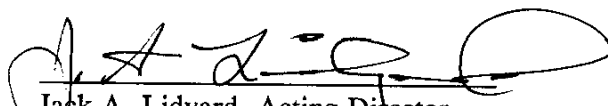
Prepared by:


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Jack A. Lidyard, Acting Director
Public Works and Transportation