

Agenda Report

TO: CITY COUNCIL

September 14, 1998

FROM: Acting City Manager

SUBJECT: Agreement for Sewer Service for
Property at 230 Saint Katherine Drive,
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 Thomas G. Mahrer and Carla R. Mahrer governing the conveyance, treatment, and disposal of wastewater from an existing single-family home located at 230 Saint Katherine Drive in the City of La Cañada Flintridge.

BACKGROUND:

At many locations in the hillside area easterly of the Flintridge Sacred Heart Academy in the City of La Cañada Flintridge the site geology severely restricts 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, 14 separate agreements, similar to the proposed one, covering a total of 25 single-family homes plus a portion of La Cañada High School have been approved under this policy.

Thomas G. Mahrer and Carla R. Mahrer, the owners of an existing single-family home at 230 Saint Katherine Drive in the City of La Cañada Flintridge, have requested permission to connect to the existing City of Pasadena sewer in Saint Katherine Drive. Approval of the sewer connection will eliminate the contamination threat posed by the continued use of their existing septic tank system for the disposal of wastewater.

Thomas G. Mahrer and Carla R. Mahrer have paid to the City a one-time "Capacity Fee" in the amount of \$1,136, which is comprised of \$1,000 for the privilege of being allowed to connect to the Pasadena sewerage system and \$136 to cover the prorated cost of the previously completed engineering study of the Linda Vista Avenue trunk sewer. The \$1,000 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 be sufficient to offset all City expenses incurred in connection with the preparation and execution of similar sewer agreements. The \$136 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.


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 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 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.

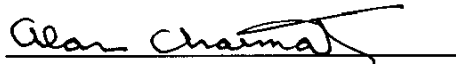
FISCAL IMPACT:

The \$1,000 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 \$136 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.

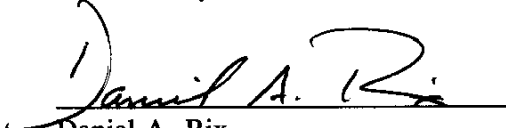
Respectfully submitted,


CYNTHIA J. KURTZ
Acting City Manager


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