



PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

CITY HALL

10300 TORRE AVENUE • CUPERTINO, CA 95014-3255

TELEPHONE: (408) 777-3354 www.cupertino.org

CITY COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

Meeting: May 1, 2018

Subject

Approve renewal and collection of existing storm drain fees at no increase in rates for FY 2018-2019.

Recommended Action

Consider all objections or protests and adopt the Draft Resolution for approval and renewal of the collection of existing storm drain fees at no increase in rates for fiscal year 2018-2019.

Discussion

Since 1992, the Nonpoint Source Program, mandated by the State of California and the United States Environmental Protection Agency regulations pursuant to the Clean Water Act, has been funded locally from a storm drain fee applied to each property in the City. The fee, collected by the Santa Clara County Tax Collector on behalf of the City, is subject to annual review and approval by the City Council.

The existing storm drain fees support the City's, State and federally mandated programs and water quality control requirements. Also supported by these funds are the operation and maintenance of storm drain facilities (to the extent not covered by existing General Fund activities), a portion of the annual street sweeping contract, funding for regional watershed monitoring, local public outreach and education, litter reduction measures and all other compliance work conducted on behalf of the cities and agencies by the Santa Clara Valley Urban Runoff Pollution Prevention Program (SCVURPPP). The City is also responsible for mandatory inspections and data tracking to prevent illegal connections and discharges to the City's storm drain system and impacts to State waters.

The fees have remained the same since they were first levied in 1992 and no increase is proposed at this time. The annual fees for each property category are as follows:

<u>Category</u>	<u>Rate per Year</u>
Single-Family, Town homes, Condominiums	\$ 12.00 / premise
Commercial/Industrial/Apartments	\$ 144.00 / acre
Unimproved Land/Recreation	\$ 36.00 / acre

Fiscal Impact

The fee schedule, when levied on all properties in the City of Cupertino, generates approximately \$372,800. The approved Nonpoint Source program budget for FY 2017-2018 was approximately \$762,000. The budgeted amount is the minimum necessary to comply with the increasingly stringent State and Federal Clean Water Act requirements, higher municipal National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) fees proposed by the State, and increased SCVURPPP regional program costs. The difference between the budgeted amount for this fund and the revenue from the storm drain fee is proposed to continue to be supported by the General Fund. Any increase in the current fee amount would be subject to Proposition 218 restrictions and no change is recommended at this time.

Within the City Council's approved 2018-19 Work Program, staff will be exploring the feasibility and potential steps to conduct a property owner mail-in election for authorization to adjust stormwater fees from 1992 level to current needed levels. This effort will include soliciting input from the Sustainability Commission and local grassroots groups.

Sustainability Impact

The storm drainage fee, which has been in place since 1992, supports water pollution prevention and water conservation (NPDES) activities. Significant sustainability benefits include the reduction or elimination of pollutant discharges which could degrade local creeks and threaten the supply of clean water, and the capture of rainwater to be used as a resource.

Prepared by: Cheri Donnelly, Environmental Programs Manager

Reviewed by: Timm Borden, Director of Public Works

Approved for Submission by: David Brandt, City Manager

Attachments:

A – Draft Resolution including Engineer's Report