

## **Important Information Concerning Residential Street Lighting**

To provide information concerning the Community Services District (CSD) Zone B program and to provide for public comments on the current mail ballot proceeding for the proposed increase in the CSD Zone B annual parcel charge, the City Council/CSD Board of Directors has scheduled three (3) Informational meetings as listed below, along with one (1) Public Meeting and one (1) Public Hearing, which will be held at the **Moreno Valley City Hall Council Chamber located at 14177 Frederick Street, Moreno Valley.**

<u><b>INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS</b></u>	<u><b>PUBLIC MEETING</b></u>	<u><b>PUBLIC HEARING</b></u>
Wednesday, April 29, 2009 9:00 A.M. – 10:00 A.M.	Tuesday, May 26, 2009	Tuesday, June 9, 2009
Thursday, April 30, 2009, 7:00 P.M. – 8:00 P. M.	6:30 P.M. (Or As Soon Thereafter As The Matter May Be Called)	6:30 P.M. (Or As Soon Thereafter As The Matter May Be Called)
Tuesday, May 5, 2009 3:30 P.M. – 4:30 P. M.		

The following are some general questions and answers on the CSD Zone B program and annual charge. For additional information, please contact the City's Special Districts Division at (951) 413-3480.

### **What is the CSD and CSD Zone B?**

In 1985, the City of Moreno Valley formed the Moreno Valley Community Services District (CSD) to provide a variety of services, which includes park and recreational services; arterial and residential street lighting; and parkway and median landscape maintenance to residential and/or commercial areas within the boundaries of the CSD. Streetlights along publicly maintained residential roadways within the CSD are funded through the CSD Zone B (Residential Street Lighting) program.

### **Who pays for the CSD Zone B charge?**

The CSD Zone B charge is an annual charge paid by property owners whose properties have streetlights within their residential developments, which are located on publicly maintained residential roadways.

### **How is the CSD Zone B program annual charge collected?**

The CSD Zone B program is funded through an annual charge, assessed and collected on the Riverside County property tax bills.

### **What does the CSD Zone B charge pay for?**

The CSD Zone B charge funds electrical energy, maintenance, and administration costs to provide residential street lighting services. This includes streetlight repairs and replacement of streetlight components, which include underground wires, sensors, bulbs, facilities, mast arms, lens, or streetlight poles.

**Why do I have to pay for the CSD Zone B charge, when I already pay property taxes?**

The CSD Zone B charge that is on your Riverside County property tax bill, but is separate from the general property taxes collected for the City of Moreno Valley. The taxes received by the City are budgeted for police, fire, parks, library, public works, and other City services which benefit the general public. The CSD Zone B charge is collected on residential properties that have streetlights along their roadways and are subject to an annual parcel charge. The CSD Zone B charge pays for the service these properties receive.

**Will I get a bill for the CSD Zone B charge?**

You will not receive a separate bill. The CSD Zone B charge will appear as a line item on your Riverside County property tax bill. Payments should not be mailed to the City.

**How much is the current CSD Zone B charge?**

Over the past thirteen years, the CSD Zone B charge on residential properties receiving street lighting services has remained consistent at \$23 per year per parcel for a majority of the property owners. Since 1999, other property owners have balloted and approved an annual inflation adjustment, which adjusted their 2008/09 charge to \$24 per year per parcel.

**What is the proposed amount of the new CSD Zone B charge?**

Based on a review of increases in electric energy costs and current expenses to operate the streetlights, the CSD Zone B charge will need to increase to \$39 per parcel to maintain the current level of service. In future years, the charge will be subject to an annual inflation adjustment based on the greater of the percentage change calculated for the previous calendar year in the Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County Regional Electricity Price Index, as published by the Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics, or 5 percent. For property owners that currently pay \$23 per parcel per year, this proposed increase would increase your current annual charge by \$16 (or the equivalent of \$1.33 per month). Property owners that currently pay \$24 per parcel per year previously approved an annual inflation adjustment. The proposed increase would increase your current charge by \$15 (or the equivalent of \$1.25 per month). If approved, all parcels will be charged \$39 for FY 2009/10.

**Why is the CSD Zone B charge increasing?**

Since January 1, 2006, the electrical utility providers' rates for street lighting services have increased more than 31 percent through 2008, and an additional increase of 14 percent is anticipated for the 2009/10 fiscal year. The current CSD Zone B revenue cannot support these increases in electric utility costs for street lighting services.

**Why has the City not increased the charge in the past?**

Existing CSD Zone B fund balance has been used to offset prior year increases in electrical utility costs. Due to the historical electrical utility cost increases, this fund balance has now been depleted, and can no longer pay for the operation of the streetlights.

**Does the City have any other money available to pay the electrical utility cost?**

No other funding source has been identified that can contribute that will not impact other services provided by the City.

**Has the City explored other methods to reduce the costs?**

The City has reviewed current trends in converting streetlights to solar power or LED (light-emitting diodes) lights. At this time, Southern California Edison does not offer either of these conversion alternatives for the streetlight system. If conversions were possible, there would be a significant capital investment required from the property owners to fund the conversion, which would increase the CSD Zone B charge even more. The City will continue to monitor cost-reducing options to determine alternatives for the future.

**Is the light in front of my home MY light?**

No. The streetlights are located by design in the public right-of-way areas along your residential street to provide certain levels of illumination. The light in front of your home may provide light on the street and sidewalk areas in front of your and your neighbor's properties.

**What happens if a streetlight burns out or is damaged?**

Although each utility provider conducts a yearly review of the streetlights to identify and repair streetlight outages, streetlights can go out anytime after a review has been performed and repairs have been made. Therefore, the City depends to a large degree on citizens to report streetlights which are damaged or not working properly. Streetlight problems may be reported by calling (951) 413-3480 or on the City website at [www.moval.org](http://www.moval.org), scrolling down and clicking on Streetlight Form and submitting your request. PLEASE MAKE A NOTE OF THIS TELEPHONE NUMBER AND WEBSITE FOR FUTURE USE.

**How long before the streetlight is repaired?**

Depending on the utility providers' availability and the repairs required for the streetlight, repair requests may take up to 15 days to complete. The City currently receives in excess of 800 calls a year for residential streetlight repairs.

**I did not receive a ballot, how may I get one?**

Ballots were mailed on April 17 to the property owners of record based on the latest County of Riverside property tax database as of March 2009. Residents who are not property owners will not receive a ballot. If you are a new property owner or a current property owner and have not received mail ballot materials, please call the City of Moreno Valley, Special Districts Division at (951) 413-3480 to request a replacement ballot package. New property owners should provide a copy of their recorded grant deed for verification of property ownership. To ensure delivery of the ballot and to allow time for submission of your ballot, requests should be received by the CSD no later than 5:30 p.m., on Tuesday, June 2, 2009. Property owners may also make arrangements to pickup replacement ballot materials by calling (951) 413-3480.

**How do I submit my ballot?**

Please complete and return the ballot in the postage-paid (Business Reply Mail) envelope provided. You may also deliver the ballot in a sealed envelope labeled CSD Zone B Ballot, directly to the City Clerk's office located at 14177 Frederick Street, Moreno Valley. The City Clerk's office must receive your ballot prior to the close of the Public Hearing scheduled for Tuesday, June 9, 2009.

**When is the ballot due?**

**Ballots must be received no later than 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, June 9, 2009**, prior to the close of the public hearing to ensure that they will be included in the ballot tabulation.

**I live in the Edgemont area and did not receive a ballot.**

Property owners in the Edgemont area have residential streetlights that are serviced through the Edgemont Community Services District (ECSD). For more information concerning street lighting services provided through the ECSD, please contact them directly at (951) 784-2632.

**How are ballots tabulated?**

Only valid ballots received prior to the close of the public hearing are counted. The proposed charge will be applied if the number of "YES" votes exceeds the number of "NO" votes. If there is a tie or a majority of votes received are marked "NO", regardless of how few ballots are returned, the increased charges for the CSD Zone B program shall not be imposed.

**What happens to the streetlights if the proposed increase in CSD Zone B charge is not approved?**

Based on the results of the tabulated ballots, if the majority of the validated ballots returned are marked as "NO", not approving the increase, the increase will not be imposed and the charge for CSD Zone B will be collected at the current rate, which may include an annual adjustment if previously approved. Streetlight services will be reduced to a level consistent with available funding. The change in service could range from a reduction in the hours of streetlight operations to possibly turning off and removing streetlights.

**Will I be notified of the election result?**

The result of the balloting is scheduled to be announced at the City Council meeting on June 23, 2009. Results can also be found on the City's website at [www.moval.org](http://www.moval.org) or by calling the Special Districts Division at (951) 413-3480.

**Who can I call if I have any additional questions?**

If you have any questions about the CSD Zone B program, proposed increase in the charge, or this process, please contact the Special Districts Division, Monday through Thursday from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at (951) 413-3480.

The Special Districts Division is also conducting mail ballot proceedings for a portion of CSD Zone D (Parkway Landscape Maintenance) and CSD Zone E-3 (Moreno Valley Ranch-West). If your property is located within one of these areas you may receive a separate mail ballot package. If you have any questions with regards to these ballots, please call the Special Districts Division at (951) 413-3480.