



Official Notice and Ballot Information Guide

Bradford Reclamation District 2059

Proposed Operations and Maintenance Assessment

Why Did You Receive This Ballot?

Reclamation District 2059 (RD 2059) is responsible for the operations and maintenance of the reclamation works for Bradford Island. RD 2059 is proposing a new operations and maintenance assessment to supplement the current assessment.

As required by Proposition 218, this assessment will be decided by mailed ballot, which is included with this notice. It will allow property owners within RD 2059 to decide whether to create an additional operation and maintenance assessment to supplement the current assessment.

Why Is This Assessment Being Proposed?

The District's current assessment to fund operations and maintenance works was approved by property owners in 2010. This assessment has a clause that takes effect after FY 2015/16 wherein the maximum annual assessment rates will revert back to the maximum assessment rates effective in FY 2009/10. As a result of this clause, in FY2016/17 the revenue collected from the reverted assessment rates alone will not be sufficient to cover the District's operations and maintenance expenses. Therefore, the District is proposing a new operations and maintenance assessment to supplement the current assessment.

In addition, the District is carrying a significant level of debt as a result of several years of reduced assessments and unanticipated, non-reimbursable expenses from the recent levee project. While the District has made substantial progress to collect delinquent assessments, has collected the royalty for use of native material in the recent levee project from DWR, and is looking for opportunities to secure additional funds for redemption of the outstanding warrants, this proposed assessment includes the ability to collect sufficient revenues to support annual debt payments that would facilitate debt retirement within 10 years (by FY 2025/26).

What Would This Assessment Provide?

If the assessment is approved by property owners, the proposed assessment would provide additional funding for the annual maintenance and operations of RD 2059's reclamation works, including:

- Levee maintenance;
- Drainage ditch maintenance;
- Drainage pump station operations and maintenance;
- Access road maintenance;
- Access to the island via ferry service; and,
- Debt retirement.

How Much Is the Proposed Assessment?

The proposed maximum annual assessment for your property is printed on your ballot. In the event you own multiple parcels, you should have received a separate ballot for each parcel. The maximum annual assessment varies based on the characteristics of your property. If this proposed assessment is approved, the total maximum annual assessment amount for the District would be \$237,000.

What Is The Duration Of The Assessment And Will The Assessment Increase In The Future?

If approved by property owners, the assessment can be levied annually commencing with FY 2015/16 and continued every year thereafter for five years. The maximum annual assessment amount would be escalated based on the annual change in the Consumer Price Index, subject to a minimum of 0 percent and a maximum of 3 percent in any given year. Because there are numerous outstanding issues to be resolved over the next 5 years, it is prudent to review the District's budget requirements in FY 2019/20 to determine the appropriate assessment required for FY 2020/21 and beyond.

Please Complete Your Ballot and Mail It Back Promptly
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How Was the Maximum Assessment Amount Determined?

The annual revenue and expenses for services that are provided by RD 2059 were reviewed and updated to reflect RD 2059's current expectation of costs based partially on historical expenses and partially on anticipated changes as a result of increased operations and maintenance responsibilities from the proposed Long-Term Maintenance Plan for the on-island mitigation site and the recent levee improvement project. A cash flow analysis was prepared to determine the maximum annual assessment required to meet the annual operations and maintenance budget and facilitate debt retirement within 10 years.

The total maximum assessment amount was then apportioned to each property based on the special benefit received. An Engineer's Report describing the methodology for the apportionment of special benefit was presented and preliminarily approved by the RD 2059 Board of Trustees. The Engineer's Report is available on the district's website.

Ballot Instructions

To complete the enclosed official ballot, mark the box next to either YES or NO, print your name and sign the ballot, place it in the provided postage paid return envelope and mail it to Reclamation District 2059, c/o Larsen Wurzel & Associated, 2450 Venture Oaks Way, Sacramento, CA 95833. Alternatively, you may hand deliver your ballot to Ms. Angelia Tant, the District Administrator, at 19 Minaret Road, Oakley, CA 94561; or you may submit your ballot at the public hearing being held on Tuesday August 4, 2015 at 11 am. Only official ballots which are signed and marked with the property owner's support or opposition, and are received before the public hearing is closed on August 4, 2015, will be counted.

If you own more than one parcel within RD 2059, you should have received a separate ballot for each parcel. You may return multiple ballots within the enclosed postage paid return envelope.

If you lose your ballot, require a replacement ballot, or want to change your vote, call RD 2059 at (925) 684-3222. Ballots are weighted by the proposed maximum assessment amount and will be tabulated accordingly by a committee appointed by the RD 2059 Board of Trustees. The proposed assessment may be imposed if, upon the conclusion of the public hearing, weighted ballots submitted in favor of the proposed assessment exceed the weighted ballots submitted in opposition to the proposed assessment. The proposed maximum assessment may be levied for fiscal year 2015/16 and may be continued through fiscal year 2019/20, subject to escalation as described on the previous page.

Why Should You Vote?

Your vote on this matter is important because only returned ballots will be counted. Your ballot is your opportunity to participate in deciding whether additional funds should be raised to support the on-going operations and maintenance of RD 2059's reclamation works.

Notice of Public Hearing

A public hearing will be held on Tuesday August 4, 2015 at 11 am at the Contra Costa County Fairgrounds located at 1201 W. 10th Street, Antioch. You are invited to attend the public hearing. Ballots shall remain sealed until the public hearing portion of the Board of Trustees meeting is closed. Tabulation of the returned ballots will commence after the close of the public hearing; it is expected that the results of the tabulation will be announced prior to the conclusion of the Board of Trustees meeting. The Board of Trustees will consider appropriate action at that time.

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