



# COUNTY OF MENDOCINO

## Executive Office

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### MEMORANDUM

DATE: July 23, 2024

TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors

FROM: Executive Office

SUBJECT: Sherwood Corridor Special Assessment

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#### Background

Since 2021 the County has been exploring options to implement a County Service Area 3 (CSA3) Pilot program for the Sherwood Road area. However, using such tools has caused roadblocks that have delayed the Pilot Program. The Board directed staff to abandon the CSA3 path and go forward with a special benefit assessment.

The proposed Special Benefit Assessment provides funding for immediate road repairs and ongoing maintenance needed for two emergency access routes, Firco Road and Willits Creek Trail Road, along the Sherwood Road corridor. The repairs include enhanced drainage, installation, repair, and maintenance of culverts, roadside fuel clearing, and installation of new gates and turnouts in compliance with California Code of Regulations, Division 1.5, Chapter 7 Subchapter 2, Articles 1-5 State Minimum Fire Safe Standards. The assessment also covers costs for ongoing routine maintenance such as vegetation firebreak maintenance, road surfacing and drainage conduit function for the emergency access routes.

On May 21, 2024, the Board passed the resolution declaring its intention to establish a new special benefit assessment for the operation and maintenance of the Willits Creek and Firco Emergency Access Routes. The Board also set the date July 23, 2024 for the public hearing.

Assessment ballots were subsequently mailed to all property owners affected by the special assessment by June 7, 2024 as required by law. County staff conducted a public meeting at the Brooktrails Community Services District (CSD) at their regular board meeting on May 28, 2024. County staff also attended the CSD's regular meeting on July 9, 2024 to answer questions.

If approved by voters, the earliest that the special assessment will appear in the tax roll is for fiscal year 2024-25. The proposed benefit assessment term is set at 20 years. The rate of the special benefit assessment is proposed at \$30.33 per developed parcel and \$1.39 per undeveloped parcel annually, subject to annual increase based on change in the Consumer Price Index West Region. Unimproved parcels that are later improved will be assessed \$30.33 per year after the improvement.

**Public Hearing Procedure**

The Chair will open the public hearing to hear protests and objections. Counting of the ballots will commence once the Chair closes the public hearing. County staff will publicly tabulate the ballots inside Elections Office at 501 Low Gap Road, Ukiah. Staff will return to the Board of Supervisors meeting to announce the result once all ballots have been tabulated.

**Recommended Action**

If the ballots result show there is not a majority protest against the assessment, the Board is recommended to adopt the resolution to confirm the proceedings and assessments for the special benefit assessment.

**Attachments**

Final Engineer's Report  
Resolution