

WRITTEN OBJECTIONS

If you wish to object to this Coastal Wildland Fire Suppression Assessment on the grounds that you allege it does not comply with the California Constitution please submit a written objection to the City of Santa Barbara, C/O City Clerk, PO Box 1990, Santa Barbara, California 93102 by June 15, 2026. Do not include your objection with your ballot, as voting is a separate but concurrent process. The objection must be clearly marked on the envelope, must specify the grounds on which you are alleging noncompliance with the California Constitution, and must include an address where we can respond to your concern(s) in writing. If you fail to submit a timely objection in writing your right to challenge the assessment may be barred.

HOW TO VOTE

To complete your Official Ballot, mark the oval next to either YES or NO, sign the ballot, and place it in the provided postage-paid return envelope. Mail it to the City of Santa Barbara, or hand-deliver it at the public hearing (see below) before the close of the public input portion.

Only signed ballots that are marked and received before the close of the public input portion of the Public Hearing will be counted. Ballots are weighted by each parcel's proposed assessment amount, meaning a higher assessment amount has more voting power.

The assessment will NOT be imposed if, upon the conclusion of the Public Hearing, the weighted dollar amount of ballots in opposition exceeds the weighted dollar amount of ballots in favor.

If you need a replacement ballot or wish to change your vote before the close of the Public Hearing, contact SCI Consulting Group at (800) 273-5167.

PUBLIC HEARING

A public hearing will be held on **June 30, 2026, at 2 p.m.** at Santa Barbara City Hall, 735 Anacapa St, Santa Barbara, CA 93101.

A community meeting leading up to the public hearing will be held on May 20, 2026. Visit www.santabarbaraca.gov/government/departments/fire-department for meeting specifics.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The Engineer's Report and related documents are available for public inspection online or in person.

City of Santa Barbara Fire Department
925 Chapala Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
Mark vonTillow
(805) 564-5720

www.santabarbaraca.gov/government/departments/fire-department

By Mail:

City of Santa Barbara
C/O City Clerk
PO Box 1990
Santa Barbara, CA 93102

In-Person:

Santa Barbara City Hall
735 Anacapa Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Only official ballots that are received before the close of the public input portion of the public hearing on June 30, 2026, will be counted. Postmarks do not count. Ballots must be signed and marked with the property owner's support or opposition.

CITY OF SANTA BARBARA FIRE DEPARTMENT

Coastal Wildland Fire Suppression Assessment



WHY DID YOU RECEIVE THIS NOTICE AND BALLOT?

You are a property owner within the City of Santa Barbara's Coastal and Coastal Interior High Fire Hazard Areas. The City Council has initiated a property-owner ballot proceeding on a proposed Coastal Wildland Fire Suppression Assessment starting in Fiscal Year 2026-27. Under California law, only returned ballots are counted, and the assessment may not be imposed if ballots submitted in opposition outweigh ballots submitted in support.

ABOUT THE SANTA BARBARA FIRE DEPARTMENT

The City of Santa Barbara Fire Department is responsible for providing year-round emergency response, fire protection, and community preparedness services throughout Santa Barbara.

Santa Barbara has a long and well-documented history of wildfires that have shaped the region and its communities. The Loma Fire is a recent reminder that the Coastal and Coastal Interior High Fire Hazard Areas are at risk from wildland fires.

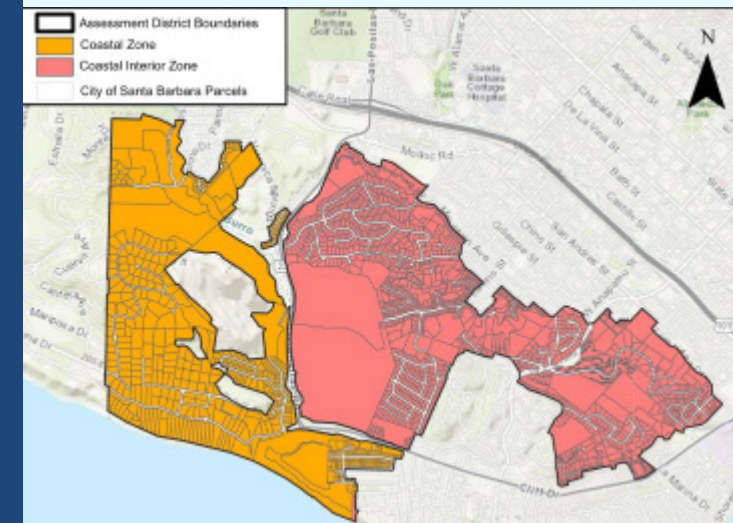
The City is proposing additional fire prevention services in the Coastal and Coastal Interior High Fire Hazard Zones. However, the Fire Department's funding is not allocated to provide a more comprehensive fire prevention strategy in these areas. In order to provide additional services, additional funding would be required.

The proposed Assessment would generate the revenue necessary for these additional services to be provided in the Coastal and Coastal Interior High Fire Hazard Zones.

HIGH FIRE HAZARD ZONES



In 2021, the Fire Department developed a comprehensive, coordinated Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) to support the protection of lives, property, and natural resources threatened by wildland fire within the City. The Coastal and Coastal Interior High Fire Hazard Zones, their fire risk characteristics, and other relevant information are described in detail in the CWPP: www.santabarbaraca.gov/government/departments/fire-department/wildland-fire/community-wildfire-protection-plan-cwpp.





THE PROPOSED SERVICES TO BE FUNDED ARE:

If approved, the proposed assessment would fund a coordinated set of wildland fire prevention and mitigation services within the Assessment District.

Roadside Vegetation Clearance

The roadside vegetation clearance program supports the reduction of combustible fuel and roadside fire ignitions, maintenance of defensible evacuation routes, and improvement of emergency access and response times. These activities help reduce fire spread along roadways and support safe evacuation and fire response during wildland fire events.

Defensible Space Assistance

Defensible space assistance, including voluntary defensible space and home hardening evaluation and chipping programs, helps to identify hazardous vegetation and conditions near structures and support property owners in reducing wildland fire risk at the parcel level. These programs provide guidance to improve defensible space and support ongoing vegetation management.

Vegetation Management

Vegetation management activities focus on reduction of fuel loads and treatment of flammable vegetation, helping to reduce wildland fire intensity. These efforts improve conditions for effective fire suppression and reduce the potential for rapid fire spread within the proposed Assessment District.

CURRENT FUNDING AND THE PROPOSED ASSESSMENT

Currently, the Fire Department's funding supports services throughout the City. These services include emergency response, operations, firefighter staffing and training, and supporting the Community Wildfire Protection Plan. These services are essential to support the safety of our community.

However, the Fire Department's funding is not allocated to provide a more comprehensive fire prevention strategy in the Coastal and Coastal Interior Zones. The proposed Assessment would fund additional services above the baseline level of service.



HOW IS THE ASSESSMENT CALCULATED?

The assessment is allocated to each parcel based on proportional special benefit, as required by Article XIIIID of the California Constitution (Proposition 218). Special benefit is defined as a particular and distinct benefit over and above general benefits conferred on the public at large. Under Proposition 218, only the portion of costs that provide special benefit to properties may be assessed.

The Engineer's Report prepared by SCI Consulting Group uses a Single-Family Equivalent (SFE) methodology. Each parcel is assigned an SFE value reflecting the structure value factor of the property use, which is based on 2025 Santa Barbara County Assessor records for improvement and land values by property type, and are used to ensure that assessments are distributed in proportion to the relative benefit received by different types of properties. The proposed Assessment rates for each type of property within the Assessment area are shown in the table below.

Consideration of wildland fire risk factors, based on information from the Community Wildfire Protection Plan, is also incorporated into the analysis. These factors support the conclusion that properties within the Coastal and Coastal Interior Zones receive special benefit due to their elevated wildland fire risk and corresponding need for enhanced services.

The Engineer's Report includes the complete method of apportionment, the annual budget, and the assessment roll listing each parcel and its proposed assessment amount. The Report is available for public inspection online and in person during normal business hours at the City of Santa Barbara Fire Department, located at 925 Chapala Street in Santa Barbara.

PROPOSED MAXIMUM ASSESSMENT RATES FY 2026-27

Property Type	Max. Rate	Unit
Single Family	\$122.95	each
Multi-Family	\$39.53	per unit
Commercial / Industrial	\$75.92	per acre
Office	\$67.05	per acre
Institutional	\$45.55	each
Storage	\$10.97	per acre
Vacant	\$5.49	each
Agriculture & Parks	\$9.87	per acre
Range Land & Open Space	\$1.91	per acre

PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY

If levied, assessment revenues may only be used for fire prevention services within the Coastal and Coastal Interior High Fire Hazard Zones, consistent with the purposes described in the Engineer's Report. Revenues and expenditures are subject to independent audit and annual review at an annual noticed public hearing.

ANNUAL RATE ADJUSTMENTS

If approved, the assessment would be continued in future years subject to an annual Board review and public hearing. The maximum assessment rate may be adjusted according to the Consumer Price Index (CPI) by no more than 4% per year. Any year in which the rate increase is less than the CPI, the unused portion may be applied in a future year, but the maximum authorized rate may not exceed the cumulative effect of 4% per year.