



Office of the City Manager

CONSENT CALENDAR
June 10, 2014

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From:  Christine Daniel, City Manager
Submitted by: Robert Hicks, Director, Finance Department
Subject: FY 2015 Tax Rate: Fund the Maintenance of Parks, City Trees and Landscaping

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt first reading of an Ordinance setting the FY 2015 tax rate for funding all improvements for the maintenance of parks, City trees, and landscaping in the City of Berkeley at \$0.1256 (12.56 cents) per square foot of improvements.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

The tax levy of the recommended \$.1256 per square footage will result in estimated collections of \$9,865,971 for the Park Tax Fund. The increase in the tax rate of \$0.00340 per square foot will result in a \$6.46 annual increase for the citywide average 1900 square foot home.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

The FY 2014 tax of \$0.1222 is being adjusted by the annual cost of living increase of 2.7874% (or \$0.00340) in the immediate San Francisco Bay Area, as authorized under Measures S and W (passed in November 2000 election).

It is recommended that City Council authorize the levy of a special tax of \$.1256 per square foot of all improvements in the City of Berkeley. The tax will result in a cost to taxpayers in the following average amounts during FY 2015, as compared with the amounts for FY 2014:

Square Feet	Annual Tax	
	FY 2015	FY 2014
1,200	\$150.72	\$146.64
1,500	188.40	183.30
1,900	238.64	232.18
3,000	376.80	366.60
10,000	1,256.00	1,222.00

BACKGROUND

On May 6, 1997, the voters of the City of Berkeley approved a special tax solely to provide funding for the direct cost of acquisition and maintenance of improvements related to parks and landscaping in the City of Berkeley. As a result of the requirements of State Proposition 218, this special tax replaced the annual revenue previously generated by the Citywide Landscape Assessment District. On November 6, 2012, over 89% of Berkeley voters approved Measure P to re-authorize the City, for a period of four (4) years through FY 2016, to spend the Parks Maintenance tax as approved by the voters.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

There are no identifiable environmental opportunities or impacts associated with the subject of this report.

CONTACT PERSON

Robert Hicks, Director, Finance Department, 981-7301

Attachments:

1: Ordinance

ORDINANCE NO. -N.S.

SETTING THE FISCAL YEAR 2015 SPECIAL TAX RATE TO FUND MAINTENANCE
OF PARKS, CITY TREES AND LANDSCAPING IN THE CITY OF BERKELEY

BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Berkeley as follows:

Section 1. The FY 2015 Tax Rate for the maintenance of parks, City trees and landscaping is set at \$.1256 per square foot of taxable improvements.

Section 2. The cost to the taxpayer during FY 2015 will be \$150.72 for a 1,200 square foot home and \$376.80 for a 3,000 square foot home.

Section 3. This Tax Rate will result in estimated total collections of \$9,865,971.

Section 4. The tax imposed by this ordinance does not apply to any property owner whose total personal income, from all sources for the previous calendar year, does not exceed that level which shall constitute a very low income, as established by resolution of City Council.

Section 5. Copies of this Ordinance shall be posted for two days prior to adoption in the display case located near the walkway in front of Old City Hall, 2134 Martin Luther King Jr. Way. Within 15 days of adoption, copies of this Ordinance shall be filed at each branch of the Berkeley Public Library and the title shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation.

