

**SANTA YNEZ COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT**  
MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Board of Directors

**FROM:** Alexandra Griffith, General Manager  
Alicia Marin, Office Manager/Board Secretary

**PREPARED BY:** Loch Dreizler, Former General Manager

**DATE:** July 15, 2026

**SUBJECT:** Board Discussion to Provide Staff Direction for Business Corridor Streetlight Survey

**Staff Recommendation and Requested Board Action:**

Staff recommends that the Board discuss the two survey options regarding ongoing operation and maintenance (O&M) costs language to include in the business corridor streetlight survey

Following Board direction, staff will finalize and distribute the survey to business corridor stakeholders and community members to support future Board decisions regarding the streetlight project.

**Background and Project Status:**

Staff presented updated revenue calculations and current reserve balances to the Committee. Reserves are projected to be adequate to fund the purchase and installation of approximately 10 to 12 solar-powered streetlights designed to meet Dark Sky standards and complement the historic rural character of the business corridor (Edison, Sagunto, and Faraday Streets area).

**Fee Collection Consideration:**

The District currently collects fees and assessments through the Santa Barbara County property tax roll. If an ongoing O&M assessment is established, staff's preferred approach would be to collect the assessment through the County tax roll to minimize administrative costs and improve

collection efficiency. Implementation would require legal review and compliance with applicable State and County procedures.

**Committee Discussion on O&M Funding in the Survey:**

Summarized below is the discussion at the June 15, 2026, Community Interface Committee meeting regarding the business corridor streetlight survey. The primary point of discussion was how to address potential future O&M costs to business corridor property owners within the community survey. The Committee members present expressed differing perspectives on the appropriate level of specificity:

1. A general approach that does not identify a specific dollar amount. Under this option, the survey would indicate that any O&M cost would be determined by the Board before project implementation. (Example language provided on Attachment 1.)
2. A specific-cost approach that includes an estimated annual or triennial O&M amount to provide respondents with a clearer understanding of potential future costs. (Example language provided on Attachment 1.)
3. Committee members agreed that the full Board should determine the preferred survey language before distribution.

Attachment(s):

1. Draft Business Corridor Streetlight Survey with Example Language



**Attachment 1 – Business Corridor Streetlight Survey**

**Help Brighten Our Business Corridor!**

The Santa Ynez Community Services District is exploring the addition of streetlights in the business corridor. The business corridor is loosely defined in the vicinity of Edison, Sagunto, and Faraday Street (which is effectively non-residential property). We want to create a safer environment while preserving the night sky with a historic rural light post.

Please take a few moments to share your thoughts.

**1. Which of these community benefits is most important to you? (Select all that apply)**

- Improved visibility and safety for evening pedestrians and customers.
- Ensuring our district meets Santa Barbara County lighting standards.
- Using "Dark Sky" compliant fixtures to minimize impacts to the night sky.
- Increasing the overall nighttime "curb appeal" of our business corridor.

**2. Would you be willing to participate in a future community meeting to help select lighting styles and discuss proposed locations?**

- Yes! Please notify me at: \_\_\_\_\_(email)
- I can't attend, but please keep me updated via email \_\_\_\_\_
- No, but I support the project.

**A. Would you be open to a fair and reasonable Operation & Maintenance cost to help bring a historical rural streetlighting design to our business corridor?**

- Yes, I'm interested in investing in our streetscape.
- I'd like more information on the specific dollar amount and how it was determined.
- No, thank you.

**OR**

**B. Would you be open to a one-time fee (\$250) to help bring a historical rural streetlighting design to our business corridor?**

- Yes, I'm interested in investing in our streetscape.
- I'd like more information on the specific dollar amount and how it was determined.
- No, thank you.

**4. Additional Input:** \_\_\_\_\_  
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