



America's Finest City

THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO



# **Assessment Engineer's Report**

## **RANCHO ENCANTADA/STONEBRIDGE ESTATES MAINTENANCE ASSESSMENT DISTRICT**

**Annual Update for Fiscal Year 2014**

**under the provisions of the**

**San Diego Maintenance Assessment District Ordinance  
of the San Diego Municipal Code**

**and**

**Landscaping & Lighting Act of 1972  
of the California Streets & Highways Code**

**Prepared For**

**City of San Diego, California**

**Prepared By**

**EFS Engineering, Inc.**

**P.O. Box 22370**

**San Diego, CA 92192-2370**

**(858) 752-3490**

**May 2013**

# CITY OF SAN DIEGO

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Elizabeth Maland

## Independent Budget Analyst

Andrea Tevlin

## City Engineer

James Nagelvoort

## Assessment Engineer

EFS Engineering, Inc.

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## EXHIBITS

Exhibit A: Boundary Map

Exhibit B: Estimated Annual Expense, Revenues & Reserves

Exhibit C: Assessment Roll

# Assessment Engineer's Report Rancho Encantada/Stonebridge Estates Maintenance Assessment District

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## Preamble

Pursuant to the provisions of the "San Diego Maintenance Assessment District Ordinance" (being Division 2, Article 5, Chapter VI beginning at Section 65.0201 of the San Diego Municipal Code), provisions of the "Landscaping and Lighting Act of 1972" (being Part 2 of Division 15 of the California Streets and Highways Code), applicable provisions of "Proposition 218" (being Article XIID of the California Constitution), and provisions of the "Proposition 218 Omnibus Implementation Act" (being California Senate Bill 919) (the aforementioned provisions are hereinafter referred to collectively as "Assessment Law"), in connection with the proceedings for the RANCHO ENCANTADA/STONEBRIDGE ESTATES MAINTENANCE ASSESSMENT DISTRICT (hereinafter referred to as "District"), EFS ENGINEERING, INC., as Assessment Engineer to the City of San Diego for these proceedings, submits herewith this report for the District as required by California Streets and Highways Code Section 22565.

FINAL APPROVAL, BY RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_,  
ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SAN  
DIEGO, COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA, ON THE  
\_\_\_\_\_ DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_, 2013.

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Elizabeth Maland, CITY CLERK  
CITY OF SAN DIEGO  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA



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## Executive Summary

**Project:** Rancho Encantada/Stonebridge Estates  
 Maintenance Assessment District

**Apportionment Method:** Equivalent Benefit Unit (EBU)

	<b>FY 2013</b>	<b>FY 2014 <sup>(1)</sup></b>	<b>Maximum <sup>(2)</sup> Authorized</b>
<b>Total Parcels Assessed:</b>	1,019	1,019	--
<b>Total Estimated Assessment:</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00	--
<b>Total Number of EBUs:</b>	917.93	917.93	--
<b>Assessment per EBU:</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$288.41 <sup>(3)</sup>

<sup>(1)</sup> FY 2014 is the City's Fiscal Year 2014, which begins July 1, 2013 and ends June 30, 2014. Total Parcels Assessed, Total Estimated Assessment, and Total Number of EBUs may vary from prior fiscal year values due to parcel changes and/or land use re-classifications.

<sup>(2)</sup> Maximum authorized annual amounts subject to cost-indexing provisions as set forth in this Assessment Engineer's Report.

<sup>(3)</sup> Prior fiscal year's maximum authorized annual assessment increased by cost-indexing factor of 4.55%.

**Annual Cost-Indexing:** The maximum authorized assessment rate has been increased based on the approved annual cost-indexing provisions.

**Bonds:** No bonds will be issued in connection with this District.



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## Background

The Rancho Encantada-Stonebridge Estates Maintenance Assessment District (District) was approved by property owners and confirmed by City Council vote on December 6, 2005 (Resolution R-301141). The District's primary role is to maintain Rancho Encantada Park #2, which is now known as Sycamore Canyon Park. A finding of special benefit was made because the additional park acreage would be over and above the population-based park requirement for the Rancho Encantada community planning area per General Plan standards. The District's boundaries are defined primarily by developable land within the Rancho Encantada Precise Plan, which encompasses an estimated 2,700 acres and is bounded by the City of Poway to the north, Marine Corps Air Station Miramar to the south, the communities of Scripps-Miramar Ranch and Miramar Ranch North to the west, and Sycamore Canyon County Open Space to the east. The primary development within this area is Stonebridge Estates.

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## District Proceedings for Fiscal Year 2014

This District is authorized and administered under the provisions of the "San Diego Maintenance Assessment District Ordinance" (being Division 2, Article 5, Chapter VI beginning at Section 65.0201 of the San Diego Municipal Code), provisions of the "Landscaping and Lighting Act of 1972" (being Part 2 of Division 15 of the California Streets and Highways Code), applicable provisions of "Proposition 218" (being Article XIID of the California Constitution), and provisions of the "Proposition 218 Omnibus Implementation Act" (being California Senate Bill 919) (the aforementioned provisions are hereinafter referred to collectively as "Assessment Law"). This report has been prepared in compliance with Assessment Law.

The purpose of the proposed proceedings and this Assessment Engineer's Report is to update the District budget and assessments for Fiscal Year 2014. The Fiscal Year 2014 assessments proposed within this Assessment Engineer's Report are equal to or less than the maximum authorized assessment. Therefore, the vote requirements of Section 4 of Article XIID do not apply to these proceedings.



A public hearing will be scheduled where public testimony will be heard by the Council, and the Council may, at its discretion, adopt a resolution ordering the levying of the proposed assessments.

### **Bond Declaration**

No bonds will be issued in connection with this District.

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## **District Boundary**

The boundary of the District coincides with the Rancho Encantada Precise Plan area. The Boundary Map and Assessment Diagram for the District are on file in the Maintenance Assessment Districts section of the Park and Recreation Department of the City of San Diego and by reference are made a part of this report. The Boundary Map and Assessment Diagram for the District are available for public inspection during normal business hours. A reduced copy of the Boundary Map is included as **Exhibit A**.

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## **Project Description**

The project to be funded by the proposed assessments is the maintenance of improvements associated with a six-acre park site referred to as "Sycamore Canyon Park" (see **Figure 1**). Identified park amenities include the following: tot lots, a full-size adult softball field, a little league ball field, a multi-purpose turf area, sports field light poles, security light poles, comfort stations, picnic tables, benches, drinking fountains, trash cans and container enclosures, parking stalls, fences, shrub areas, trees and brush management.

Maintenance activities include, but are not limited to, repair and/or replacement of permanent park fixtures (e.g., fences, sidewalks, ball fields, backstops, benches, bleachers, drinking fountains, sports field lights, parking lot, comfort station, tot lot, play equipment, etc.); litter control; fertilizing; irrigation and maintenance of irrigation components; weed control; pest control; pruning; planting; tree maintenance; gutter, sidewalk and hardtop cleaning; maintenance necessary for the health and appearance of the plant material; cleaning of brow ditches and activities necessary to address safety concerns. The District may also fund minor capital improvements to the extent such improvements are consistent with the apportionment



methodology.

The engineering drawings for the improvements to be maintained by the District are on file at Map and Records in the Development Services Department. The improvements and services provided by the District will be maintained in accordance with specifications and contracts on file with the Park and Recreation Department. These documents are available for public inspection during normal business hours.

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## Separation of General and Special Benefits

The proceeds from the assessment will be used to fund enhanced improvements, services and activities within the District that, in absence of the assessment, otherwise would not be provided at an enhanced level or frequency of service. The District will continue to receive the same level of general services provided to the public at large under City-funded and administered programs, as determined annually, for maintenance of public facilities and improvements (e.g., street trees, sidewalks, street lights, etc.), including street sweeping and graffiti removal on public property.

The City operates and maintains population-based parks as a “general benefit” provided to the public at large. Sycamore Canyon Park (proposed for maintenance) is over and above the population-based park requirement. The park, including its continued maintenance and upkeep, confers “special benefit” to the properties within the District by providing greater recreational opportunities to District residents and an aesthetic buffer within the subdivision. Incidental use and enjoyment of the park by others outside the District is estimated to be minor given that most of the neighboring communities have similar supplemental park facilities.

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## Cost Estimate

### Estimated Costs

Estimated Fiscal Year 2014 annual expenses, revenues, reserves, and assessments (provided by the City) are included as **Exhibit B** hereto. Though not currently identified or quantified, fees collected for organized athletic activities and/or events at Sycamore Canyon Park`





may be allocated to the District fund to offset incidental use or maintenance attributable to others outside the District.

### **Annual Cost-Indexing**

With the passage of Proposition 218, any proposed increase in assessments must be placed for approval before the property owners by a mail ballot and a public hearing process, similar to these proceedings. A majority of ballots received must be affirmative for the City Council to confirm and levy the increased assessments. For small assessment districts or districts with relatively low dollar assessments, the cost of an engineer's report, balloting, and the public hearing process can potentially exceed the total cost of the increase. These incidental costs of the proceedings can be added to the assessments, resulting in even higher assessments.

Indexing assessments annually to the San Diego Consumer Price Index for Urban Consumers (SDCPI-U) plus 3%, as approved by the District property owners in Fiscal Year 2007, allows for minor increases for normal maintenance and operating cost escalation without incurring the costs of the Proposition 218 ballot proceedings. Any significant change in the assessment initiated by an increase in service provided or other significant changes to the District would still require the Proposition 218 proceedings and property owner approval.

The maximum authorized assessment established in the Fiscal Year 2007 proceedings are authorized to be indexed (increased or decreased) annually by the factor published in the SDCPI-U plus 3%. The annual change in second half SDCPI-U values, as compiled by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (see [www.bls.gov](http://www.bls.gov)), for the prior year period was from 253.368 to 257.285 (a 1.55% increase). In accordance with the approved cost-indexing provisions, the maximum authorized assessment rates contained within this Assessment Engineer's Report have been increased by 4.55%.

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## **Method of Apportionment**

### **Estimated Benefit of Improvements**

Properties located within the District benefit from maintenance of Sycamore Canyon Park. As a dedicated public amenity over and above



the population-based park requirement, the park facilitates greater recreational opportunities to District residents and creates an aesthetic buffer within the subdivision. The presence of the park adds to the desirability and marketability of properties within the District, and further distinguishes the community from others in the City. These are the special benefits conferred upon each property within the District.

The Public Facilities and Services element of the Rancho Encantada Precise Plan and the general policy recommendations found in the City's General Plan establish several goals and guidelines for the planned development of the community. The proposed improvements are consistent with these goals. The City's General Plan and the Rancho Encantada Precise Plan support the establishment of community-based landscape improvement and maintenance districts, such as this District, to fund maintenance of enhanced improvements and services.

### **Apportionment Methodology**

The total cost of maintenance of District improvements will be assessed to the various parcels in the District in proportion to the estimated Equivalent Benefit Units (EBUs) assigned to a parcel in relationship to the total EBUs of all the parcels in the District.

EBUs for each parcel have been determined as a function of two factors – a Land Use Factor and a Benefit Factor – related as shown in the following equation:

$\text{EBUs} = (\text{Acres or Units}) \times \text{Land Use Factor} \times \text{Benefit Factor}$
--

Each of these factors is discussed below. Parcels determined to receive no benefit from the District improvements have been assigned zero EBUs.

### **Land Use Factor**

The identified District improvements are associated with the Public Facilities and Services element of Rancho Encantada Precise Plan and the Recreation element of the City's General Plan. Trip generation rates (as previously established by the City's Transportation Planning Section) have been used as the primary



basis for assignment of relative benefit between the various land uses within the District. While these trip generation rates address vehicular trips, they are also considered to approximately reflect the magnitude of other modes of transportation (e.g., pedestrian trips, bicycle trips, etc.), and corresponding intensity of use of public recreational facilities.

Trip generation rates provide the required nexus and basis for assigning relative proportionality of potential benefit to the various land use/zoning classifications (as defined by the City's Municipal Code) within the District. Land use/zoning classifications have been grouped with averaged trip generation rates assigned to establish the Land Use Factors as shown in **Table 1**.

**TABLE 1: Land Use Factors**

<b>Land Use/Zoning</b>	<b>Code</b>	<b>Land Use Factor<sup>(1)</sup></b>
Residential – Detached Single Family	SFD	1.0 per dwelling unit
Residential – Condominium	CND	0.7 per dwelling unit
Residential – Multi-Family & Apartment	MFR	0.7 per dwelling unit
Commercial – Office & Retail	COM	45.0 per acre
Educational – Primary & Secondary	EPS	5.0 per acre
House of Worship	CRH	2.8 per acre
Open Space (designated)	OSP	0 per acre
Park – Undeveloped	PKU	0.5 per acre
Street/Roadway	STR	0 per acre
Undevelopable	UND	0 per acre
Utility Facility	UTL	3.0 per acre

<sup>(1)</sup> Proportional to trip generation rates contained in the City of San Diego *Trip Generation Manual* dated May 2003.

Designated Open Space serves primarily to preserve natural landscape and habitat. While access for study and passive recreation is often permitted, these activities are allowed only to the extent they are consistent with the primary purpose of natural preservation. Since this land is essentially “unused” in the customary terms of land use (which relate to human use and development), the trip generation rate is zero. Therefore, the designated Open Space itself receives no benefit from the District improvements and has been assigned a Land Use Factor of zero.



While those traveling the streets and roadways visually enjoy the enhanced improvements being maintained by the District, the actual benefit accrues to the lands at the origins and destinations of their trips, not to the lands of the streets and roadways, themselves. Accordingly, the Streets/Roadways category receives no benefit and has been assigned a Land Use Factor of zero.

The Utility Facility category applies to utility infrastructure facilities, such as water tanks, pump stations, electric power transformer stations, communications facilities, etc. Utility company administrative offices are not included in this category.

### ***Benefit Factor***

The Land Use Factor described above establishes a proportionality of relative intensity of use (or potential use) for the various parcels of land within the District. It does not address the relationship of this use to the specific improvements to be maintained by the District. This relationship is reflected in the Benefit Factor utilized in the assessment methodology.

In determining the Benefit Factor for each land use category, the subcomponents of the benefits of District improvements may include some or all of the following: recreation, aesthetics, public safety, view corridors, commercial identity, and drainage. The components used for this District are: recreation and aesthetics.

As Benefit Factors and their subcomponents are intended to reflect the particular relationships between specific land uses within a district and the specific improvements maintained by the district, Benefit Factors will generally vary from one district to another, based on the specific character and nature of the applicable land uses and improvements being maintained.

For a given land use, the overall Benefit Factor is equal to the sum of the subcomponent values. If a land use category receives no benefit from a subcomponent, then a value of zero is assigned to that subcomponent. A composite Benefit Factor of 1.0 indicates that full benefit is received. A value less than 1.0 indicates that less than full benefit is received.

The applicable benefit subcomponents and resultant composite



Benefit Factors determined for the various Land Use/Zoning categories within this District are as shown in **Table 2**.

**TABLE 2: Benefit Factors by Land Use**

<b>Land Use/Zoning</b>	<b>Recreation (Max. 0.8)</b>	<b>Aesthetics (Max. 0.2)</b>	<b>Benefit Factor (Max. 1.0)</b>
Residential – All	0.8	0.2	1.0
Commercial – Office & Retail	0.2	0.2	0.4
Educational – Primary & Secondary	0.2	0.1	0.3
House of Worship	0.2	0.1	0.3
Open Space (designated)	0.0	0.0	0.0
Park – Undeveloped	0.0	0.1	0.1
Street/Roadway	0.0	0.0	0.0
Undevelopable	0.0	0.0	0.0
Utility Facility	0.0	0.1	0.1

**Recreation.** The degree of recreational benefit received from the District improvements varies among land use categories. Clearly, Residential lands receive the greatest benefit from the additional recreational amenities potential. Lands in the Commercial, Educational and House of Worship categories receive a lesser degree of recreational benefit from fairly limited use of such facilities. Lands in the Open Space, Parks, Street/Roadway, Undevelopable and Utility Facility categories are considered to receive no significant benefit from the recreational aspects of the District improvements, as such enhancements do not affect their function, use, or value.

**Aesthetics.** The degree of benefit received from the aesthetic aspect of the District improvements also varies among land use categories. Generally, by nature of their use, Residential and Commercial lands receive the greatest benefit from aesthetic enhancement projects. Lands in the Educational, House of Worship, Open Space, Parks, Street/Roadway, Undevelopable and Utility Facility categories are considered to receive less significant benefit from the aesthetic aspects of the District improvements, as such enhancements do not affect their function, use, or value.



### Sample Calculations

As described above, the number of Equivalent Benefit Units (EBUs) assigned to each parcel in the District has been calculated based on each parcel's land use and the identified apportionment factors, as shown in the following equation:

$\text{EBUs} = (\text{Acres or Units}) \times \text{Land Use Factor} \times \text{Benefit Factor}$
--

Shown below are sample EBU calculations for several common land uses found in the District.

- **1 Single-Family Residence**  
EBUs = 1 unit x 1.00 x 1.00 = 1.00 EBUs
- **10-unit Apartment Complex**  
EBUs = 10 units x 0.70 x 1.00 = 7.00 EBUs
- **2-acre Elementary School**  
EBUs = 2.00 acres x 5.00 x 0.20 = 2.00 EBUs
- **5-acre Park without Recreation Center**  
EBUs = 5.00 acres x 0.50 x 0.10 = 0.25 EBUs

The total assessment for each parcel in the District is based on the calculated EBUs for the parcel and the applicable unit assessment rate, as shown in the following equation:

$\text{Total Assessment} = \text{Total EBUs} \times \text{Unit Assessment Rate}$
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Based on the above formula, the EBUs calculated for each property, can be found in the Assessment Roll (**Exhibit C**).



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## Summary Results

The District Boundary is presented in **Exhibit A**.

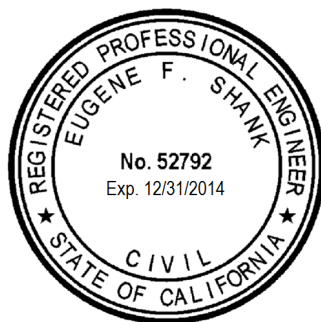
An estimate of the costs of the improvements provided by the District is included as **Exhibit B** to this report.

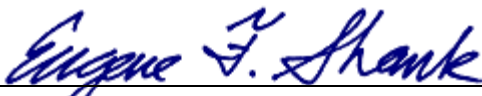
The assessment methodology utilized is as described in the text of this report. Based on this methodology, the EBUs and Fiscal Year 2014 District assessment for each parcel were calculated and are shown in the Assessment Roll (**Exhibit C**).

Each lot or parcel of land within the District has been identified by unique County Assessor's Parcel Number on the Assessment Roll and the Boundary Map and Assessment Diagram referenced herein. The net assessment for each parcel for Fiscal Year 2014 can be found on the Assessment Roll.

This report has been prepared and respectfully submitted by:

EFS ENGINEERING, INC.



  
Eugene F. Shank, PE C 52792

  
Sharon F. Risse



I, \_\_\_\_\_, as CITY CLERK of the CITY OF SAN DIEGO, COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA, do hereby certify that the Assessment as shown on the Assessment Roll, together with the Assessment Diagram, both of which are incorporated into this report, were filed in my office on the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2013.

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Elizabeth Maland, CITY CLERK  
CITY OF SAN DIEGO  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

I, \_\_\_\_\_, as CITY CLERK of the CITY OF SAN DIEGO, COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA, do hereby certify that the foregoing Assessment, together with the Assessment Diagram incorporated into this report, was approved and confirmed by the CITY COUNCIL of said City on the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2013.

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Elizabeth Maland, CITY CLERK  
CITY OF SAN DIEGO  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

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# **EXHIBIT A**

# **EXHIBIT B**

# **EXHIBIT C**

**ASSESSMENT ENGINEER'S REPORT  
ASSESSMENT ROLL**

The undersigned, pursuant to the "Maintenance Assessment Districts Ordinance" (Division 2, Article 5, Chapter VI beginning at Section 65.0201 of the San Diego Municipal Code), the "Landscaping and Lighting Act of 1972" (Part 2, Division 15 of the California Streets and Highways Code), applicable provisions of "Proposition 218" (Article XIID of the California Constitution), and the "Proposition 218 Omnibus Implementation Act" (California Senate Bill 919) (the aforementioned provisions are hereinafter referred to collectively as "Assessment Law"), does hereby submit the following:

1. Pursuant to the provisions of Assessment Law and the Resolution of Intention, we have assessed the costs and expenses of the works of improvement (maintenance) to be performed in the Assessment District upon the parcels of land in the Assessment District benefited thereby in direct proportion and relation to the estimated benefits to be received by each of said parcels. For particulars as to the identification of said parcels, reference is made to the Boundary Map & Assessment Diagram on file in the Maintenance Assessment Districts Section of the Park and Recreation Department of the City of San Diego. A copy of the Boundary Map is included in the Assessment Engineer's Report as **Exhibit A**.
2. The Assessment Diagram included in this report shows the Assessment District, as well as the boundaries and dimensions of the respective parcels and subdivisions of land within the Assessment District, the same as existed at the time of the passage of the Resolution of Intention, each of which subdivisions of land or parcels or lots respectively have been given a separate number upon the Assessment Diagram and in the Assessment Roll (**Exhibit C**).
3. By virtue of the authority contained in said Assessment Law, and by further direction and order of the legislative body, we hereby make the following assessment to cover the costs and expenses of the works of improvement (maintenance) for the Assessment District based on the costs and expenses as set forth in the Assessment Engineer's Report.

For particulars as to the individual assessments and their descriptions, reference is made to the Assessment Roll (**Exhibit C**) attached hereto.

DATED: May 3, 2013

EFS ENGINEERING, INC.



By: Eugene F. Shank  
Eugene F. Shank, PE C 52792

By: Sharon F. Risse  
Sharon F. Risse