

Communication from Public

Name:

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Comments for Public Posting: The City must prioritize catching and prosecuting copper thieves and vandals responsible for damaging public infrastructure instead of shifting the financial burden onto property owners. Streetlights are a core government responsibility and benefit the entire public, not just adjacent property owners. Property owners already pay substantial property taxes and deserve transparency regarding how existing tax revenues are being spent. The City's classification of streetlighting as a "special benefit" rather than a general public benefit is flawed and contrary to common sense. Many Mom-and-Pop housing providers cannot absorb additional taxes and assessments, especially one designed to increase annually over time. Rising operating costs continue to place enormous pressure on housing providers and threaten long-term housing affordability. Additional taxes and assessments may force smaller owners to sell properties to large corporate developers, accelerating redevelopment and higher rents. The City should first improve maintenance oversight, secure utility access points, strengthen anti-theft protections, and explore more cost-effective repair solutions before imposing new taxes. This is just another issue we are dealing with because criminals are not prosecuted for doing this. The burden to cover the costs should NEVER be on property owners. It is the duty of the city to protect property that belongs to the public for safety. Affordable alternatives such as solar-powered lighting upgrades and private contracting options should be explored prior to creating a permanent assessment district. Residents should not be pressured into approving new taxes simply to maintain basic public safety services that are fundamental responsibilities of city government. This proposal sets a dangerous precedent by shifting traditional public infrastructure costs onto a limited group of taxpayers instead of funding them broadly and fairly.