

**CITY OF RIVERBANK  
ENGINEER'S ANNUAL LEVY REPORT  
RIDGEWOOD PLACE LANDSCAPING  
AND LIGHTING DISTRICT**

**Fiscal Year 2008/2009**

**INTENT MEETING: May 12, 2008  
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**ENGINEER'S REPORT AFFIDAVIT**

City of Riverbank  
Stanislaus County, State of California

*Ridgewood Place Landscaping and Lighting District*

This Report describes the District including the improvements, budgets, parcels and assessments to be levied for Fiscal Year 2008/2009, as they existed at the time of the passage of the Resolution of Intention. Reference is hereby made to the Stanislaus County Assessor’s maps for a detailed description of the lines and dimensions of parcels within the District.

The undersigned respectfully submits the enclosed Report as directed by the City Council.

Dated this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2008.

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Assessment Engineer

By: \_\_\_\_\_

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## I. OVERVIEW

### A. Introduction

The City of Riverbank ("City") annually levies and collects special assessments in order to maintain the improvements within the Ridgewood Place Landscape and Lighting District ("District"). The District was formed in 1998 and is annually levied pursuant to the *Landscape and Lighting Act of 1972, Part 2 of Division 15 of the California Streets and Highways Code* ("1972 Act"). The District assessments were approved by the property owners of record through a protest ballot proceeding at the time the District was formed in compliance with the substantive and procedural requirements of the *California Constitution Article XIII D* ("Article XIII D").

This Engineer's Annual Levy Report ("Report") has been prepared in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 3, Section 22622 of the 1972 Act. This Report describes the District, the improvements therein, any annexations or other modifications to the District including any substantial changes to the improvements, the method of apportionment, the boundaries of the District, and financial information including the district budgets and proposed annual assessments for Fiscal Year 2008/2009. The proposed assessments are based on the historic and estimated costs to maintain the improvements that provide a direct and special benefit to properties within the District. The costs of improvements and the annual levy including all expenditures, deficits, surpluses, revenues, and reserves are assessed to each parcel within the District proportionate to the parcel's special benefits.

For the purposes of this Report, the word "parcel" refers to an individual property assigned its own Assessment Number by the County of Stanislaus Assessor's Office. The County of Stanislaus Auditor/Controller uses Assessment Numbers and specific fund numbers to identify properties assessed for special district benefit assessments on the tax roll.

Pursuant to Chapter 3, beginning with Section 22620 of the 1972 Act the City Council shall conduct a noticed annual public hearing to consider all public comments and written protests regarding the District. Following the annual public hearing and review of the Report, the City Council may order amendments to the Report or confirm the Report as submitted. Following final approval of the Report and confirmation of the assessments contained therein, the City Council will by resolution: order the improvements to be made and confirm the levy and collection of assessments pursuant to Chapter 4, Article 1, beginning with Section 22640 of the 1972 Act. The assessment rate and method of apportionment described in this Report as approved or modified by the City Council defines the assessments to be applied to each parcel within the District for Fiscal Year 2008/2009.

The assessments as approved will be submitted to the County Auditor/Controller to be included on the property tax roll for each parcel within the District. If any parcel submitted for collection is identified by the County Auditor/Controller to be an invalid

parcel number for the current fiscal year, a corrected parcel number and/or new parcel numbers will be identified and resubmitted to the County. The assessment amount to be levied and collected for the resubmitted parcel or parcels shall be based on the method of apportionment and assessment rate contained in this Report as approved by the City Council.

## **B. Applicable Legislation**

The District has been formed and is annually levied pursuant to the 1972 Act, beginning with Section 22500. The assessments and methods of apportionment described in this Report utilize commonly accepted assessment engineering practices and have been calculated and proportionately spread to each parcel based on the special benefits received.

### **Compliance with the California Constitution**

All assessments described in this Report and approved by the City Council are prepared in accordance with the 1972 Act and are in compliance with the provisions of the Article XIID, which was enacted with the passage of Proposition 218 in November 1996.

This District was formed after the passage of Proposition 218 and the assessments contained herein were established and approved pursuant to the provisions of the Article XIID Section 4. Specifically, parcels within the District are assessed for only the reasonable cost of the proportional special benefit conferred on those parcels pursuant to Article XIID Section 4 (a); and the assessments and assessment range formula described in this report were approved by the property owners at the time of formation through a property owner protest ballot proceeding pursuant to Article XIID Section 4 (c, d & e).

Briefly the assessment range formula states that the assessment initially approved by the property owners may be increased each year by the greater of 3% or the percentage increase in the Consumer Price Index ("CPI") to establish an adjusted maximum assessment each year. This adjusted maximum assessment is calculated independently from the actual assessment approved each fiscal year. The proposed assessment for the current fiscal year may be less than or equal to the maximum assessment rate previously approved and adopted for the District. Any proposed assessment that exceeds the adjusted maximum assessment rate is considered an increased assessment. Pursuant to the provisions of the Article XIID, all new or increased assessments (the incremental increase) are subject to both the substantive and procedural requirements of Article XIID Section 4, including a property owner protest proceeding (property owner assessment balloting).

### **Provisions of the 1972 Act (Improvements and Services)**

As generally defined, the improvements and the associated assessments for any District formed pursuant to the 1972 Act may include one or any combination of the following:

- 1) The installation or planting of landscaping.
- 2) The installation or construction of statuary, fountains, and other ornamental structures and facilities.
- 3) The installation or construction of public lighting facilities, including, but not limited to streetlights and traffic signals.
- 4) The installation or construction of any facilities which are appurtenant to any of the foregoing or which are necessary or convenient for the maintenance or servicing thereof; including but not limited to, grading, removal of debris, the installation or construction of curbs, gutters, walls, sidewalks, or paving, or water, irrigation, drainage, or electrical facilities.
- 5) The installation of park or recreational improvements including, but not limited to the following:
  - a) Land preparation, such as grading, leveling, cutting and filling, sod, landscaping, irrigation systems, sidewalks, and drainage.
  - b) Lights, playground equipment, play courts and public restrooms.
- 6) The maintenance or servicing, or both, of any of the foregoing including the furnishing of services and materials for the ordinary and usual maintenance, operation, and servicing of any improvement, including, but not limited to:
  - a) Repair, removal, or replacement of all or any part of any improvements;
  - b) Grading, clearing, removal of debris, the installation, repair or construction of curbs, gutters, walls, sidewalks, or paving, or water, irrigation, drainage, or electrical facilities;
  - c) Providing for the life, growth, health, and beauty of landscaping, including cultivation, irrigation, trimming, spraying, fertilizing, or treating for disease or injury;
  - d) The removal of trimmings, rubbish, debris, and other solid waste;
  - e) The cleaning, sandblasting, and painting of walls and other improvements to remove or cover graffiti.
  - f) Electric current or energy, gas, or other agent for the lighting or operation of any other improvements.
  - g) Water for the irrigation of any landscaping, the operation of any fountains, or the maintenance of any other improvements.
- 7) The acquisition of land for park, recreational or open-space purposes, or the acquisition of any existing improvement otherwise authorized by the 1972 Act.
- 8) Incidental expenses associated with the improvements including, but not limited to:

- a) The cost of preparation of the report, including plans, specifications, estimates, diagram, and assessment;
- b) The costs of printing, advertising, and the publishing, posting and mailing of notices;
- c) Compensation payable to the County for collection of assessments;
- d) Compensation of any engineer or attorney employed to render services;
- e) Any other expenses incidental to the construction, installation, or maintenance and servicing of the improvements; and,
- f) Costs associated with any elections held for the approval of a new or increased assessment.

## II. PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

The District provides for the continued maintenance and operation of landscaping, street lighting and related services and improvements within the public right-of-ways for the benefit of parcels and properties within the development known as Ridgewood Place within the City.

The District is comprised of a single residential development consisting of twenty-three single-family residential parcels. The district was formed to ensure the ongoing maintenance of local landscaping and lighting improvements associated with this residential subdivision and installed as part of the development of properties within the subdivision. The annual cost and expenses of providing the improvements are equitably spread among only the benefiting parcels within the District.

### A. Changes or Modifications to the District

Modifications to the District structure could include but are not limited to:

- Substantial changes or expansion of the improvements provided;
- Substantial changes in the service provided;
- Modifications or restructuring of the District or Zones including annexation or detachment of Zones or specific parcels;
- Revisions in the method of apportionment;
- Proposed new or increased assessments.

Some changes or modifications to the District would require the approval of the property owners within the District. No changes or modifications to the District are proposed for Fiscal Year 2008/2009.

### B. Description of the District and Improvements

The District is located generally on the West Side of Roselle Avenue, north of Morrill Road and south of Turpin Avenue at Soares Place. The District includes twenty-three single family residential parcels within the subdivision known as Ridgewood Place, identified on Book 132 Page 63 parcels 43 through 65 of the Stanislaus County Assessor's Parcel Maps.

The improvements providing benefit to parcels within the District include specific street lighting facilities and landscaped areas originally installed as part of this residential development. The improvements maintained and serviced include five street lights and approximately 583 linear feet of parkway landscaping and any appurtenant facilities,

services or improvements directly associated with these improvements including incidental expenses.

The street lighting improvements may include electrical costs, maintenance, repair and replacement of the poles, lights, wires or other equipment associated with the street lights. The street lights are identified as:

- Two street lights located on the perimeter of the development on the west side of Roselle Avenue, one north end of the subdivision and the other south of Soares Place.
- The remaining three street lights are located within the residential subdivision on Soares Place.

The landscape improvements may include street trees, turf, ground cover, shrubs, irrigation and drainage systems, entry monuments, and blockwalls or other fencing. The landscaped areas are within the public right-of-ways and encompass the parkway landscaped areas the entire length of the Ridgewood Place subdivision along of Roselle Avenue. The landscaped areas are identified as:

- Approximately 213 linear feet of parkway landscaping adjacent to the subdivision along the west side of Roselle Avenue and north of Soares Place.
- Approximately 370 linear feet of parkway landscaping adjacent to the subdivision along the west side of Roselle Avenue and south of Soares Place.

All improvements within the District are maintained and serviced on a regular basis. City staff will determine the frequency and specific maintenance operations required. The District assessments fund all necessary utilities, operations, services, administration and maintenance costs associated with the improvements. The annual cost of providing the improvements within the District are spread among all benefiting parcels in proportion to the benefits received. The expenditures and assessments set forth in this report are based upon the City's estimate of the costs associated with the improvements including all labor, personnel, equipment, materials and administrative expenses.

### III. METHOD OF APPORTIONMENT

#### A. General

The 1972 Act permits the establishment of assessment districts by agencies for the purpose of providing certain public improvements which include the construction, maintenance and servicing of public lights, landscaping and appurtenant facilities. The 1972 Act further requires that the cost of these improvements be levied according to benefit rather than assessed value:

*“The net amount to be assessed upon lands within an assessment district may be apportioned by any formula or method which fairly distributes the net amount among all assessable lots or parcels in proportion to the estimated benefits to be received by each such lot or parcel from the improvements.”*

The formula used for calculating assessments in the District therefore reflects the composition of the parcels, and the improvements and services provided, to fairly apportion the costs based on estimated benefit to each parcel.

In addition, pursuant to the Article XIID Section 4, a parcel's assessment may not exceed the reasonable cost of the proportional special benefit conferred on that parcel and provides that only special benefits are assessable and the District must separate the general benefits from the special benefits.

#### B. Benefit Analysis

Each of the improvements and the associated costs has been carefully reviewed and the corresponding assessments have been proportionately spread to each parcel based on special benefits received from the improvements. The installation of the improvements was part of the conditions of property development. The property owners approved the corresponding assessments for the ongoing maintenance of the improvements at the time of formation through a property owner protest ballot proceeding pursuant to the Article XIID Section 4.

**Special Benefits** — The method of apportionment (assessment methodology) is based on the premise that each of the assessed parcels within the District receives benefit from the improvements maintained and financed by annual assessments. Specifically, the assessments are for the maintenance of local street lighting and landscaped improvements installed as part of the original development. The desirability and security of properties within the District are enhanced by the presence of street lighting and well-maintained landscaping in close proximity to those properties.

The special benefits associated with the local landscaping improvements are specifically:

- Enhanced desirability of properties through association with the improvements.
- Improved aesthetic appeal of properties within the Zones providing a positive representation of the area.
- Enhanced adaptation of the urban environment within the natural environment from adequate green space and landscaping.
- Environmental enhancement through improved erosion resistance, and dust and debris control.
- Increased sense of pride in ownership of property within the District resulting from well-maintained improvements associated with the properties.
- Reduced criminal activity and property-related crimes (especially vandalism) against properties in the District through well-maintained surroundings and amenities including abatement of graffiti.
- Enhanced environmental quality of the parcels within the Zones by moderating temperatures, providing oxygenation and attenuating noise.

The special benefits of street lighting are the convenience, safety, and security of property, improvements, and goods. Specifically:

- Enhanced deterrence of crime and the aid to police protection.
- Increased nighttime safety on roads and highways.
- Improved ability of pedestrians and motorists to see.
- Improved ingress and egress to property.
- Reduced vandalism and other criminal acts and damage to improvements or property.
- Improved traffic circulation and reduced nighttime accidents and personal property loss.
- Increased promotion of business during nighttime hours in the case of commercial properties.

All of the preceding special benefits contribute to a specific enhancement and desirability of each of the assessed parcels within the District.

**GENERAL BENEFITS** -The improvements to be provided and maintained by the District are a direct result of property development within the District and would otherwise not be required or necessary. Developers typically install local improvements to enhance the marketability and value of properties within the development and/or as conditions of development. In either case, the improvements are clearly installed for the benefit of the

properties being developed and not for the benefit of surrounding properties outside the District boundaries. Although local development improvements (by virtue of their location) may be visible to surrounding properties, any benefit to surrounding properties is incidental and cannot be considered a direct and special benefit. Furthermore, most developments within the City typically have various landscaping and lighting improvements specifically associated with their development and these improvements are funded by properties within those developments. Therefore, it has been determined that the District improvements and the on-going operation and maintenance of those improvements provide no identifiable or measurable general benefit to properties outside the District or to the public at large.

### **C. Assessment Methodology**

**Equivalent Dwelling Units:** To assess benefits equitably, it is necessary to correlate the different type of parcels within the District to each other as well as their relationship to the improvements. The Equivalent Dwelling Unit method of apportioning benefit is typically seen as the most appropriate and equitable assessment methodology for districts formed under the 1972 Act, as the benefit to each parcel from the improvements are typically apportioned as a function of land use type, size and development.

The Equivalent Dwelling Unit method of assessment apportionment uses the single family home site as the basic unit of assessment. A single family home site equals one Equivalent Dwelling Unit (EDU). Every other land use is typically converted to EDU's based on an assessment formula that equates the property's specific development status, type of development (land use), and size of the property, as compared to a single family home site. Although the EDU method of apportionment is an appropriate method of calculating each parcel's benefit, it should be noted that all properties within this District are identified as single family home sites and therefore benefit equally with each parcel assigned 1.0 EDU.

The following formulas are used to calculate the annual assessments. The Balance to Levy represents the total amount to be collected through the annual assessments. The Levy per EDU (Assessment Rate) is the result of dividing the total Balance to Levy by the total District EDU. This Assessment Rate multiplied by each parcel's individual EDU determines each parcel's levy amount.

$$\textit{Total Balance to Levy} / \textit{Total EDU} = \textit{Levy per EDU (Assessment Rate)}$$

$$\textit{Assessment Rate} \times \textit{Parcel's EDU} = \textit{Parcel's Levy Amount}$$

Or more simply stated, since all District parcels are 1 EDU:

$$\textit{Total Balance to Levy} / \textit{Total Assessable Parcels in Zone} = \textit{Parcel Levy Amount}$$

## D. Assessment Range Formula

Any new or increased assessments require voting, certain noticing, and meeting requirements. Article XIIIID added specific requirements including an assessment ballot and weighted tabulation of the ballots to determine if majority protest exists at the Public Hearing. In Fiscal Year 1993/94 the Brown Act (*Government Code Section 54954.6(o)*) changed the definition of the term “*new or increased assessment*” to exclude certain conditions. These conditions included “*any assessment that does not exceed an assessment formula or range of assessments previously adopted by the agency and approved by the voters in the area where the assessment is imposed.*” This definition for a new or increased assessment was also addressed in Senate Bill 919 (the Proposition 218 implementation statutes)

An assessment range formula was proposed and approved for the assessments when the District was formed in Fiscal Year 1998/99 and is to be applied to all future assessments within the District.

The following describes the proposed assessment range formula:

Wherein, if the proposed assessment rate for each classification of property (levy per unit or rate) for the current Fiscal Year is less than or equal to the prior year's maximum assessment plus the adjustments described in the following, then the new assessment is not considered an increased assessment. The purpose of establishing an assessment range formula is to provide for reasonable inflationary adjustment to the assessment amounts without requiring costly noticing, balloting, and mailing procedures, which would be added to the District costs and assessments.

Beginning in Fiscal Year 1999/2000, the maximum assessment may be adjusted by the greater of three percent (3.0%) or the percentage increase in the CPI. Each year the City shall compute the percentage difference between the CPI on December 31 of each year and the CPI for the previous December 31 as determined by the Bureau of Labor Statistics for the San Francisco Oakland San Jose Area. This percentage difference shall then establish the range of increased assessments allowed based on the CPI. Should the Bureau of Labor Statistics revise such index or discontinue the preparation of such index, the City shall use the revised index or comparable system as approved by the City Council for determining fluctuations in the cost of living.

The following table illustrates how the assessment range formula would be applied. For example, if the percentage change in the CPI is greater than three percent (3.0%), as in Example Number 1, then the maximum percentage adjustment to the proposed assessment is the CPI. If the percentage change in the CPI is less than three percent (3.0%), as in Example Number 2, then the maximum percentage adjustment to the proposed assessment may be three percent (3.0%).

### Examples of Percentage Increases

<u>Example Number</u>	<u>CPI Percentage Increase</u>	<u>Standard 3.00%</u>	<u>Maximum % Increase Allowed</u>	<u>Prior Year's Max Rate</u>	<u>Allowed Adjustment</u>	<u>New Maximum Rate</u>
1	5.80%	3.00%	5.80%	\$232.72	\$13.50	\$246.22
2	1.00%	3.00%	3.00%	\$232.72	\$6.98	\$239.70

The fact that an assessment range formula is adopted for District assessments does not require that the adjustment maximum assessment be applied each year nor does it restrict the assessments to the adjusted amount. If the budget and assessments for the District do not require an increase or the increase is less than the maximum allowable adjustment, then the required budget and assessment shall be applied. If the budget and proposed assessments require an increase greater than the maximum allowable adjustment, then the proposed assessment is considered an increased assessment and mailed notices and ballots to the property owners would be required pursuant to the Article XIID Section 4c.

#### IV. DISTRICT BUDGET FY 08/09

Ridgewood Landscaping and Lighting District	Total District
<b>DIRECT COSTS</b>	
Landscape Maintenance	\$2,212
Utilities	217
Repairs/Abatement	1,051
Street Lighting	879
Miscellaneous/Materials/Equipment	0
Capital Expenditure	0
<b>Direct Costs (Subtotal)</b>	<b>\$4,359</b>
<b>ADMINISTRATION COSTS</b>	
District Administration	\$2,219
County Administration Fee	35.00
<b>Administration Costs (Subtotal)</b>	<b>\$2,254</b>
<b>LEVY BREAKDOWN</b>	
<b>Total Direct and Admin. Costs</b>	<b>\$6,613</b>
Reserve Collection/ (Transfers)	\$375
Contribution Replenishment	0
Other Revenues/General Fund Contribution	0
CIF Collection/(Transfer)	0
<b>Balance to Levy</b>	<b>\$6,987.50</b>
<b>DISTRICT STATISTICS</b>	
Total Parcels	23
Total Parcels Levied	23
Total Equivalent Dwelling Units (EDU)	23.00
<b>Assessment Rate (Levy Per EDU)</b>	<b>\$303.80</b>
<b>Maximum Assessment Rate Approved</b>	<b>\$315.31</b>
<b>FUND BALANCE INFORMATION</b>	
Beginning Reserve Fund Balance	\$2,251
Reserve Fund Activity	375
<b>Ending Reserve Fund Balance (Projected)</b>	<b>\$2,626</b>
Beginning Capital Improvement Fund	\$0
Collections/(Transfers)	0
Capital Improvement Expenditures	0
<b>Ending Capital Improvement Fund</b>	<b>\$0</b>

## **APPENDIX A - DISTRICT BOUNDARY MAPS**

The original assessment diagrams and tract maps for the District were previously approved and submitted to the City in the format required by the 1972 Act. These diagrams are on file in the Office of the City Clerk and by reference are made part of this Report.

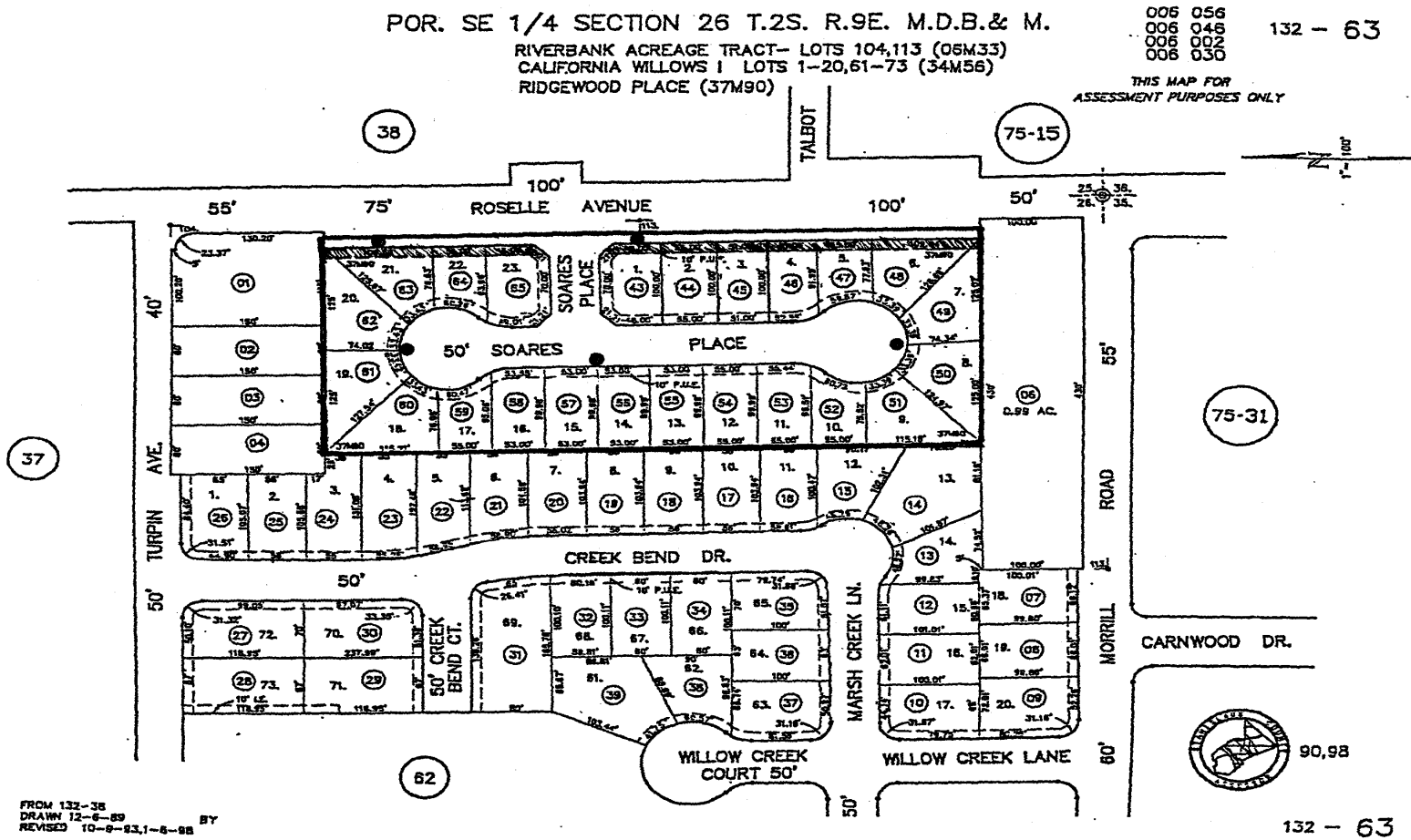
The boundaries for the District are contiguous with the boundaries of the Ridgewood Place subdivision and defined as the corresponding parcels identified on the Stanislaus County Assessor's Map. The parcel identification, lines, and dimensions of each parcel within the District are those lines and dimensions shown on the Stanislaus County Assessor's Map of for the year in which this Report was prepared and by reference are incorporated and made part of this Report.

The following page is a reproduction of the County Assessor's Parcel Map associated with the District.

# Boundary and Improvement Diagram

# Ridgewood Place

- Street Lights
- Landscaped Areas Shaded



## **APPENDIX B — 2008/2009 ASSESSMENT ROLL**

Parcel identification, for each lot or parcel within the District, shall be the parcel as shown on the Stanislaus County Assessor's map for the year in which this Report is prepared.

A listing of parcels assessed within this District, along with the assessment amounts, is included on the following page. If any parcel submitted for collection is identified by the County Auditor/Controller to be an invalid parcel number for the current fiscal year, a corrected parcel number and/or new parcel numbers will be identified and resubmitted to the County Auditor/Controller. The assessment amount to be levied and collected for the resubmitted parcel or parcels shall be based on the method of apportionment and assessment rate approved in this Report. Therefore, if a single parcel has changed to multiple parcels, the assessment amount applied to each of the new parcels shall be recalculated and applied according to the approved method of apportionment and assessment rate rather than a proportionate share of the original assessment.

Non-assessable lots or parcels include areas of public streets and other roadways (typically not assigned an APN by the County); dedicated public easements, open space areas and rights-of-ways including public greenbelts and parkways; utility rights-of-ways; common areas; landlocked parcels, small parcels vacated by the County, bifurcated lots, and any other property that can not be developed or has specific development restrictions. These types of parcels are considered to receive little or no benefit from the improvements and are therefore exempted from assessment.

<b>APN</b>	<b>Charge</b>	<b>EBU</b>
132063043000	\$303.80	1
132063044000	303.80	1
132063045000	303.80	1
132063046000	303.80	1
132063047000	303.80	1
132063048000	303.80	1
132063049000	303.80	1
132063050000	303.80	1
132063051000	303.80	1
132063052000	303.80	1
132063053000	303.80	1
132063054000	303.80	1
132063055000	303.80	1
132063056000	303.80	1
132063057000	303.80	1
132063058000	303.80	1
132063059000	303.80	1
132063060000	303.80	1
132063061000	303.80	1
132063062000	303.80	1
132063063000	303.80	1
132063064000	303.80	1
132063065000	303.80	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$6,987.40</b>	<b>23</b>