



City of Riverbank

Ridgewood Place Landscaping and Lighting District

2025/2026 ENGINEER'S ANNUAL LEVY REPORT

Intent Meeting: May 27, 2025
Public Hearing: June 10, 2025

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AFFIDAVIT FOR THE ENGINEER'S ANNUAL LEVY REPORT

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 2025/2026, 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 27th day of May, 2025.

Willdan Financial Services
Assessment Engineer

By: 

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Principal Consultant
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By: 

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

PART I - OVERVIEW	1
A. INTRODUCTION	1
B. APPLICABLE LEGISLATION	2
C. IMPROVEMENTS AUTHORIZED BY THE 1972 ACT	3
D. DESCRIPTION OF THE IMPROVEMENTS	4
PART II - PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS	5
E. CHANGES OR MODIFICATIONS TO THE DISTRICT	5
F. DESCRIPTION OF THE DISTRICT	5
PART III - METHOD OF APPORTIONMENT	5
A. GENERAL	5
B. BENEFIT ANALYSIS	6
C. ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY	7
D. ASSESSMENT RANGE FORMULA	8
PART IV - DISTRICT BUDGET FY 2025/2026	10
PART V — DISTRICT BOUNDARY MAPS	11
PART VI — 2025/2026 ASSESSMENT ROLL	14

PART 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 XIID (“Article XIID”).

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 2025/2026. 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, and 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 2025/2026.

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 Current Legislation

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 XIIID, 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 XIIID 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 XIIID 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 XIIID 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 3.0% 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 XIIID, all new or increased assessments (the incremental increase) are subject to both the substantive and procedural requirements of Article XIIID Section 4, including a property owner protest proceeding (property owner assessment balloting).

C. IMPROVEMENTS AUTHORIZED BY THE 1972 ACT

As applicable or may be applicable to this proposed District, the 1972 Act defines improvements to mean one or any combination of the following:

- The installation or planting of landscaping.
- The installation or construction of statuary, fountains, and other ornamental structures and facilities.
- The installation or construction of public lighting facilities.
- 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, clearing, removal of debris, the installation or construction of curbs, gutters, walls, sidewalks, or paving, or water, irrigation, drainage, or electrical facilities.
- The maintenance or servicing, or both, of any of the foregoing.
- The acquisition of any existing improvement otherwise authorized pursuant to this section.

Incidental expenses associated with the improvements including, but not limited to:

- The cost of preparation of the report, including plans, specifications, estimates, diagram, and assessment;
- The costs of printing, advertising, and the publishing, posting and mailing of notices;
- Compensation payable to the County for collection of assessments;
- Compensation of any engineer or attorney employed to render services;
- Any other expenses incidental to the construction, installation, or maintenance and servicing of the improvements;
- Any expenses incidental to the issuance of bonds or notes pursuant to Section 22662.5.
- Costs associated with any elections held for the approval of a new or increased assessment.

The 1972 Act defines "Maintain" or "maintenance" to mean furnishing of services and materials for the ordinary and usual maintenance, operation, and servicing of any improvement, including:

- Repair, removal, or replacement of all or any part of any improvement.
- Providing for the life, growth, health, and beauty of landscaping, including cultivation, irrigation, trimming, spraying, fertilizing, or treating for disease or injury.
- The removal of trimmings, rubbish, debris, and other solid waste.
- The cleaning, sandblasting, and painting of walls and other improvements to remove or cover graffiti.

D. DESCRIPTION OF THE IMPROVEMENTS

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 block walls 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 is 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.

PART 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 (23) 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.

E. 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 2025/2026.

F. DESCRIPTION OF THE DISTRICT

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.

PART 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. 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 EDUs 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.

Total Balance to Levy / Total EDU = Levy per EDU (also called Assessment Rate)

Assessment Rate x Parcel’s EDU = Parcel Levy Amount

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

Total Balance to Levy / Total Assessable Parcels in Zone = Parcel Levy Amount

D. ASSESSMENT RANGE FORMULA

Any new or increased assessments require voting, certain noticing, and meeting requirements. Article XIID 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 1993/1994 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 1998/1999 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 Hayward 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 Maximum Assessment for Fiscal Year 2025/2026 is \$548.67 which is an increase of 3.00% from prior year’s maximum assessment. However, a rate of \$296.07 per EDU will only be levied this year.

The following table illustrates how the assessment range formula is applied. This year, a 3.00% CPI increase is applied since it is greater than the CPI increase.

CPI Percentage Increase	Standard 3.00%	Maximum % Increase Allowed	Prior Year’s Max Rate	Allowed Adjustment	New Maximum Rate
2.38%	3.00%	3.00%	\$532.69	\$15.98	\$548.67

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 XIIID Section 4c.

PART IV - DISTRICT BUDGET FY 2025/2026

Ridgewood Landscaping and Lighting District	Total District
DIRECT COSTS	
Landscape Maintenance	\$2,880
Utilities	350
Repairs/Abatement	0
Street Lighting	0
Miscellaneous/Materials/Equipment	0
Capital Expenditure	0
Direct Costs (Subtotal)	\$3,230
ADMINISTRATION COSTS	
City Administration & Overhead	\$1,000
District Administration	2,242
County Administration Fee	5
Administration Costs (Subtotal)	\$3,247
LEVY BREAKDOWN	
Total Direct and Admin. Costs	\$6,477
Reserve Collection/ (Transfer)	333
Contribution Replenishment	0
Other Revenues/General Fund Contribution	0
CIP Collection/(Transfer)	0
Balance to Levy	\$6,810
DISTRICT STATISTICS	
Total Parcels	23
Total Parcels Levied	23
Total Equivalent Dwelling Units (EDU)	23.00
Assessment Rate (Levy Per EDU)	\$296.07
Maximum Assessment Rate Approved	\$548.67
FUND BALANCE INFORMATION	
Beginning Reserve Fund Balance	(\$1,596)
Reserve Fund Activity	333
Ending Reserve Fund Balance (Projected)	(\$1,263)
Beginning Capital Improvement Fund	\$0
Collections/(Transfers)	0
Capital Improvement Expenditures	0
Ending Capital Improvement Fund	\$0

PART V — DISTRICT BOUNDARY MAPS

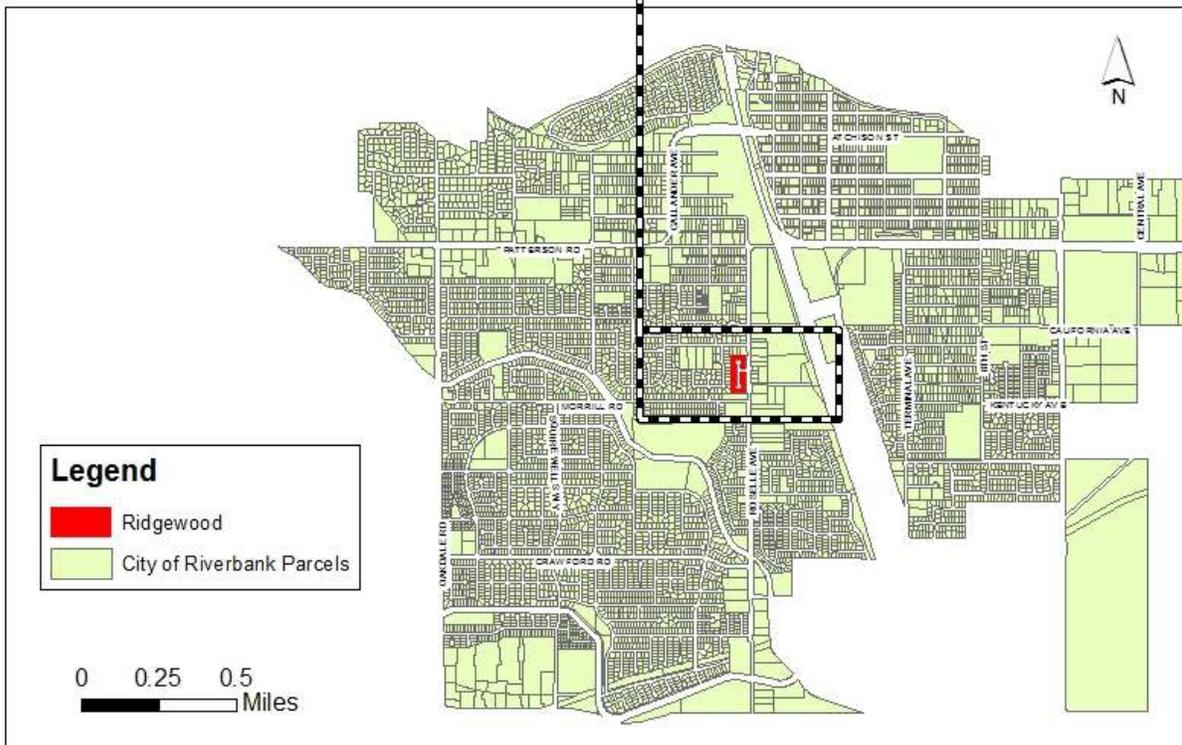
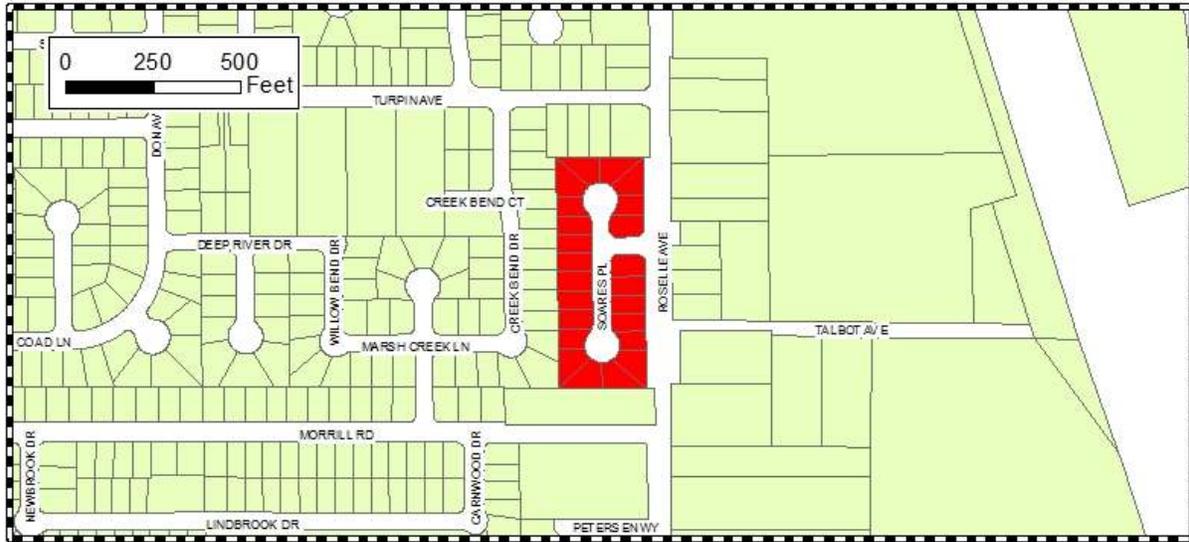
The original assessment diagrams and tract maps for the District were previously approved and submitted to the City in the format required by the 1972 Act. These diagrams are on file in the Office of the City Clerk and by reference are made part of this Report.

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.

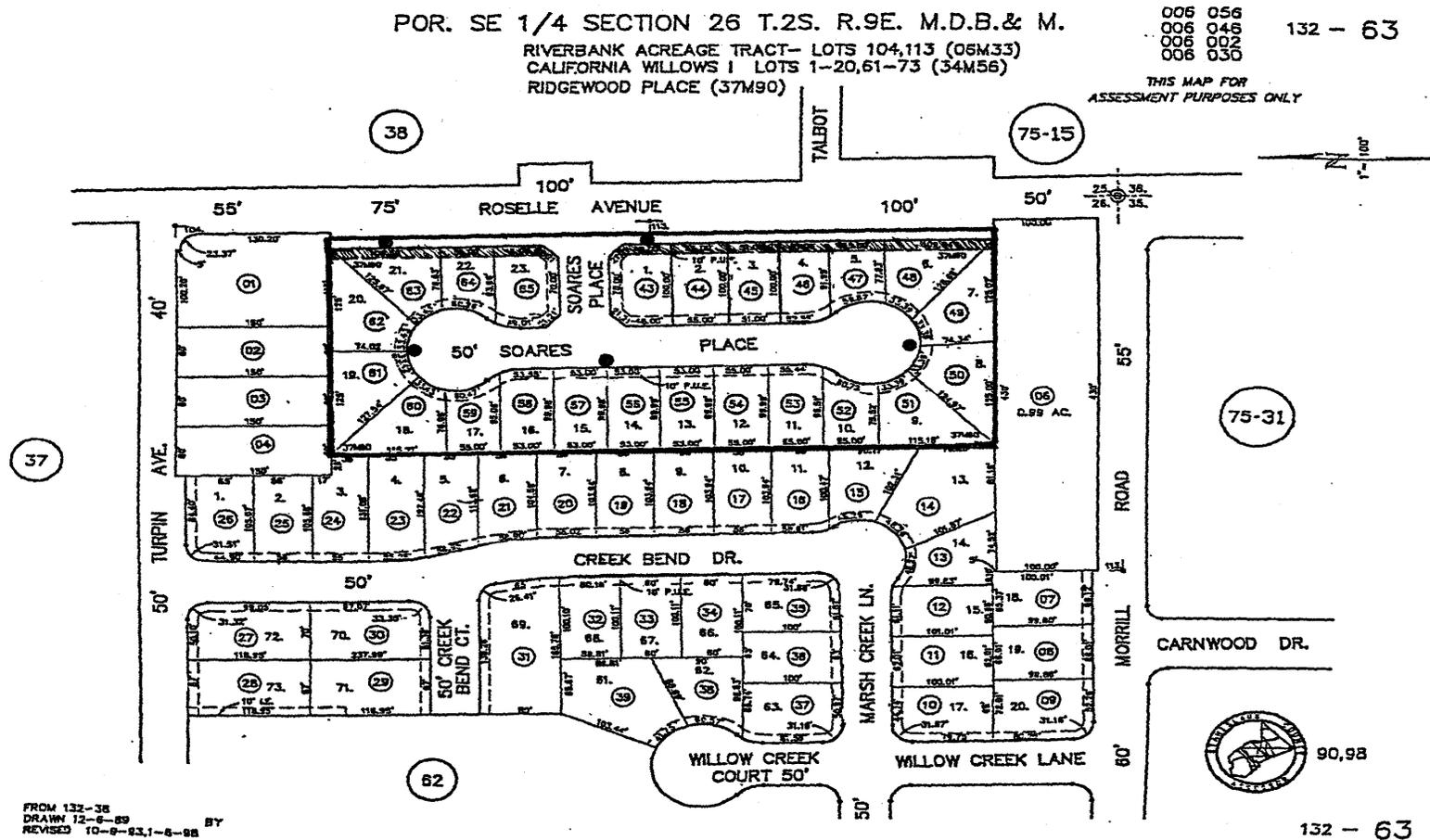


City of Riverbank Ridgewood Place Landscape and Lighting District



Boundary and Improvement Diagram Ridgewood Place

- Street Lights
- Landscaped Areas Shaded



PART VI — 2025/2026 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 listed below. 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 right-of-ways; common areas; landlocked parcels, small parcels vacated by the County, bifurcated lots, and any other property that cannot 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.

APN	EDU	Charge
132-063-043-000	1.0	\$296.06
132-063-044-000	1.0	296.06
132-063-045-000	1.0	296.06
132-063-046-000	1.0	296.06
132-063-047-000	1.0	296.06
132-063-048-000	1.0	296.06
132-063-049-000	1.0	296.06
132-063-050-000	1.0	296.06
132-063-051-000	1.0	296.06
132-063-052-000	1.0	296.06
132-063-053-000	1.0	296.06
132-063-054-000	1.0	296.06
132-063-055-000	1.0	296.06
132-063-056-000	1.0	296.06
132-063-057-000	1.0	296.06
132-063-058-000	1.0	296.06
132-063-059-000	1.0	296.06
132-063-060-000	1.0	296.06
132-063-061-000	1.0	296.06
132-063-062-000	1.0	296.06
132-063-063-000	1.0	296.06
132-063-064-000	1.0	296.06
132-063-065-000	1.0	296.06
Total	23.0	\$6,809.38

*Total may differ from budget due to rounding.