SUBJECT: INTENT TO SET A PUBLIC HEARING FOR SEWER AND SOLID WASTE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL SERVICE FEES

SOURCE: Public Works Department - Field Services Division

COMMENT: The City of Porterville is operating its Wastewater Treatment Facility under a cease and desist order issued by the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB). The cease and desist order required that the City complete various projects and purchase additional property. In order to finance the needed improvement required by the RWQCB, the City borrowed approximately $6,000,000. Monthly sewer rates and treatment plant fees had to be raised for the City to be successful in borrowing the money. To ease the burden of a lump sum increase in the sewer rates to residential and commercial customers, increases were scheduled by percentage over a period of two years with a potential third year percentage increase to be determined. The third year becomes effective July 1, 2005, and per Council’s direction of July 1, 2003, the new fees need to be determined.

As outlined in last years budget message, an increase in the solid waste rate structure was projected for fiscal year 05/06 due to growth and increased operational costs including program expansion with the Consolidated Waste Management Authority, the graffiti abatement program, and compliance with new air board regulation.

RECOMMENDATION: That the City Council:

1. Set a Public Hearing for June 7, 2005, to adopt new residential and commercial Sewer rates;

2. Set a Public Hearing for June 21, 2005 for adoption of a new solid waste service fee; and

3. Authorize staff to notify all affected property owners of the Public Hearing,