



# ENGINEER'S REPORT

## City of Placentia

Landscape Maintenance District No. 92-1

Fiscal Year 2023-24

April 2023

Pursuant to the Landscaping and Lighting Act of 1972, Government Code and Article XIID of the California Constitution

Engineer of Work:



**SCI Consulting Group**

Public Finance Consulting Services

4745 Mangels Boulevard  
Fairfield, California 94534

707.430.4300

[www.sci-cg.com](http://www.sci-cg.com)

(This Page Intentionally Left Blank)

# City of Placentia

---

## City Council

Ward L. Smith, Mayor, District 5  
Jeremy B. Yamaguchi, Mayor Pro Tem, District 3  
Rhonda Shader, Councilmember, District 1  
Kevin Kirwin, Councilmember, District 2  
Chad P. Wanke, Councilmember, District 4

---

## City Administrator

Damien Arrula

---

## Deputy City Administrator

Luis Estevez

---

## City Attorney

Christian L. Bettenhausen

---

## Engineer of Work

SCI Consulting Group  
Lead Assessment Engineer, John W. Bliss, P.E.

(This Page Intentionally Left Blank)

## Table of Contents

<b>Introduction.....</b>	<b>5</b>
Overview .....	5
Engineer’s Report and Continuation of Assessments .....	5
Legislative Analysis .....	6
<b>Plans &amp; Specifications .....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Fiscal Year 2023-24 Estimate of Cost and Budget .....</b>	<b>15</b>
Budget for Fiscal Year 2023-24.....	15
<b>Method of Assessment Apportionment .....</b>	<b>17</b>
Method of Apportionment.....	17
Discussion of Benefit .....	17
Special Benefit.....	19
General Versus Special Benefit .....	21
Benefit Finding .....	22
Method of Apportionment.....	29
Annual Assessment Calculation .....	31
Duration of Assessment .....	32
Appeals of Assessments Levied to Property .....	33
Assessment Funds Must Be Expended Within the District Area.....	33
<b>Assessment.....</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>Assessment Diagram.....</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>Assessment Roll.....</b>	<b>38</b>

## List of Tables

Table 1 – FY 2023-24 Estimate of Costs .....	15
<b>Table 2 – ASSESSMENT CALCULATION .....</b>	<b>32</b>
Table 3 – FY 2023-24 Summary Cost Estimate .....	34

# Introduction

## Overview

The City of Placentia (the “City”) services and maintains perimeter and median landscaping, and other improvements (“Improvements”) to various parts of the City. In order to fund the maintenance and operation (the “Services”) of these projects and improvements, the City has formed Landscape Maintenance District No. 92-1, (“District”). This Engineer’s Report (“Report”) was prepared to establish the budget for the Improvements (as described below) that will be funded by the 2023-24 assessments and other revenue, and to determine the general and special benefits received from the Improvements by property within the District and the method of assessment apportionment to lots and parcels. This Report and the assessments have been made pursuant to the Landscaping and Lighting Act of 1972, Part 2 of Division 15 of the California Streets and Highways Code (the “Act”) and Article XIID of the California Constitution (the “Article”).

## Engineer’s Report and Continuation of Assessments

The assessment has been continued for over 20 years. In each subsequent year for which the assessments will be continued, the Placentia City Council (the “Council”) must direct the preparation of an Engineer’s Report, budgets, and proposed assessments for the upcoming fiscal year. After the report is completed, the City Council may preliminarily approve the Engineer’s Report and the continued assessments and establish the date for a public hearing on the continuation of the assessments. Accordingly, this Engineer’s Report (the “Report”) was prepared pursuant to the direction of the City Council.

As required by the Act, this Report includes plans and specifications, a diagram or map of the District, the benefits received by property from the Improvements within the District, and the method of assessment apportionment to lots and parcels within the District.

If the Council approves this Engineer’s Report and the continuation of the Assessments by resolution, a notice of public hearing must be published in a local newspaper at least 10 days prior to the date of the public hearing. The resolution preliminarily approving the Engineer’s Report and establishing the date for a public hearing is typically used for this notice.

Following the minimum 10-day time period after publishing the notice, a public hearing is held for the purpose of allowing public testimony about the proposed continuation of the Assessments. This hearing is currently scheduled for June 6, 2023. At this hearing, the Council will consider approval of a resolution confirming the continuation of the Assessments for fiscal year 2023-24. If so confirmed and approved, the Assessments would be submitted to the Orange County Auditor/Controller for inclusion on the property tax rolls for fiscal year 2023-24.

Beginning in 2014, SCI Consulting Group became the Assessment Engineer for the District. To maintain an accurate reference and legally defensible record of the District, pertinent language used in previous engineer's reports has been retained herein and is cited in italics as appropriate.

## Legislative Analysis

### Proposition 218

The Right to Vote on Taxes Act was approved by the voters of California on November 6, 1996, and is now Article XIIC and XIID of the California Constitution. Proposition 218 provides for benefit assessments to be levied to fund the cost of providing services and improvements, as well as maintenance and operation expenses to a public improvement which benefits the assessed property.

### **Silicon Valley Taxpayers Association, Inc. v Santa Clara County Open Space Authority** (2008) 44 Cal. 4<sup>th</sup> 431

In July of 2008, the California Supreme Court issued its ruling on the *Silicon Valley Taxpayers Association, Inc. v. Santa Clara County Open Space Authority* ("SVTA"). This ruling is significant in that the Court clarified how Proposition 218 made changes to the determination of special benefit. The Court also found that:

- Benefit assessments are for special, not general, benefit
- The services and/or improvements funded by assessments must be clearly defined
- Special benefits are directly received by and provide a direct advantage to property in the Improvement District
- The assessment paid by property should be proportional to the special benefits it receives from the Improvements

This Engineer's Report and the process used to establish the continuation of the assessments for fiscal year 2023-24 are consistent with the *SVTA* decision and with the requirements of Article XIII C and XIII D of the California Constitution based on the following factors:

The District is drawn to include the entire City; although only parcels deriving special benefits are included in the assessment rolls. Thus, zones of benefit are not required and the assessment revenue derived from real property in the District is expended only on the Improvements in the District.

The Improvements which are constructed and maintained with assessment proceeds in the District are located in close proximity to the real property subject to the assessment. The Improvements provide landscaping and other services to the residents of such assessed property. The proximity of the Improvements to the assessed parcels provides a special benefit to the parcel being assessed pursuant to the factors outlined by the Supreme Court in that decision.

Due to their proximity to the assessed parcels, the Improvements financed with assessment revenues in the District benefit the properties in that District in a manner different in kind from the benefit that other parcels of real property in the City derive from such Improvements, and the benefits conferred on such property in the District are more extensive than a general increase in property values.

The assessments paid in the District are proportional to the special benefit that each parcel within that Assessment District receives from the Improvements because:

The specific landscaping Improvements and maintenance and utility costs thereof in the District are specified in this Report; and

Such Improvement and maintenance costs in the District are allocated among different types of property located within the District, and equally among those properties which have similar characteristics, such as single-family residential parcels, multi-family residential parcels, commercial parcels, industrial parcels, etc.

---

**Dahms v. Downtown Pomona Property** (2009) 174 Cal. App. 4<sup>th</sup> 708

In *Dahms v. Downtown Pomona Property* (“*Dahms*”) the Court upheld an assessment that was 100% special benefit (i.e. 0% general benefit) on the rationale that the services and improvements funded by the assessments were directly provided to property in the assessment district. The Court also upheld discounts and exemptions from the assessment for certain properties.

---

**Bonander v. Town of Tiburon** (2009) 180 Cal. App. 4<sup>th</sup> 103

*Bonander v. Town of Tiburon* (“*Bonander*”), the 1<sup>st</sup> District Court of Appeal overturned a benefit assessment approved by property owners to pay for placing overhead utility lines underground in an area of the Town of Tiburon. The Court invalidated the assessments primarily on the grounds that the assessments had been apportioned to assessed property based on the costs within sub-areas of the assessment district instead of the overall cost of the improvements and the overall proportional special benefits.

---

**Beutz v. County of Riverside** (2010) 184 Cal. App. 4<sup>th</sup> 1516

*Steven Beutz v. County of Riverside* (“*Beutz*”) the Court overturned an assessment for park maintenance in Wildomar, California, primarily because the general benefits associated with improvements and services were not explicitly calculated, quantified and separated from the special benefits.

---

**Golden Hill Neighborhood Association v. City of San Diego** (2011) 199 Cal. App. 4<sup>th</sup> 416

On September 22, 2011, the San Diego Court of Appeal issued a decision on the Golden Hill Neighborhood Association v. City of San Diego appeal. This decision overturned an assessment for street and landscaping maintenance in the Greater Golden Hill neighborhood of San Diego, California. The court described two primary reasons for its decision. First, like in *Beutz*, the court found the general benefits associated with services were not explicitly calculated, quantified and separated from the special benefits. Second, the court found that the City had failed to record the basis for the assessment on its own parcels.

---

### Compliance with Current Law

This Engineer's Report is consistent with the *SVTA* decision and with the requirements of Article XIII C and XIII D of the California Constitution because the Improvements to be funded are clearly defined; the benefiting property in the District enjoys close and unique proximity, access and views to the Improvements; the Improvements serve as an extension of usable land area for benefiting properties in the District and such special benefits provide a direct advantage to property in the District that is not enjoyed by the public at large or other property.

This Engineer's Report is consistent with *Beutz, Dahms* and *Greater Golden Hill* because the Improvements will directly benefit property in the District and the general benefits have been explicitly calculated and quantified and excluded from the Assessments. The Engineer's Report is consistent with *Bonander* because the Assessments have been apportioned based on the overall cost of the Improvements and Services proportional special benefit to each property, rather than the proportional cost to the District to provide the Improvements to specific properties.

## Plans & Specifications

The City maintains landscaping and other improvements in locations within the District's boundaries. The work and improvements to be undertaken by the Landscape Maintenance District No. 92-1 and the cost thereof paid from the levy of the annual Assessment provide special benefit to Assessor Parcels within the District as defined in the Method of Assessment herein. In addition to the definitions provided by the Landscaping and Lighting Act of 1972, (the "Act") the work and improvements are generally described as follows:

---

### Entrance Signs

The entrance signs with landscape improvements to be maintained are to be located at the following locations within the District:

- Central Avenue at Chapman Avenue (n/e corner)
- Central Avenue at Gordon Drive
- Central Avenue at Buck Place
- Buena Vista Street at Dressel Drive
- Buena Vista Street at Petry Drive
- Alta Vista Street at Chang Drive
- Alta Vista Street at Swail Drive
- Alta Vista Street at Tebay Drive

---

### Islands

The landscaped islands to be maintained by the District are located as follows:

- Kraemer Blvd. from Alta Vista Street to n/o City Hall
- Connecticut Way e/o Kraemer Blvd
- Rose Drive from Alta Vista Street to Buena Vista Street

---

### Parkway Vistas

The landscaped parkway vistas to be maintained by the District are located as follows:

- Kraemer Blvd. e/s (n/o City Hall to Connecticut Way)
- Kraemer Blvd. e/s (Connecticut Way to Alta Vista St.)

---

### City of Placentia

- Alta Vista Street n/s (from 900' w/o to 800' e/o Dunnivant Dr.)
- Alta Vista Street n/s (Rose Dr. to Jefferson St.)
- Alta Vista Street n/s (Jefferson St. to Van Buren St.)
- Alta Vista Street s/s (Kraemer Blvd. to All America Way)
- Alta Vista Street s/s (Central Ave. to Dunnivant Dr.)
- Alta Vista Street s/s (Dunnivant Dr. to Rose Dr.)
- Alta Vista Street s/s (Rose Dr. to Jefferson St.)
- Alta Vista Street s/s (Jefferson St. to Van Buren St.)
- Rose Drive w/s (Alta Vista St. to 500'+ n/o Orangethorpe Ave.)
- Rose Drive e/s (Alta Vista St. to north boundary of Shopping Center)
- Rose Drive e/s (Alta Vista St. to 200' s/o Castner Dr.)

---

### **Unocal/Fieldstone Oil Well Lots – Right-of-Way Screen Planting**

The landscaped screen planting areas to be maintained by the District are located as follows:

- Dressel Drive / Howard Place
- Mykannen Circle / Cisneros Lane
- Tidland Circle
- Nevin Lane / Tucker Place
- Nevin Lane / Evans Lane
- Gerhold Lane
- Hill Street / Granger Drive
- Larson Lane / Evans Lane

---

### **Street Right-of-Way Landscaping**

The street landscaping to be maintained by the District is located as follows:

- Jefferson Street e/s (Alta Vista St. to Garten Dr.)
- Buena Vista s/s (320'± w/o Petry Dr. to 500'± e/o Dressel Dr.)
- Van Buren Street w/s (750' n/o Alta Vista St. to Orchard Dr.)
- Chang Drive (Alta Vista St. to Evans Ln.)
- Dressel Drive (Buena Vista St. to Munoz Pl.)
- Central Avenue (Alta Vista St. to Chapman Ave.)
- Chapman Avenue (Central Ave. to 1130'± east)
- Chapman Avenue (Mission Way to All America Way)
- All America Way w/s (City Hall to Alta Vista St.)

- All America Way e/s (Chapman Ave. 100'± s/o Dartmouth Dr.)
- Van Buren Street e/s (Richfield Channel to 200' s/o Alta Vista St.)
- Dunnavant Drive (Alta Vista to 1300'± south) (does not include Lot "F", Tract 15139)
- Other minor areas that front non-contiguous assessed parcels

---

### **Easements – Public Storm Drain and Sewer**

Landscaped easements to be maintained by the District are located as follows:

- At various locations within TM 14161 (Fieldstone and Van Daele Tracts and TM 15699 Placentia Development Company)
- Does not include Lot "F," Tract 15139

---

## Placentia Champions Sports Complex

Maintenance and service may include (but is not limited to) the following<sup>1</sup>:

- Payments for electrical energy and water usage
- Repair, replacement or enhancement of community building, parking lots, fencing, signage, lighting and fixed recreational structures such as playgrounds, play fields, courts, walkways, dugouts, bleachers, scoreboards, restrooms, drinking fountains, picnic tables and shelters, and ancillary items such as storage and utility structures
- Irrigation, cultivation, pest control and replacement of plant material, trees, shrubs, ground cover, turf, supplies
- Personnel, utility and equipment costs
- Contract services where applicable

Installation, maintenance and servicing of Improvements, may include, but are not limited to, turf and play areas, landscaping, ground cover, shrubs and trees, irrigation systems, sidewalks, parking lots, drainage systems, lighting, fencing, entry monuments, basketball courts, tennis courts, other recreational facilities, graffiti removal and repainting, and labor, materials, supplies, utilities and equipment, as applicable, at each of the locations owned, operated or maintained by the District.

As applied herein, “Installation” means the construction of Improvements, including, but not limited to, land preparation (such as grading, leveling, cutting and filling), sod, landscaping, irrigation systems, walkways and drainage, lights, playground equipment, play courts, playing fields, recreational facilities and public restrooms.

“Maintenance” means the 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, and the cleaning, sandblasting, and painting of walls and other improvements to remove or cover graffiti.

---

<sup>1</sup> For Fiscal Year 2023-24, none of the expenditures shown in Table 1 are for the Placentia Champions Sports Complex. See Note “A” under Table 1 for more details.

“Servicing” means the furnishing of electric current, or energy, gas or other illuminating agent for any public lighting facilities or for the lighting or operation of any other improvements; or water for the irrigation of any landscaping, the operation of any fountains, or the maintenance of any other improvements.

Incidental expenses include all of the following: (a) The costs of preparation of the report, including plans, specifications, estimates, diagram, and assessment; (b) the costs of printing, advertising, and the giving of published, posted, and mailed notices; (c) compensation payable to the County for collection of assessments; (d) compensation of any engineer or attorney employed to render services in proceedings pursuant to this part; (e) any other expenses incidental to the construction, installation, or maintenance and servicing of the Improvements; (f) any expenses incidental to the issuance of bonds or notes pursuant to Streets & Highways Code Section 22662.5; and (g) costs associated with any elections held for the approval of a new or increased assessment (Streets & Highways Code §22526).

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 including annexation or detachment of specific parcels, revisions in the method of apportionment, or proposed new or increased assessments.

The assessment proceeds will be exclusively used for Improvements within the District plus incidental expenses.

## Fiscal Year 2023-24 Estimate of Cost and Budget

### Budget for Fiscal Year 2023-24

The 1972 Act provides that the total costs for providing the maintenance and servicing of the District Improvements and facilities can be recovered in the assessment spread including incidental expenses. The latter can include engineering fees, legal fees, printing, mailing, postage, publishing and all other costs identified with the District proceedings.

An estimate of District costs for fiscal year 2023-24 for the maintenance and servicing of the Improvements is provided below.

**Table 1 – FY 2023-24 Estimate of Costs**

<u>Expenditure Item</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Salaries & Benefits	\$ 91,800
Legal Services	0
Engineering Services	10,500
Special Studies	0
Other Professional Services	900
Landscaping	73,000
Repair / Maintenance Services	15,000
Construction Services	0
Telephone	7,000
Advertising	1,000
City Administrative Services	0
Electricity	20,000
Water	200,000
Estimated Expenditures <sup>A</sup>	<u>\$ 419,200</u>
<hr/>	
<u>Revenue Item</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Direct Benefit Assessments	\$ 456,289
General Fund Contribution	
Amount from (to) Dedicated Reserves	<span style="color: red;">(37,089)</span>
Estimated Revenues	<u>\$ 419,200</u>
<hr/>	
<u>Budget Allocation to Parcels</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Total Assessment Budget <sup>B</sup>	\$ 456,289
Total Assessment Units (AUs)	2,946.270
Assessment per Assessment Unit (AU) <sup>C</sup>	<u>\$ 154.87</u>

Notes to Estimate of Costs:

A. The total estimated expenses for this Fiscal Year do not include the following maintenance and operating costs for the Placentia Sports Champion Complex: \$53,454 for landscape and general maintenance plus \$14,005 for restroom janitorial services. These costs, totaling \$67,459 (or approximately 15% of the total assessment district's annual expenses) are covered by the City's General Fund.

B. The Act requires that proceeds from the assessments must be deposited into a special fund that has been set up for the revenues and expenditures of the District. Moreover, funds raised by the assessment shall be used only for the purposes stated within this Report. Any balance remaining at the end of the Fiscal Year, June 30, must be carried over to the next Fiscal Year. The District may also establish a reserve fund for contingencies and special projects as well as a capital improvement fund for accumulating funds for larger capital improvement projects or capital renovation needs. Any remaining balance would either be placed in the reserve fund, the capital improvement fund, or would be used to reduce future years' assessments.

C. The rate shown here is for an Assessment Unit (single family home or its equivalent). For the definition of the term AU and rates for other types of property, see the section titled, "Method of Assessment" and the sections following it in this report.

## Method of Assessment Apportionment

### Method of Apportionment

This section of the Engineer's Report explains the benefits to be derived from the Improvements and the methodology used to apportion the total assessment to properties within the District.

The District consists of certain assessor parcels within the boundaries as defined by the Assessment Diagram referenced in this report and the parcels identified by the Assessor Parcel Numbers listed with the levy roll. The parcel list includes all privately and publicly owned parcels as shown. The method used for apportioning the Assessment is based upon the relative special benefits to be derived by the properties in the District over and above general benefits conferred on real property or to the public at large. The Assessment is apportioned to lots and parcels in proportion to the relative special benefit from the Improvements. The apportionment of special benefit is a two-step process: the first step is to identify the types of special benefit arising from the Improvements and the second step is to allocate the Assessments to property based on the estimated relative special benefit for each type of property.

### Discussion of Benefit

In summary, the Assessments can only be levied based on the special benefit to property. This benefit is received by property over and above any general benefits. With reference to the requirements for assessments, Section 22573 of the Landscaping and Lighting Act of 1972 states:

*"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."*

Proposition 218, as codified in Article XIII D of the California Constitution, has confirmed that assessments must be based on the special benefit to property and that the value of the special benefits must exceed the cost of the assessment:

*"No assessment shall be imposed on any parcel which exceeds the reasonable cost of the proportional special benefit conferred on that parcel."*

The following benefit categories summarize the types of special benefit to residential, commercial, industrial and other lots and parcels resulting from the Improvements to be provided with the assessment proceeds. These types of special benefit are summarized as follows:

- A. Proximity to Improved Landscaped Areas and Other Public Improvements within the District.
- B. Access to Improved landscaped areas and Other Public Improvements within the District.
- C. Improved Views within the District.
- D. Extension of a property's outdoor areas and green spaces for properties within close proximity to the Improvements.
- E. Creation of individual lots for residential and commercial use that, in absence of the Assessments, would not have been created.

In this case, the recent SVTA v. SCCOSA decision provides enhanced clarity to the definitions of special benefits to properties from similar improvements in three distinct areas:

- Proximity
- Expanded or improved access
- Views

The SVTA v. SCCOSA decision also clarifies that a special benefit is a service or improvement that provides a direct advantage to a parcel and that indirect or derivative advantages resulting from the overall public benefits from a service or improvement are general benefits. The SVTA v. SCCOSA decision also provides specific guidance that park improvements are a direct advantage and special benefit to property that is proximate to a park that is improved by an assessment:

*The characterization of a benefit may depend on whether the parcel receives a direct advantage from the improvement (e.g. proximity to a park) or receives an indirect, derivative advantage resulting from the overall public benefits of the improvement (e.g. general enhancement of the district's property values).*

Proximity, improved access and views, in addition to the other special benefits listed herein further strengthen the basis of these assessments.

Moreover, the Dahms decision further clarified that certain services and improvements funded by assessments, that are over and above what otherwise would be provided and that other property in general and the public do not share or receive are 100% special benefit. The assessment-funded services upheld by Dahms included streetscape maintenance and security services.

## Special Benefit

The special benefits from the Improvements are further detailed below:

---

### Proximity to Improved Landscaped Areas within the District

Only the specific properties within close proximity to the Improvements are included in the District. The District has been narrowly drawn to include the properties that receive special benefits from the Improvements. Therefore, property in the District enjoys unique and valuable proximity and access to the Improvements that the public at large and property outside the District do not share.

In absence of the Assessments, the Improvements would not be provided and the public improvements funded in the District would be degraded due to insufficient funding for maintenance, upkeep and repair. Therefore, the Assessments provide Improvements that are over and above what otherwise would be provided. Improvements that are over and above what otherwise would be provided do not by themselves translate into special benefits but when combined with the unique proximity and access enjoyed by parcels in the District, they provide a direct advantage and special benefit to property in the District.

---

### Access to Improved Landscaped Areas within the District

Since the parcels in the District are nearly the only parcels that enjoy close access to the Improvements, they directly benefit from the unique close access to improved landscaping areas and other public improvements that are provided by the Assessments. This is a direct advantage and special benefit to property in the District.

---

### **Improved Views within the Assessment Districts**

The City, by maintaining permanent public improvements funded by the Assessments in the District, provides improved views to properties in the District. The properties in the District enjoy close and unique proximity, access and views of the specific Improvements funded in the District; therefore, the improved and protected views provided by the Assessments are another direct and tangible advantage that is uniquely conferred upon property in the District.

---

### **Extension of a Property's Outdoor Areas and Green Spaces for Properties within Close Proximity to the Improvements**

In large part because it is cost prohibitive to provide large open land areas on property in the District, the residential, commercial and other benefiting properties in the District do not have large outdoor areas and green spaces. The Improvements within the District provide additional outdoor areas that serve as an effective extension of the land area for proximate properties because the Improvements are uniquely proximate and accessible to property in close proximity to the Improvements. The Improvements, therefore, provide an important, valuable and desirable extension of usable land area for the direct advantage and special benefit of properties in the District because such properties have uniquely good and close proximity to the Improvements.

---

### **Creation of Individual Lots for Residential and Commercial Use that, in Absence of the Assessments, Would Not Have Been Created**

In most of the District, the original owner/developer(s) of the property within the District agreed unanimously to the Assessments. The Assessments provide the necessary funding for public improvements that were required as a condition of development and subdivision approval. Therefore, such Assessments allowed the original property to be subdivided and for development of the parcels to occur. As parcels were sold, new owners were informed of the Assessments through the title reports, and in some cases, through Department of Real Estate "White Paper" reports that the parcels were subject to assessment. Purchase of property was also an "agreement" to pay the Assessment. Therefore, in absence of the Assessments, the lots within most of the District would not have been created. These parcels, and the improvements that were constructed on the parcels, receive direct advantage and special benefit from the Assessments.

## General Versus Special Benefit

Article XIII C of the California Constitution requires any local agency proposing to increase or impose a benefit assessment to “separate the general benefits from the special benefits conferred on a parcel.” The rationale for separating special and general benefits is to ensure that property owners subject to the benefit assessment are not paying for general benefits. An assessment can fund special benefits but cannot fund general benefits. Accordingly, a separate estimate of the special and general benefit is given in this section.

In other words:

$$\text{Total Benefit} = \text{General Benefit} + \text{Special Benefit}$$

There is no widely-accepted or statutory formula for general benefit. General benefits are benefits from improvements or services that are not special in nature, are not “particular and distinct” and are not “over and above” benefits received by other properties. SVTA vs. SCCOSA provides some clarification by indicating that general benefits provide “an indirect, derivative advantage” and are not necessarily proximate to the improvements.

In this Report, the general benefit is liberally estimated and described, and then budgeted so that it is funded by sources other than the Assessment.

The starting point for evaluating general and special benefits is the current, baseline level of service. The Assessment will fund Improvements “over and above” this general, baseline level and the general benefits estimated in this section are over and above the baseline.

A formula to estimate the general benefit is listed below:

$$\text{General Benefit} = \text{Benefit to Real Property Outside the Assessment District} + \text{Benefit to Real Property Inside the Assessment District that is Indirect and Derivative} + \text{Benefit to the Public at Large}$$

Special benefit, on the other hand, is defined in the state constitution as “a particular and distinct benefit over and above general benefits conferred on real property located in the district or to the public at large.” The SVTA v. SCCOSA decision indicates that a special benefit is conferred to a property if it “receives a direct advantage from the improvement (e.g., proximity to a park).” In these Assessments, as noted, properties in the District have close and unique proximity, views and access to the Improvements and uniquely improved desirability from the Improvements and other properties and the public at large do not receive significant benefits because they do not have proximity, access or views of the Improvements. Therefore, the overwhelming proportion of the benefits conferred to property is special, and is only minimally received by property outside the Districts or the public at large.

## Benefit Finding

The District contains the Placentia Champions Sports Complex, which is distinct from other landscape improvements in the District. Due to significantly different characteristics between the two types of improvements, benefits will be discussed and calculated separately under the categories of “Park Improvements” and “Landscaping Improvements.”

---

### Park Improvements - Quantification of General Benefit

In this section, the general benefit from park Improvements is liberally estimated and described, and then budgeted so that it is funded by sources other than the Assessment. This Park section is focused on the Placentia Champions Sports Complex. Other District Improvements are discussed below in “*Landscaping Improvements - Quantification of General Benefit.*”

---

### Benefit to Property Outside the Assessment Districts

For the purposes of calculating benefit to properties outside the District, the Park will be considered as a neighborhood park inasmuch as it provides amenities for nearby properties. While it functions as a community (or even regional) facility for organized sports such as baseball and soccer, the general benefit derived from those activities will be discussed under the “*Benefit to the General Public*” below.

Properties within the District receive much of the special benefits from the park Improvements because properties in the District enjoy unique close proximity and access to the park Improvements that is not necessarily enjoyed by other properties or the public at large. However, certain properties within the proximity/access radius of the park Improvements, but outside of the boundaries of the District, may receive some benefit from the park Improvements. Since this benefit is conferred to properties outside the District boundaries, it contributes to the overall general benefit calculation and will not be funded by the Assessments.

Since the properties outside the District but within the effective proximity radii are not assessed for their benefits because they are outside of the area that can be assessed by the District, this is a form of general benefit to other property. A 50% reduction factor is applied to these properties because they are all on only one side of the Improvements and properties in the District enjoy the advantage of over twice the average proximity to the park Improvements. The general benefit to property outside of the District is calculated as follows with the parcel and data analysis performed by SCI Consulting Group.

**ASSUMPTIONS:**

- 651 parcels outside the District but within 0.5 miles of the Park
- 2,212 parcels in the District
- 50% relative benefit compared to property within the District

**CALCULATION:**

General Benefit to property outside the District =  
 $651 / (651 + 2,212) * 0.5 = 11.37\%$

---

***Benefit to Property Inside the Assessment Districts that is Indirect and Derivative***

The “indirect and derivative” benefit to property within the District is particularly difficult to calculate. A solid argument can be presented that all benefit within the District is special, because the Improvements are clearly “over and above” and “particular and distinct” when compared with the baseline level of service and the unique proximity, access and views of the Improvements enjoyed by benefiting properties in the District.

Nevertheless, the SVTA vs. SCCOSA decision indicates there may be general benefit “conferred on real property located in the district” A measure of the general benefits to property within the Assessment area is the percentage of land area within or directly abutting the District that is publicly owned and used for regional purposes such as major roads, rail lines and other regional facilities because such properties used for regional purposes could provide indirect benefits to the public at large. Approximately 2.91% of the land area in the District is used for such regional purposes, so this is a measure of the general benefits to property within the District.

---

### **Benefit To The Public At Large**

The general benefit to the public at large can be estimated by the proportionate amount of time that the District’s parks facilities are used and enjoyed by individuals who are not residents, employees, customers or property owners in the District. In this District, there is only one park facility: Placentia Champions Sports Complex (“Complex”). The Complex serves the needs of many people in two primary ways: as a neighborhood park serving nearby residents for shorter and more frequent visits; and as a community or regional park serving people from all over Placentia and the surrounding areas as a destination for organized sports such as soccer and baseball league play. The general benefit of the former was discussed above; the general benefit of the latter is discussed here.

When the Complex functions as a community or regional park, it becomes a destination for longer and less frequent visits (for example, scheduled league play). Of the five ways benefits are conferred (proximity, access, views, extension of a property’s green space, and creation of lots), the community or regional function confers benefits only in the “access” and “extension of a property’s green space” categories (proximity does not apply as these trips are from outside the District; people do not come for the views; and the facility was not tied to the creation of faraway lots). Therefore the general benefit is no more than 40%. That figure, however, is reduced by the percentage that the community or regional park benefits property owners within the district (special benefit). The City estimates that approximately 71% of participants in these organized sports are from the City of Placentia. However, only 15.11% of Placentia parcels lie inside the district, so it is estimated that (15% of 71% =) 10.73% of the users are from within the District. Conversely, 89.27% are from outside the District. Therefore (40% x 89.27% =) 35.71% of the benefits from the Parks Improvements are general benefits to the public at large

---

### Total Park Improvements General Benefits

Using a sum of these three measures of general benefit, we find that approximately 49.98% of the benefits conferred by the Improvements may be general in nature and should be funded by sources other than the assessment.

PARKS GENERAL BENEFIT CALCULATION	
	11.37% (Outside the District)
+	2.91% (Property within the District)
+	35.71% (Public at Large)
=	49.99% (Total General Benefit)

---

### Landscaping and Other Improvements - Quantification of General Benefit

In this section, the general benefit from landscaping and other types of Improvements (other than park Improvements) is liberally estimated and described, and then budgeted so that it is funded by sources other than the Assessment.

---

### Benefit to Property Outside the Assessment Districts

Properties within the District receive almost all of the special benefits from the other Improvements because properties in the District enjoy unique close proximity and access to the Improvements that is not enjoyed by other properties or the public at large. However, certain properties within the proximity/access radius of the Improvements, but outside of the boundaries of the District, may receive some benefit from the Improvements. Since this benefit is conferred to properties outside the District boundaries, it contributes to the overall general benefit calculation and will not be funded by the Assessments. The general benefit to property outside of the District is calculated with the parcel and data analysis performed by SCI Consulting Group.

Since the properties outside the District but with frontage abutting the Improvements cannot be assessed by the District, this is a form of general benefit to other property. The primary way that parcels outside the district benefit by the Improvements is from views. Therefore, parcels that abut the landscape areas and are not separated from the Improvements by a privacy fence are counted for this general benefit. The general benefit to property outside of the District is calculated as follows.

**ASSUMPTIONS:**

- 22 parcels outside the District
- 2,212 parcels in the District

**CALCULATION:**

General Benefit to property outside the District  
 =  
 $22/(22+2,212) = 0.99\%$

---

***Benefit to Property Inside the Assessment Districts that is Indirect and Derivative***

The “indirect and derivative” benefit to property within the District is particularly difficult to calculate. A solid argument can be presented that all benefit within the District is special, because the other Improvements are clearly “over and above” and “particular and distinct” when compared with the baseline level of service and the unique proximity, access and views of the other Improvements enjoyed by benefiting properties in the District.

Nevertheless, the SVTA vs. SCCOSA decision indicates there may be general benefit “conferred on real property located in the district” A measure of the general benefits to property within the Assessment area is the percentage of land area within or directly abutting the District that is publicly owned and used for regional purposes such as major roads, rail lines and other regional facilities because such properties used for regional purposes could provide indirect benefits to the public at large. Approximately 2.91% of the land area in the District is used for such regional purposes, so this is a measure of the general benefits to property within the District.

---

### **Benefit To The Public At Large**

The general benefit to the public at large can be estimated by the proportionate amount of time that the District's other Improvements including landscaping are used and enjoyed by individuals who are not residents, employees, customers or property owners in the District. It should be noted that these other Improvements do not attract the public at large in the same way as park improvements – and they confer far less benefit to the public at large than do similar park improvements. In essence, the public does not visit an area to enjoy setback landscaping in the same way as they may visit a park.

One way to measure the special benefit to the general public is by the car trips through an area with Improvements. Of the five ways benefits are conferred (proximity, access, views, extension of a property's green space, and creation of lots), the only benefit that is conferred by way of pass-by car trips is views, which accounts for 10% of the total benefits, since views are less critically important and are enjoyed much less often to the average non-resident driver than to a resident.

Next, the views factors are weighted by the relevant number of car trips. Using the lane miles as representative of pass-by traffic, an analysis shows that 90% of the lane miles are on arterial or collector streets where the general public has views of the landscaping. Therefore (90% of 10% =) 9.0% of the benefits from the other Improvements are general benefits to the public at large.

---

### **Total Other Improvements General Benefits**

Using a sum of these three measures of general benefit, we find that approximately 12.89% of the benefits conferred by the Improvements may be general in nature and should be funded by sources other than the assessment.

<b>LANDSCAPING GENERAL BENEFIT CALCULATION</b>	
	0.99% (Outside the District)
+	2.91% (Property within the District)
+	9.00% (Public at Large)
=	<u>12.90%</u> (Total General Benefit)

---

### TOTAL COMBINED GENERAL BENEFITS

The total general benefit for Parks is 49.98% and for Landscaping and other Improvements is 12.89%. However, none of the District budget is for Parks – all of the budget is currently allocated for Landscaping and other Improvements. Therefore, using those proportions to calculate a weighted average of the general benefits for each type of Improvement, the resulting total combined general benefit is  $(0 \times 49.98\%) + (1.00 \times 12.90\%) = 12.90\%$ .

Although this analysis finds that 12.90% of the assessment may provide general benefits from the Improvements, the Assessment Engineer establishes a requirement for a minimum contribution from sources other than the assessments of 13%. This minimum contribution above the measure of general benefits will serve to provide additional coverage for any other general benefits.

---

### Final Step – Calculate the Current General Benefit Contribution from the City

This general benefit cannot be funded from the Assessments; it must be funded from other sources such as the City's General Fund or other non-District funds. These contributions can also be in the form of in-lieu contributions to the installation and maintenance of the Improvements such as other City assets that support and protect the Improvements. The City of Placentia will contribute both monetary and in-lieu resources to ensure that the general benefits conferred by the proposed Improvements are not funded by the District's Assessments.

A summary and quantification of these other contributions from the City is discussed below:

The City of Placentia owns, maintains, rehabilitates and replaces curb and gutter along the border of the District Improvements. This curb and gutter serves to support, contain, retain, manage irrigation flow and growth, and provide a boundary for the Improvements. The contribution from the City towards general benefit from the maintenance, rehabilitation, and replacement of the curb and gutter is conservatively estimated to be 5%.

The City owns and maintains a storm drainage system along the border of the District Improvements. This system serves to prevent flooding and associated damage to the Improvements, and manage urban runoff including local pollutants loading from the Improvements. The contribution from the City towards general benefit from the maintenance, and operation of the local storm drainage system is conservatively estimated to be 5%.

The City owns and maintains local public streets along the border of the District Improvements. These public streets provide access to the Improvements for its enjoyment as well as efficient maintenance. The contribution from the City towards general benefit from the maintenance of local public streets is conservatively estimated to be 5%.

The value of the construction of the improvements can be quantified and monetized as an annuity. Since this construction was performed and paid for by non-assessment funds, this “annuity” can be used to offset general benefit costs, and is conservatively estimated to contribute 10%.

The total General Benefit is liberally quantified at 13% which is entirely offset by the conservatively quantified total non-assessment contribution towards general benefit described above of 25%. Therefore, no additional General Benefit must be funded by the City.

### Method of Apportionment

The development of an Assessment methodology requires apportioning to determine the relative special benefit for each property. As the District was formed by a different engineer of record, the precise language from the most recent Engineer’s Report is included below:

*It has been determined that the improvements provide a specific and special benefit to all assessed parcels of land in the development area. Landscaping and irrigation of street rights-of-way, entryways, islands, sewer and storm drain easements, areas surrounding existing oil wells and the parkway vistas aesthetically enhances the development areas. The landscaped pedestrian corridor along Alta Vista Street also provides pedestrian access throughout the development area. The aesthetic enhancement and use of the parkway vistas increases the desirability of the properties located within the boundaries of the District mainly because of the property’s close proximity and accessibility to the improvements. Therefore, maintenance of these public improvements renders a special and direct benefit to the parcels located throughout the District and the levy of a special assessment for the maintenance of the improvements is deemed appropriate.*

*The method of apportionment (Method of Assessment) set forth in the Report is based on the premise that each assessed property receives special benefits from the landscape improvements within the District, and the assessment obligation for each parcel reflects that parcel's proportional special benefits as compared to other properties that receive special benefits.*

*The assessment method used in spreading the annual landscape maintenance costs is based on an assessment unit (AU) factor as follows:*

*Each **Single Family Detached Residential Unit** is considered to be one AU and is assessed the cost attributable to one AU.*

***Multi-Family Residential Units** are assessed 0.70 or 70% of an AU since they have a higher density than Single Family Detached Units (number of dwelling units/acres). The decrease in assessment is a direct result of the reduced amount of assessable acreage per Multi-Family Unit and the reduction in occupancy per unit.*

*In converting **Developed Commercial, Industrial, Institutional and Other Non-Residential** properties to AUs, the factor used is based on the City of Placentia average single-family residential density of ten dwelling units per acre. Therefore, the parcels in this Class will be assessed 10 AU per acre or any portion thereof. These properties benefit from the maintenance of improvements because of the enhanced desirability resulting from well-kept landscape areas. Improved aesthetic appeal also increases the draw of businesses to purchase or lease property and the increased opportunity to draw clientele.*

***Assessable Undeveloped Acreage** also benefits from the maintenance and service of the landscape improvements. This benefit comes in the form of enhanced desirability due to the improved aesthetics of the area resulting from improvements. The enhanced aesthetics increases the desirability of the property to future homeowners and future commercial property owners or lessors. However, because the property is vacant, less use will be made of the improvements. It is reasonable to derive that vacant property, when compared to developed property, receives about half of the benefit of developed properties, therefore the Single Family Residence acreage equivalent used for developed non-residential properties of 10 AU per acres is reduced to 5 AU per acre for undeveloped land.<sup>2</sup>*

---

<sup>2</sup> From the 2013-14 Engineer's Annual Levy Report, City of Placentia, Landscape Maintenance District No. 92-1, dated June 4, 2013

Further clarification on the four benefit classes is provided below:

***Class I*** - Single family detached residential, including condominium form of ownership of single-family detached dwellings.

***Class II*** - Developed commercial, industrial, and institutional where a map or a building permit for construction has been issued as of March 15 of the prior Fiscal Year.

***Class III*** – Multi-family residential and attached residential, approved project where a map has been recorded or a building permit for construction of dwelling units has been issued as of March 15 of the prior Fiscal Year.

***Class IV*** – Undeveloped and all other properties that are not in Class I, II, or III regardless if they have been approved for future development or are in the process of securing development approval as of June 15 of the prior Fiscal Year.<sup>3</sup>

## Annual Assessment Calculation

For fiscal year 2023-24 the amount of Assessments for the District is not increased from prior years. The Calculations for maintenance, service and incidentals follows:

---

<sup>3</sup> From the 2013-14 Engineer’s Annual Levy Report, City of Placentia, Landscape Maintenance District No. 92-1, dated June 4, 2013

**Table 2 – ASSESSMENT CALCULATION**

Class	Description	Quantity	AU Ratio		Assessment
			Factor		Units
I	Single Family	2,169 parcels	x	1.00	= 2,169.000 AU
II	Comm, Indust	27.927 acres	x	10.00	= 279.270 AU
III	Multi-Family	648 units	x	0.70	= 453.600 AU
IV	Undeveloped	8.88 acres	x	5.00	= 44.400 AU
<b>TOTAL Assessment Units</b>					<b>2,946.270 AU</b>

Proposed Assessment Rate		
	<b>\$456,288.83 / 2,946.270 AU</b>	<b>= \$154.87 /AU</b>

Class Assessments		
<u>Class I</u>	Single Family	<u>Each parcel is assessed at one assessment unit:</u> \$ 154.87 x 1.00 = \$ 154.87 /Parcel
<u>Class II</u>	Comm, Indust	<u>Each Acre is assessed at 10 assessment units:</u> \$ 154.87 x 10.00 = \$ 1,548.70 / Acre
<u>Class III</u>	Multi-Family	<u>Each Unit is assessed at 0.70 assessment units:</u> \$ 154.87 x 0.70 = \$ 108.41 /Unit
<u>Class IV</u>	Undeveloped	<u>Each Acre is assessed at 5 assessment units:</u> \$ 154.87 x 5.00 = \$ 774.35 /Acre

### Duration of Assessment

The District was formed or annexed in previous years. It is proposed that the Assessments be continued every year after their formation or annexation, so long as the public Improvements need to be maintained and improved, and the City requires funding from the Assessments for these Improvements in the District. As noted previously, the Assessment can continue to be levied annually after the City Council approves an annually updated Engineer's Report, budget for the Assessment, Improvements to be provided, and other specifics of the Assessment. In addition, the City Council must hold an annual public hearing to continue the Assessment.

### **Appeals of Assessments Levied to Property**

Any property owner who feels that the Assessment levied on the subject property is in error as a result of incorrect information being used to apply the foregoing method of assessment may file a written appeal with the City of Placentia City Administrator or his or her designee. Any such appeal is limited to correction of an Assessment during the then-current Fiscal Year and applicable law. Upon the filing of any such appeal, the City Administrator or his or her designee will promptly review the appeal and any information provided by the property owner. If the City Administrator or his or her designee finds that the Assessment should be modified, the appropriate changes shall be made to the Assessment Roll. If any such changes are approved after the Assessment Roll has been filed with the County for collection, the City Administrator or his or her designee is authorized to refund to the property owner the amount of any approved reduction. Any dispute over the decision of the City Administrator or his or her designee shall be referred to the Placentia City Council, and the decision of the City Council shall be final.

### **Assessment Funds Must Be Expended Within the District Area**

The net available Assessment funds, after incidental, administrative, financing and other costs shall be expended exclusively for Improvements within the boundaries of the District or as described herein, and appropriate incidental and administrative costs as defined in the Plans and Specifications section.

## Assessment

**WHEREAS**, the City of Placentia directed the undersigned engineer of Work to prepare and file a report presenting an estimate of costs, a Diagram for the District and an assessment of the estimated costs of the Improvements upon all assessable parcels within the District;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, the undersigned, by virtue of the power vested in me under the Act, Article XIID of the California Constitution, and the order of the Placentia City Council, hereby makes the following Assessment to cover the portion of the estimated cost of the Improvements, and the costs and expenses incidental thereto to be paid by the District.

The amount to be paid for said Improvements and the expense incidental thereto, to be paid by the District for the Fiscal Year 2023-24 is generally as follows:

**Table 3 – FY 2023-24 Summary Cost Estimate**

Salaries & Benefits	\$ 91,800
Operating Expenses	315,900
Capital Expenses	0
Administration and Project Management	11,500
Total for Services	<u>\$ 419,200</u>
Less General Fund Contribution	0
Less Other Revenue	0
Amount to (from) Dedicated Reserves	37,089
Net Amount to Assessments	<u><u>\$ 456,289</u></u>

As required by the Act, an Assessment Diagram of the District is hereto attached and incorporated herein by reference. The distinctive number of each parcel or lot of land in the District is its Assessor Parcel Number appearing on the Assessment Roll.

I do hereby assess and apportion the net amount of the cost and expenses of the Improvements, including the costs and expenses incident thereto, upon the parcels and lots of land within the District, in accordance with the special benefits to be received by each parcel or lot, from the Improvements, and more particularly set forth in the Estimate of Cost and Method of Assessment in the Report.

The Assessment is made upon the parcels or lots of land within the District in proportion to the special benefits to be received by the parcels or lots of land, from the Improvements.

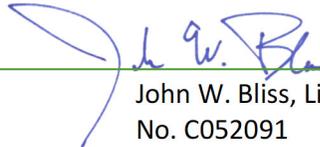
Each parcel or lot of land is described in the Assessment Roll by reference to its parcel number as shown on the Assessor's Maps of the County of Orange for the Fiscal Year 2023-24. For a more particular description of the property, reference is hereby made to the deeds and maps on file and of record in the office of the County Recorder of the County.

I hereby will place opposite the Assessor Parcel Number for each parcel or lot within the Assessment Roll, the amount of the assessment for the Fiscal Year 2023-24 for each parcel or lot of land within the District.

Dated: April 26, 2023

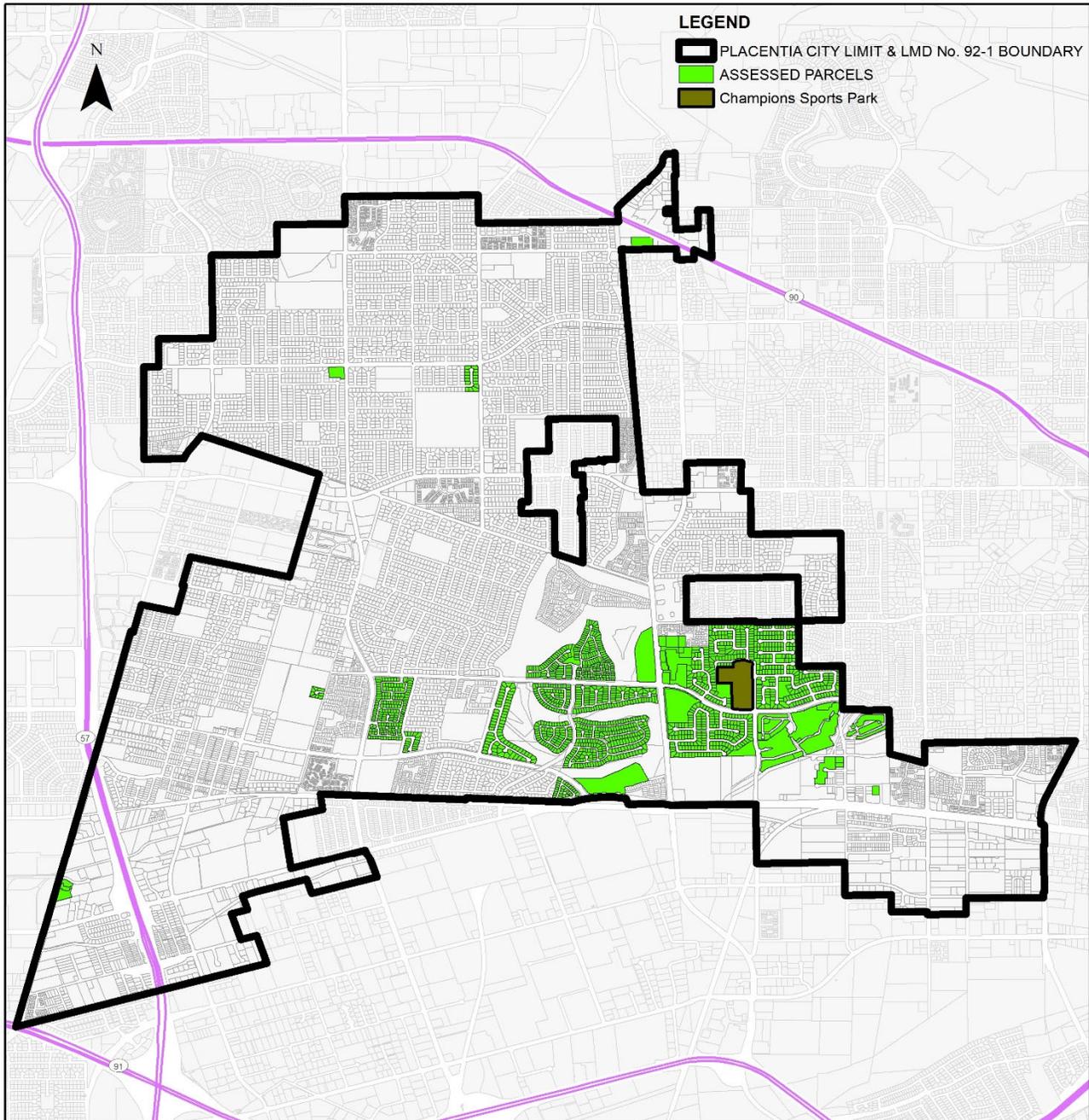
Engineer of Work



By  \_\_\_\_\_  
John W. Bliss, License  
No. C052091

## Assessment Diagram

The District boundary is conterminous with the City Limits. The parcels to be assessed in Landscape Maintenance District No. 92-1 are shown on the Assessment Diagram, which is on file with the City Clerk of the City of Placentia, and includes all those properties included in the original formation of the District and subsequent annexations. The following Assessment Diagram is for general location only and is not to be considered the official boundary map. The lines and dimensions of each lot or parcel within the District are those lines and dimensions as shown on the maps of the Assessor of the County of Orange, for Fiscal Year 2023-24, and are incorporated herein by reference, and made a part of this Diagram and this Report.



PREPARED BY SCI CONSULTING GROUP  
4745 MANGELS BLVD  
FAIRFIELD CA 94534  
(707)430-4300

**CITY OF PLACENTIA LANDSCAPING MAINTENANCE DISTRICT No. 92-1  
ASSESSMENT DIAGRAM**

## Assessment Roll

An Assessment Roll (a listing of all parcels assessed within the District and the amount of the Assessment) will be filed with the City Clerk and is, by reference, made part of this Report and is available for public inspection during normal office hours at the City Hall at 401 East Chapman Avenue, Placentia, California 92870.

Each lot or parcel listed on the Assessment Roll is shown and illustrated on the latest County Assessor records and these records are, by reference made part of this Report. These records shall govern for all details concerning the description of the lots or parcels.