# OFFICE OF THE CITY AUDITOR'S OFFICE ASSESSMENT AND LIENS DIVISION COST OF SERVICE STUDY

City of Portland, June 1986

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#### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report contains a Cost of Service Study of the City Auditor Office's Assessment and Lien Division completed in June,1986. This Division is responsible for the administrative services related to Portland's Local Improvement District (LID) process. These services provide a private benefit to property owners within the City. As indicated in Table A-1, findings indicate that the total cost of the six services offered by the Division will increase from \$284,278 in FY 1985-86 to \$491,067 in FY 1989-90. It is estimated that under the current rate structure, the Division is recovering approximately 60% of costs. Therefore, 40% of costs are subsidized by the General Fund or other revenues.

Table A-1
Assessments/Lien Division
Forecast User Fee Revenue Requirements

Year	LID Project Creation	Asses- ments Creation	Bonded Lien Service	Lien Billing	General Accounting	Total Cost
FY1985	\$ 46,965	\$ 57,121	\$ 59,873	\$ 79,475	\$40,844	\$284,278
1986	47,618	83, 937	89,438	91,559	\$37,529	350,081
1987	48,828	97,628	94,822	128,933	\$40,904	411,113
1988	50,010	102, 293	103,818	154,568	\$47,364	458,053
1989	51.628	106,037	107,572	160,113	\$48,918	474,268
FY1990	\$ 53,299	\$109,920	\$111,464	\$165,680	\$50,524	\$491,067

Note: Lien billing includes delinquent lien billing costs.

Note: FY1985 represent actual estimated costs. FY1986 are budget numbers. FY1987-FY1990 are forecast estimates.

The essential thrust of this report is to create of a set of fees that will allow the Auditor's Office to equitably recover 100% of the administrative costs associated with assessment and lien services. To this end, it is recommended that Council adopt the revised LID user fee schedule, shown in Table A-2, to be implemented for three fiscal years (FY 1986-87 through FY 1988-89) to recover 100% of costs or approximately \$1.8 million.

# Table A-2 City Of Portland Recommended LID User Fee Schedule (FY1987-FY1989)

User Fee Element	User Fee	Billing Parameter
LID Project Creation Charge	\$ 4.35	\$/\$1,000 Project Cost
Assessment Creation Charge	\$27.60	S Per Assessment
Bonded Lien Service Charge	\$42.50	\$ Per Application
Customer Accounting & Billing	\$ 7.10	s Per Billing Statement
Delinquent Lien Charge	\$28.35	\$ Per Delinquent Lien

#### Recommended Fee Schedule

The recommended LID user fee schedule (Table A-2) will equitably recover annual revenue requirements from property owners. The creation of an LID and assessment of property owners would require the implementation of two user fees: a project LID charge and an assessment charge. the LID project fee would be levied again the LID and spread back to benefitted properties using generally accepted assessment practices. The assessment fee is designed to recover the costs associated with the preparation of property owner assessments.

In addition, property owners bonding their assessments would be subject to a bond application charge. Lien billing and general accounting costs would be recovered through customer billing charge, For a bonded lien this would amount to an annual charge of \$14.20. Delinquent liens wold be subject to a \$28.35 delinquent lien charge in addition to any interest penalties.

The annual customer and billing charge for a bonded lien appears quite reasonable. Both PGE and Northwest Natural Gas levy a customer billing charge of \$3.00 per month or \$36 annually. The Bureau of Environmental Service's billing charge is \$1.86 per bill. For a customer subject to monthly billing this amounts to \$20.32 annually. The Water Bureau's monthly service charge is currently \$1.85 and the quarterly service charge is \$5.55 for a 5/8" or 3/4" meter.

## Cost Recovery Impact

Generally, first year cost recovery will change significantly with

implementation of the proposed LID user fee schedule. For small and medium size projects, that do not include an abnormally large number of assessments, user fee costs for the <u>average assessment</u> will be lowered with the implementation of this schedule. The user fee total for the average assessment on large LID projects may be significantly higher. Analysis of 24 projects using data supplied by staff suggests:

- \* The proposed fee schedule will increase administrative costs recovered by 40%.
- \* Property owners electing not to bond their assessments will generally experience little or no increase in user fee costs.
- \* LID projects involving fewer assessments are likely to experience a reduction in user fee costs.
- \* LID projects involving the creation of larger numbers of assessments are likely to experience user fee cost increases. Larger LID project costs in conjunction with a larger number of assessments will result in a significant increase in user fee cost recovery over the present system.

#### Methodology

The process used to develop the revised user fee schedule follows generally accepted rate-making principles as indicated below:

- 1. Identification and Categorization of Services
- 2. Identification of users and activity levels
- 3. Calculation of current and projected cost and revenues
- 4. Development and design of a user fee schedule

#### INTRODUCTION

#### Purpose

In March of 1986, the City of Portland's Auditor's Office decided to review the fee structure currently used to recover the administrative costs associated with the creation of Local Improvement Districts (LID) and maintenance of records in the Lien Accounting System. The purposes of this study is to design fees that will enable the Liens and Assessment Division recover 100% of expenses, equitably, in proportion to the services provided to users of the LID/Bancroft bonding process.

## Background Information

The City's Assessment/Liens Division currently administers a local improvement district program that supports the construction of infrastructure projects initiated voluntarily by local property owners. Thus, for example, local property owners can petition the City to design and construct the local sewer collection system facilities necessary to allow property owners to hookup to and use the City's sewage treatment and transportation system. Similarly, local street improvements can be financed through the mechanism of a local improvement district. This assessment can be paid in cash or financed. In the latter case the City sells Bancroft Bonds to fund that portion of the local improvements that property owners have opted to finance. The property owners are then responsible for making semi-annual principal and interest payments necessary to service the debt incurred by the City on property owner's behalf. This financing program is attractive to property owners principally because property owners can effectively borrow at much lower rates of interest: the City's Bancroft Bonds are General Obligations (G.O.) of the City and are exempt (under current laws) from Federal and State income taxes.

The legal condition under which cities can sell this type of debt is regulated under Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS 223.305 through 223.295). The LID formation process for the City of Portland is regulated by the City of Portland's Charter (Chapter 9) and Municipal Code, Title 17-Public Improvements, principally Chapters 17.04 through 17.14.

I. IDENTIFICATION AND CATEGORIZATION OF SERVICES

#### Identification of Services

The Assessment/Liens Division of the Auditor's Office identified six service direct functions which are listed below:

 LID Project Creation: these are services associated with the creation of an LID. This process is initiated when property owners file petitions with either the Transportation Bureau or the Bureau of Environmental Services. Staff, then assigns a C-File Number to the proposed project. A resolution is prepared and submitted to the City Council for approval. Approval results in design of the project by BES or Transportation. A preliminary Estimate package is forwarded to the Auditor's Office. Staff prepares a Resolution of Intention for Council Approval, and compiles a list of affected property owners. Estimate notices are prepared and mailed, and the project is advertised. Staff receives remonstrance letters. A hearing is held, and the Council passes the Time and Manner Ordinance. Substantial amounts of staff time are incurred in this process. Each project also requires a series of complex financial arrangements involving payments to contractors, the bureau providing engineering, and other parties

- 2. Property Assessment Creation: The award of a construction contract sets in motion the assessment creation process. Project costs, when they become known, are distributed to property owners using generally accepted assessment principles. Accounts are created for individual assessments and entered in to the lien accounting system. After formal City Council approval, final assessment notices are printed and mailed to property owners.
- 3. Bonded Lien Service: About 65 percent of the LID assessments created become bonded liens. City staff must process bond applications and arrange for the sale of bonds to recover project costs, superintendence fees, advertising cots, and interim financing costs (where applicable). For example, in offering this service to property owners, a bond rating must be secured from a rating agency. This typically costs about \$2,500. Other costs associated with this service include Bond Buyer ads, bond printing, bond registrar, and financial advisor service.
- 4. Lien Billing Costs: Property owners may either bond their assessment or elect to settle the lien with a cash payment. In the first case, the lien becomes a bonded lien, while the latter case is called an open lien. Bonded liens are billed biannually for the term of the bonded lien: usually 20 years. Open liens are, in theory, billed once and paid. The Auditor's office has a lien accounting and billing system in place which keeps track of customer records. Data processing costs constitute the bulk of the costs associated with customer records and billing.
- 5. Delinquent Liens: Auditor's Office staff expend time and resources in collecting delinquent liens. Second notices of assessments for liens that are unbonded or unpaid are prepared and mailed to property owners. Second notices of installment (bonded lien) billings are prepared and mailed for billings that are 30 days past due. Insufficient and irregular payments must be processed and posted to docket records.
- 6. General Accounting: Auditor's Office staff also performs

general accounting types of services that are difficult to relate to the service functions outlined above. This type of activity is done in support of the entire LID process and depends on overall longrun activity levels.

In addition, indirect activities were identified. These activities related to general administration not directly identifiable as being associated with one of the particular type of service functions described above.

#### CATEGORIZATION OF SERVICES

The above services were categorized as service a private benefit. Property owners requested these services from the City.

#### II. IDENTIFICATION OF USERS AND ACTIVITY LEVELS

#### USERS

Property owners in the City are the principal recipients of the LID process and use the services provided by the Assessment/Liens Division.

#### ACTIVITY LEVELS

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To assess activity levels, one workload measure was chosen for each service function. These measures were chosen as they are tracked by the Division and reflect generally accepted measures for assessment and lien related services. The unit of service chosen for each service are as follows:

	Service	Unit of Service
3. 4. 5.	LID Project Creation Service Property Assessments Bonded Lien Service Lien Billing Costs Delinquent Liens General Accounting	Project Completion Cost Assessments Created Bond Application Billing Statement Delinquent Lien Billing Statement
		-

#### Current Activity levels

Table 1 summarizes actual FY 1894-85 and current or FY 1985-86 "budget" levels of activity. Thus, a shown in Table 1, 33 LID projects totalling \$5.65 million were completed during FY 1984-85. Auditor's Office created about 2,235 assessments. Open liens (those property assessments that owners do not bond) totalled 559. About 65% of the assessments were bonded. The Auditor's Office printed and mailed about 13,000 lien statements during the course of the year. Property owners electing to bond their assessments are billed biannually.

# City of Portland Historical LID Activity

Item	Actual 1985	Budget 1986
Project Completion		
Forecast		\$6,813,836
Engineering & Other	\$817,170	\$1,309,864
Right-Of-Way	\$12,403	\$222,595
Construction & Land	\$3,411,647	\$5,722,155
Project Completion Forecast	33	23
Assessments Forecast	2, 235	796
Open Liens25.00%	559	199
Bonded Liens65.00%		517
HCD Receipts Estimated Billing Statements	\$1,737,461	\$2,901,281
Open Liens	559	1.00
Bonded Liens		199
	12,367	13,851
Bonded & Open Liens Total	12,926	14,050

Table 1

# Future Activity levels

Future activity levels have been forecast for FY 1986-87 through FY 1989-90. Two significant trends were identified in generating this forecast. First, after FY 1988-89, there would be a greater reliance on the issuance of debt as Housing and Community Development funds which have supported many street improvements would no longer be available. Second, there would be a significant increase in the number of projects between FY 1986-87 and FY 1987-88 as the Environmental Quality Commission mandated the installation of sewers in Mid-Multnomah County.

Table 2 summarizes the expected LID activity for actual FY 1984-85, current FY 1985-86, and forecast FY 1986-87- FY 1989-90. The creation of Table 2 required the use of the following assumptions:

- \* Given the assessments forecast, it has been assumed that 25% of the forecast assessments become open liens while 65% of the assessments are bonded. Of the bonded liens, 33% are billed during the "current" year while 67% are billed fore the first time with a one year lag.
- \* The existing (FY 1984-85) bonded lien

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Table 2 City Of Portland Forecast LID Activity

Forecast LID Activity Item	Actual 1985	Budget 1986	1987	1988	1989	1990
Project Completion Forecast	<b>\$5,648,934</b>	<b>\$6,813,836</b>	<b>\$9,040,641</b>	<b>\$9,397,767</b>	<b>\$16,328,021</b>	<b>\$13,283,798</b>
Real Time LID Projects' Cash Fl Engineering & Other Right-Of-Way Construction & Land	\$817,170 \$12,403 \$5,411,647	\$1,309,864 \$222,595 \$5,722,155	\$1,750,139 \$3,105 \$7,029,875	\$2,634,334 \$28,923 \$7,496,710	<b>*19,957 *15,019,668</b>	\$20,655 \$11,547,203
Project Completion Forecast Assessments Forecast	2,235 559	23 796 199 517	1,604 401	21 1,285 321 835	30 8,198 2,050	18 7,708 1,927
Bonded Liens65.00% Sys. Develop. Charge Liens HCD Receipts	NA NA	*2,901,281	1,043 87 *1,977,793	\$1,687,420	5,329 90 \$1,535,100	5,010 92 \$0
Open Liens-Current	559	199	401	321	2,050	1,927
1985 1986 1987 1988 1989	12,367 0 0 0	11,563 2,288 0 0	10,811 2,139 1,381 0	10,108 2,000 1,291 1,949	1,207	1,129 1,704
Bonded & Open Liens Total Estimated Delinquent Liens	12,926	14,050	14,732	15,669	21,036	30,127
Open Liens	2,442 9 9 0 0	1,221 224 0 0 0	611 112 80 0 0	306 56 40 160 0	. 28 20 80	14 10 40
Bonded Liens	3,956 0 0 0	2,967 103 0 0	2,225 77 62 0	1,669 58 47 88 0	44 35 66	33 26 50 195
Total Delinquent Liens	6,398	4,515	3,167	2,424		

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inventory is assumed to "decay" at a rate of 6.5% per year: 2.5% of the bonded liens are summed completely amortized, while another 4% are retired through early payment. The same assumption has been applied to bonded liens created in subsequent years.

\* Delinquent liens have been forecast as follows: 10% of the previous year's forecast assessments are summed to become delinquent. Each year's open delinquent lien inventory "decays" by 50% each year. The FY 1984-85 bonded lien inventory is reduced by 25% per year, while 4.5% of the post FY 1984-85 bonded liens have been assumed delinquent.

From Table 2 it can be seen that the number of assessments created will increase from a FY 1984-85 and FY 1985-86 average of about 1,500 assessments to about 8,000 per year in FY 1988-89 and FY 1989-90. The reason for this increase in activity, as shown above, is the extension of sewer service to the Mid-Multnomah County or Affected Area. The number of open and bonded lien billings statements is forecast to increase from current (FY 1985-86) level of about 13,200 statements per year to about 30,300 statements during FY 1989-90. A five-fold increase in assessment creation activity is forecast. Bond and Open Lien billing statements are forecast to double.

#### III. COSTS AND REVENUES

#### COSTS

Table 2 summarized the projected service demands for those benefitted properties that will use the LID process. This section forecasts the costs associated with provision of the service demand forecast. System costs are in large measure a function of activity levels, staffing levels and inflation. Generally, the Liens and Assessment direct and indirect costs include personal services and materials and services costs associated with the administration the LID development process and the lien billing and accounting system. The bulk of these services are provided by the Auditor's Office through an interagency with the Local Improvement District Construction Fund.

Tables 3,4, and 5 summarize annual costs that must be recovered from properties that use the LID process. These costs have been generated using the following assumptions:

\* Costs have generally forecast from Budget FY 1986-87 levels using expected inflation rates by type of expenditure. Personal services costs are for existing staff have been forecast using budgeted FY 1985-86 levels and a 3% escalation rate. Fringe benefits have

been forecast at about 35% of direct labor costs. Materials and Services have been forecast from FY 1986-87 budget levels using a 4% escalation rate.

As shown in Table 3, a large portion of LID Administration costs is composes of personal services costs and data processing costs associated with the Lien Accounting System. Between FY 1985-86 and FY 1986-87 data processing costs almost doubled. Table 2 forecasts a significant increase in both assessment creation and billing activities. For these two line items tow additional assumptions have been used in generating forecast costs:

- \* Data processing costs have been forecast using a 4% escalation rate. Bureau of Computer Services staff feel that data processing costs will not significantly increase as volume increases. Thus the data processing element of the forecast includes only an inflation component. In the event that increased activity levels do generate cost increases above what could be expected from inflation, a revised set of user fees will have to be computed.
- \* Labor costs include the addition of one Clerical Specialist I and replacement of an Accounting Assistant with a Data Entry Clerk. The increase in staff would occur sometime during FY 1987-88, in anticipation of the large increase in workload that will occur at the beginning of FY 1988-89. Discussion with staff suggests that this relatively small increase in staff and other as yet undetermined efficiencies will allow staff to handle the increased workloads shown in Table 2.

Table 3 forecasts the basic system administrative costs will increase from FY 1985-86 levels of \$252,380 to \$377,214 during FY 1989-90. The bulk of this forecast increase occurs in personal services and data processing. Table 4 summarizes other systems costs, which include miscellaneous costs associated with LID project creation and other financial costs (e.g., financial advisor). These costs are forecast to increase from a budget FY 1986-87 level of about \$101,508 to \$113,854 during FY 1989-90. It should be noted that this portion of the cost forecast includes only an inflation adjustment. Table 5 summarizes costs by object code and fiscal year.

#### Cost Allocation Systems

The bureau developed an internal system to allocate costs equitably to of the service functions to ensure each benefitted property

Table 3
Assessments/Liens Division
Forecast User Fee Revenue Requirements:
Auditor's Office Inter-Agency

Auditor's Office	Capital Outlay	Land Buildings Burnets Comprovements Furniture & Equipment	Total Materials & Services	Subtotal-Svc. Reimbursements	Fleet Services Printing/Dist. Services Internal Rent Electronic Services Data Proc. Services Insurance Haster Lease Intra-Fund Services Other Services-Internal 55	Subtotal-Direct M&S	Haterials & Services  Professional Services Miscellaneous Office Supplies Operating Supplies Operating Supplies Glothing & Maint & Tools Alinor Equipment & Tools Clothing & Uniforms Other Commodities-Ex. Education Local Travel Local Travel External Rent Interest Refunds Refunds Refunds Refunds Refunds Alscellaneous	Total Personal Services 1	Administration-74200010 Co Personal Services Clerical Specialist I(FT) 1 Clerical Specialist I(FT) 1 Secretarial Clerk II 5 Accounting Assistant Accounting Assistant Accounting Assistant Accounting Assistant Accounting Assistant Clerical Deputy Auditor 32 Assessment Analyst Clerical Specialist I(FT) 1 Data Entry Clerk	
590		620		b	55555555555555555555555555555555555555		4470 4470 4470 4470 4470 4470 4470 4470	8	Object Code 1114 1114 1114	
<b>\$</b> 203, 750	\$0	<b>\$\$\$\$</b>	\$46, 477	943, 404	\$300 \$7,331 \$3,006 \$2,006 \$2,001 \$2,001 \$840	<b>\$3,</b> 073	50 50 50 50 50 50 50 50 50 50 50 50 50 5	\$157,273	Actual 1985 918, 151 917, 541 918, 513 918, 513 918, 513 918, 513 919, 088 923, 574 926, 520 90	
<b>\$</b> 252, 380		8888	987, 244	\$83, 540	910, 067 93, 685 93, 685 967, 673 92, 080 90	\$3,704	91, 000 92, 500 93, 500 91, 300 91, 300 91, 300 91, 300 91, 300 91, 300 91, 300 91, 300 91, 300	9165, 136	819, 059 918, 418 918, 419 918, 439 916, 417 916, 417 917, 951 927, 951 927, 951 927, 951 937, 951	
<b>\$</b> 309, 605	<b>60</b>	00 00 00 00 00 00 00	9147, 565	\$143,861	\$25 \$9,793 \$3,329 \$127,471 \$3,243 \$0 \$0	<b>5</b> 3, 70 <b>4</b>	91,000 91,000 91,300	\$162,040	Forecast. 1987 \$19,852 \$9,959 \$20,190 \$19,355 \$22,006 \$25,833 \$30,653 \$30,633	
<b>\$</b> 352, 585	<b>\$</b> 0	<b>6000</b> 0	<b>\$153, 458</b>	\$149,616	\$10, 185 \$10, 185 \$3, 462 \$132, 570 \$3, 373 \$0 \$0	<b>s</b> 3, 8 <b>4</b> 2	\$1,030 \$2,600 \$2,600 \$135 \$135 \$0 \$0 \$0 \$0	\$199,127	1988 \$20, 447 \$10, 257 \$20, 796 \$20, 935 \$22, 666 \$26, 611 \$31, 573 \$27, 354 \$19, 488	
<b>\$</b> 36 <b>4</b> , 686	<b>9</b> 0	\$0 \$0 \$0	9159, 585	\$155,600	\$10, 592 \$3, 600 \$3, 603 \$137, 873 \$3, 508 \$0 \$0		\$1,061 \$0 \$2,704 \$140 \$140 \$48 \$0 \$0 \$0 \$0 \$0 \$0 \$0 \$0 \$0 \$0 \$0 \$0 \$0	<b>\$</b> 205, 101	1989 921,061 921,061 921,421 920,533 923,345 927,410 932,7410 932,7410 932,174	
8377, 214	<b>\$</b> 0	9 S 9 S	9165, 958	\$161,824	928 911, 016 93, 744 9143, 388 93, 648 90 90	s4, 134	\$25 \$25 \$25 \$25 \$25 \$25 \$25 \$25 \$25 \$25	\$211,256	1990 \$21, 692 \$20, 883 \$20, 149 \$21, 149 \$21, 149 \$24, 046 \$28, 29, 019 \$29, 019	

User Fee Development

Table 4

File Date: 05-Jun-86

Assessments/Liens Division
Forecast User Fee Revenue Requirements:
Other Expenses

Administration-74200010	Object Code	Actual 1985	Budget 1986	Forecast 1987	1988	1989	1990
Professional Services Miscellaneous	210 260	<b>\$9,</b> 256	\$10,000	\$10,300	\$10,609	\$10,927	\$11,255
DJC Advertisements Bond Registrar Bond Rating Note/Bond Printing Bond Buyer Adds Other Printing Services Other Unused Unused Printing & Distribution	520	\$0 \$0 \$0 \$0 \$0 \$0 \$40,244 \$0 \$0 \$10,327	\$36,000 \$3,000 \$5,000 \$5,000 \$2,000 \$6,000 \$0 \$0	\$5,200 \$5,200 \$2,080 \$6,240	\$38, 938 \$3, 245 \$5, 408 \$5, 408 \$2, 163 \$6, 490 \$0 \$0 \$0	\$40, 496 \$3, 375 \$5, 624 \$5, 624 \$2, 250 \$6, 750 \$0 \$0	\$42,116 \$3,510 \$5,849 \$5,849 \$2,340 \$7,020 \$0 \$0 \$0 \$0
Other Services-Internal Financial Advisor Legal Services Other Unused	590	\$20,700 \$0 \$0 \$0 \$0	\$20,700 \$10,000 \$0 \$0		\$22,389 \$10,816 \$0 \$0	\$23,285 \$11,249 \$0 \$0	\$24,216 \$11,699 \$0 \$0
Subtotal Admin. 7420001	.0	\$80,527	\$97,700	\$101,508	\$105,466	\$109,580	\$113,854
Unused Unused	0	<b>\$</b> 0	<b>\$</b> 0	\$0	\$0	÷0	<b>\$</b> 0
Unused Unused	0	\$0 \$0	\$0 \$0	\$0 \$0	\$0 \$0	\$0 \$0	\$0 \$0
Total-Other Expenses		\$80,527	\$97,700	\$101,508	\$105,466	\$109,580	\$113,854

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User Fee Development

Table 5

File Date: 06-Jun-86

Assessments/Liens Division Forecast User Fee Revenue Requirements

Item	Object Code	Actual 1985	Budget 1986	Forecast 1987	1988	1989	1990
Professional Services Miscellaneous Printing & Distribution Other Services-Internal	210 260 520 590	\$9,256 \$40,244 \$10,327 \$224,450	\$10,000 \$57,000 \$0 \$283,080	\$59 <b>,</b> 280 \$0	\$10,609 \$61,652 \$0 \$385,790	\$10,927 \$64,119 \$0 \$399,220	\$11,255 \$66,684 \$0 \$413,129
Forecast Total Revenue Requirements		\$284,277	\$350,080	\$411,113	\$458, 051	\$474, 266	\$491,068

owner was allocated its share of the total costs imposed in the LID process. This included the allocation of indirect costs, or costs which could not be associated with one of the six service functions. These represent the costs associated with administrative management. Figure 1 illustrates the allocation system.

The system requires the creation of cost allocation percentages for each general type of expenditure. It should be noted that indirect costs were allocated using the direct cost allocation percentages. Table 6 summarizes the detailed cost allocation percentages used in this study. For example, staff estimated that one of the Clerical Specialists spends approximately 10% of work time on creating property assessments, 20% on general accounting duties, with the remaining 70% devoted to the collection of delinquent liens. Similarly, it is estimated that the Principal Deputy Auditor's time is allocable 15% to the LID project creation service function, 35% to bonded lien service, with the remaining 50% allocated to general administration. Data processing costs are allocable entirely to the Lien Billings service function. Printing and distribution services have been allocated to the LID Project Creation service function.

Application of the cost allocation percentages to the cost forecast yields the estimated cost-of-service by function. Table 7 develops the cost allocation results for FY 1984-85. For example, 20.01% of directly allocated costs are associated with Property Assessment Creation. A similar percentage of general administrative costs (or indirect), \$17,436, have been allocated to the Property Assessment Creation service function. For FY 1984-85, LID administration costs totalling \$284,278 have been allocated largely to the LID Project Creation, Assessments Creation, and Bonded Lien service functions. Lien billing costs constitute 9% of all LID administration costs, while General Accounting costs total about 14.4% of the FY 1984-85 costs or approximately \$40,844.

Table 8 summarizes cost allocation results by fiscal year for the FY 1984-85 through the FY 1989-90 study period. Total actual costs in FY 1984-85 were \$284,277 and FY 1986-87 through FY 1988-89 costs total \$1.83 million.

#### Revenues

#### Current Cost Recovery

Table 9 summarizes current cost recovery for 24 recently completed LID projects. Current user fees consist primarily of Superintendence Fees. Advertising costs assessed to the 24 projects totalled about \$13,700. The average total property assessment was \$2,374. There is considerable dispersion around this average: the lowest average assessment was \$289, wile the highest average property assessment was \$117,935. Fee recovered costs totalled an estimated \$85,380 for the 24 projects.

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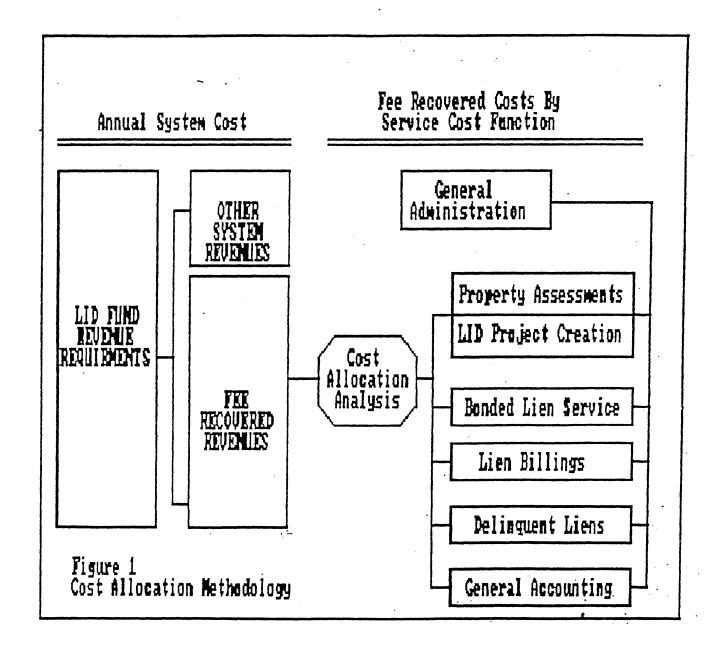


Table 6 Assessments/Liens Division Cost Allocation Percentage Service Function

Service Function	•								
	Object	LID	Property Assessments	Bonded Lien	Bill	lings Jelinquent	General	General	- • •
	Code	Creation	Crestion	Service		Liens	Accounting	Admin.	18301
Administration-74200010 Auditor's Office Inter-	i							•	
Agency Personal Services	9 6		•				000	3	3000
Clerical Specialist I Clerical Specialist I	88	0.000x	5.000x	10.000x 5.000x	9.000x	70.000x 55.000x	26. 000x	0.000	100.000
Secretarial Clerk II	88	70.000x 0.000x	25.000x 35.000x	5.000x	200 200 200 200	10.00 00x	45. 000x	0.000	100.000
Accounting Assistant		0000	20.000x	20.000x	0.000x	15.000x 0.000x	40.000x	50.000x	100:000x
ABBREACH ANDLYBY		71.000x	28.000x	000	2.000 000 000 000 000	20.0 00.00 00.00 00.00	1.000x 10.000x	60.000x	100.000x 100.000x
Clerical Specialist I	35	0.000 0.000	35,000	20.000x 5.000x	30.00%	10.000x	10.000x 45.000x	0.000x	100.000x
Materials & Services		2 00 00	3000	3000	2000	*	000	*000	2000
Professional Services Miscellaneous	260	0000	388		888	\$88 688 688 688 688 688	; o ;	00000	100.000
Office Supplies Operating Supplies	320	000	888 000 000	000	0.00	000	0.00	100.000	100.000
Repair & Maint. Supplies	000 000 000 000 000 000 000 000 000 00	0.000x	0.000x	0.000	0.0	0.0 0.0	0.000	100.0001	100.000
Clothing & Uniforms Other Compositions	980	2000 000 000	0.000 0.000x	0.000x	0.000x 0.000x	888 000	0.000x 0.000x	100.000x 100.000x	100.000x
Education	710	2000	0000	0.000	0.000	365 360 300	0.000	100.000x	100.0001
Local travel Out-of-Town Travel	26	0000	**************************************	300	000		000	1000	100.00
External Rent Interest	2.0 2.0 2.0	0000	000	0000	0000	388	0000	100.000	303 303 303 303 303 303 303 303 303 303
Refunds Ret Ass Passents	<b>4</b> 00	0.000	0.000	0.000x	0.000	0.00	0.000	100.000	100.000
Missellaneous	4.00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000x	886 600	0.000x	100.000x 100.000x	100.00X
Printing/Dist. Services Internal Rept	520 230 300 300	40.000x	20.000	20.0002	0.000	0.00 0.00 0.00	0.000x 0.000x	20.000x 100.000x	100.000%
Electronic Services Data Proc. Services	530	0.000	20.000	0.000x 5.000x	0.000x	20.000 20.000 20.000	0.000x	00.000	100.000
Institution	\$60 570	0.000	0.000%	0.000 0.000	0.000x		0.000x 0.000x	100.000x	100.000x 100.000x
Intra-Fund Services Other Services-Internal Capital Outlay	8889 8889 88989	00.00	0.000	0.00 000 000 000 000 000	0.000x 0.000x 0.000x	888 888 900	0.000 0.000 0.000	100.000x 100.000x 100.000x	100.000x 100.000x 100.000x
Administration-74200010 Other Expenses									
Professional Services	210	0.0000%	0.0000%	100.000x	0.0000x	0.0000x	0. 0000x	0. 0000x	100.000
DJC Advertisements Bood Recistrar	3	20.0000%	30,0000x	50.0000x 70.0000x	0.0000x 0.0000x	0.0000x	0.0000x 0.0000x	0.0000x 0.0000x	100.000x 100.000x
Bond Rating		0.0000	\$0.000x	20.000x	0.0000	0.0000x	0.0000 0.0000	0.000x	100.00x 100.000x
Bond Buyer Advertisement		**************************************	20.000	2000 2000 2000 2000 2000 2000 2000 200	0000	0000	00000	0000	100.000
Other		0000	2000	0000	0.0000	0000	0.0000	100.0000	100.000
Unused Unused Printing & Distribution	520	0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000	0.0000	0.0000x	0.0000x 0.0000x	0.000x	0.0000x 0.0000x	100.0000x 100.0000x	100.00x 100.000x
Other Services-Internal Financial Advisor	290			67.000x	o. 0000x	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	
Legal Services Other Unused	·	0.0000	0.0000 0.0000 0.0000 0.0000	0.000 000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.	0.000	0.00	0000	100.0000x 100.0000x	100.000x 100.000x
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Table 8

Assessments/Liens
Summary Of Revenue Requirement By
Service Function

	LID	Property	Bonded	Lien	Billings		T-4-1
Fiscal Year Ending June 30th	Project	Assessments Creation	Lien Service	Open & Bonded	Delinquent Liens	Beneral Accounting	Total Allocated Cost
Fiscal Year	\$46,965 \$47,618 \$48,828 \$50,010 \$51,628 \$53,299	\$57,121 \$83,937 \$97,628 \$102,293 \$106,037 \$109,920	\$59,875 \$89,438 \$94,822 \$103,818 \$107,572 \$111,464	\$24,853 \$38,675 \$67,375 \$78,787 \$81,788 \$84,903	\$54,622 \$52,884 \$61,558 \$75,781 \$78,325 \$80,957	\$48,844 \$37,529 \$40,902 \$47,364 \$48,918 \$50,524	\$284,278 \$350,081 \$411,113 \$458,053 \$474,268 \$491,067
Service Function Total	\$298,348	<b>\$556,936</b>	<b>\$566,987</b>	<b>\$376,381</b>	\$404,127	\$266,081	\$2,468,868

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92, 374	1, 539	03, 652, 925	99, 576	<b>\$85, 380</b>	971, 685	<b>\$13,695</b>	*888, 806	<b>82, 583, 783</b>	\$1,091,973	01, 491, 810	Totalm	24
117, 935	5		8		\$8, 670	674B	9165,600	M14, 655	•220, 20S		Vesta Vacuna ents III	9527 1
20,152	313	185, 483		000	37,507	1,58	139, 346	1337, 120	00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00	9307, 128	39th & Pomona	277
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914, 742	16		8		1, 952	9645 645	12,647	0187, 624	\$109, 585	• •	S.E. Tolman	
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109	Z		888		\$2,596 50,596	\$721	944,000	175, 906	943, 206 942, 318	• •	3.E. Sumner B.E. Slat & Lainye	9487
<b>1</b> 2, 937	22	-	38		200	944	910, 310	955, 176	16,630		S.E. 34th	950
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1, 109	3		88		91,750	9649	915,000	943, 567	125, 482 482		s. E. 73rd	9470
3, 100	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •		38		1,000	200	918, 775	37,722	221, 877		3. E. Mitchell	9526
97, 289	: 7	-	38		1, 420	9536	116,725	932, 344	116,722		. F. 32nd	9525
1829	62	•	•		1,409	9536	917, 500	931, 974	<b>918.736</b>		F. 33rd	9512 5
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a Typical	Assessment	Total	(PPI)	Total	Super- intendence	Advertising	Engineering	Total Construction	Frontage To (HCD)	Construction v/o Frontage	Project Mane	F110
			Interio	; ; ; ; ;	Recovery	Coat			oet Recovery	First Year Cost Recovery	<b>79</b> ⊢ □ ∶	ty Of
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An analysis of the current Superintendence fee (Table 10) schedule and other fees and charges indicates that this fee schedule assigns a proportionately larger share of costs recovered to <u>smaller</u> projects. This is equitable only where it can be shown that smaller projects are more costly to administer. A comparison to other cities indicates that the City of Portland estimated advertising costs are also assessed to each LID project. The balance of administrative costs are supported by the General Fund or other revenues.

Improve	ements	Costs				Fee
 Under	\$	1,000	\$	60	·	
\$ 1,001	to	10,000		60	+	6% in excess \$1,000
10,001	to	25,000	\$	600	+	4% in excess \$10,000
25.001	to	50,000		1,200	+	3% in excess \$25,000
\$ 50,001	to \$	100,000	\$	1,950	+	2.5% in excess \$50,000
100,001	to	250,000		3,200	+	2% in excess of \$100,000
250,001	to	500,000	\$	6,200	+	1.5% in excess of \$250,000
\$500,001	to \$1	,000,000		9,950	+	1.2% in excess of \$500,000
Over	\$1	,000,000	\$1	15,950	+	1% in excess of \$1,000,000

Table 10

## Projected Revenues

Projected revenues match projected costs as 100% of cost recovery is proposed.

Estimated user fee requirements by service functions and forecast activity levels can now be used to compute the unit costs of service as schematically illustrated in Figure 2. The unit costs of service represents the estimated user fee associated with each service function. The following section, computer a user fee schedule and assess the impact of the new fee structure on typical property owners.

## IV. DEVELOPMENT AND DESIGN OF A USER FEE SCHEDULE

### Fee Structure

Table 11 combines the annual cost allocation summary shown in Table 8 with the activity forecast previously developed in Table 2. Thus, for example, in FY 1986-87 costs allocable to the LID project creation service function total \$48,828. When combined with \$9,040,641 of project completion costs, the result is an estimated

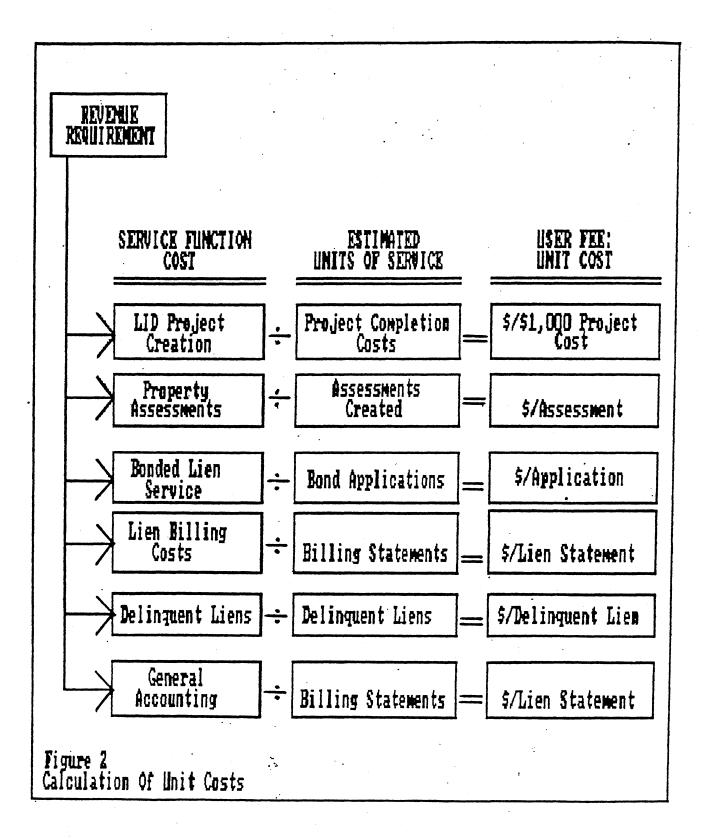


Table 11 Unit Costs Of Service Estimated User Fee Schedule

Itea	Actual 1985	Budget 1986	Forecast. 1987	1988	1989	1990
	1703	1700	1701	1700	1707	1770
Project Creation	\$5,648,934	\$6,813,836	\$9,040,641	\$9,397,767	\$16,328,021	\$13,283,798
	\$46,965	\$47,618	\$48,828	\$50,010	\$51,628	\$53,299
	\$8.31	\$6.99	\$5.40	\$5.32	\$3.16	\$4.01
Project Assessments Creation Assessments Forecast Allocated Cost \$ per Assessment Created Bonded Lien Service	2,235	796	1,604	1,285	8,198	7,708
	\$57,121	\$83,937	*97,628	*102,295	\$106,037	*109,920
	\$25.56	\$105.45	*60.87	*79.61	\$12.93	*14.26
Bonded Lien Applications	1,453	517	1,043	835	5,329	5,010
Allocated Cost	\$59,873	\$89,438	\$94,822	\$103,818	\$107,572	\$111,464
\$ per Application	\$41.21	\$172.99	\$90.91	\$124.33	\$20.19	\$22.25
Lien Billing	12,926	14,050	14,732	15,669	21,036	30,127
	*24,853	*38,675	*67,375	\$78,787	\$81,788	\$84,903
	*1.92	*2.75	*4.57	\$5.03	\$3.89	\$2.82
	6,398	4,515	3,167	2,424	2,016	2,739
	*54,622	*52,884	*61,558	\$75,781	\$78,325	\$80,957
	*8.54	*11.71	*19.44	\$31.26	\$38.85	\$29.56
General Accounting  Open & Bonded Liens Allocated Cost \$ per Billing Statement	12,926	14,050	14,732	15,669	21,036	30,127
	\$40,844	\$37,529	\$40,902	\$47,364	\$48,918	\$50,524
	\$3.16	\$2.67	\$2.78	\$3.02	\$2.33	\$1.68

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charge of \$5.40 per \$1,000 of project completion costs. Similarly, the cost of creating a property assessment for FY 1986-87 is an estimated \$60.87. Annual billing costs for bonded lien would be \$9.14 and \$4.57 for an open lien. Each delinquent lien billing would result in a charge of \$19.44. General accounting costs would total \$2.78 per billing statement.

### Recommended Fee Schedule

From Table 11 it can be seen that variability of work load results in user fee variability. For this reason it is recommended that user fees be set for a three year period beginning FY 1986-87 and ending FY 1988-89. This means that cumulative revenue requirements will be recovered. However, actual revenue recovered in a single year may not cover total costs. In Table 12 a user fee schedule has been computed using forecast FY 1986-87 through 1989-90 costs/revenue requirements and forecast service demands. Required revenues total about \$1.343 million for the three year period. The Superintendence Fee would be revised to \$4.33 per \$1,000 project cost. Customer and billing fees would be \$7.10 per bill: for a bonded lien this would mean an annual cost of \$14.20 per year. The delinquent lien billing share would be set at \$28.35

The bottom half of Table 12 calculates a revenue forecast for the three year period. Activity levels are higher in later years, particularly FY 1988-89: this means that revenue will tend to be under recovered in FY 1986-87 and FY 1987-88 and over recovered in FY 1988-89. Given the demand forecast, the recommended fee schedule will recover projected revenue requirements over the three year period.

# Proposed Cost Recovery

Table 13 applies the proposed fee schedule shown in Table 12 to the current level of cost recovery of the 24 projects completed in the current year and discussed previously in the "current cost recovery" section and Table 9. From Table 13 it can be seen that:

\* Total first year cost recovery increases from \$85,380 to about \$121,400. This represents about a 42% increase in user fees. Comparison of current cost recovery with Project Creation, Assessments Creation, and Bonded Lien services user fee costs recovery results in first year cost recovery of \$100,060, or a 17% increase.

The overall result of the proposed rate structure is to increase first year cost recovery. The comparison, done in Tables 9 and 13 does not include revenues that are (in theory recovered with the current interest rate differential. Inclusion of these revenues would probably narrow the difference in cost recovery estimated above. It must be pointed out that the interest rate differential is applicable only to bonded liens. In addition, this cost can only be estimated using a present value technique that ascribes

Table 12

# City Of Portland Recommended User Fee Schedule And Forecast LID User Fee Revenues

	Forecast.		
Service Demand Forecast	1987	1988	1989
Project Completion	\$9,040,641	\$9,397,767	\$16,328,021
Assessments Forecast	1,604		8,198
Open & Bonded Liens	14,732	15,669	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
Delinquent Liens	3,167	2,424	
User Fee Schedule			
\$ per \$1,000 Project Cost	- t \$ 4.33	\$ 4.33	\$ 4.33
\$ per Assessment Created	\$27.60	\$27.60	\$27.60
\$ per Bond Application	\$42.49	\$42.49	\$42.49
\$ per Billing Statement	\$ 7.10	\$ 7.10	\$ 7.10
\$ per Delinquent Lien	\$28.35	\$28.35	\$28.35
Forecast Revenue Recovery	<b>,</b> -		
LID Formation Fees	\$ 39,146	\$ 40,692	\$ 70,700
Assessment Creation	\$ 44,270	\$ 35,466	\$226, 265
Bonded Lien Service	\$ 44,315	\$ 35,477	\$226,419
Customer & Billing	\$104,597	\$111,250	\$149,356
Delinquent Liens	\$ 89,784	\$ 68,720	\$57,154
Forecast Total	\$311,112	\$291,605	\$729,894
Revenue Requirement	\$411,113	\$458,051	\$474,266
Annual Surplus(Deficit)	(\$89,001)	(\$166,446)	\$255,628
Cumulative	(\$89,001)	(\$255,447)	\$181

Project Kam Pomona Vacuna III Harold \$1,091,973 \$220, 205 **82,** 583, 783 Accounting & **4888, 80**6 \$19,773 \$19,330 \$15,000 \$15,750 \$14,000 \$14,000 \$15,666 \$15,67,666 \$15,67,666 \$15,67,67 Delinquent Liens Total Com 13, 482, 16

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"typical" time value of money (interest rate) to property owners.

# Typical Bills Comparison

Tables 14A, 14B, 14C and 14D detail typical bills (average user fee cost per assessment) and project cost recovery for four different size LID projects with varying numbers of assessment. Project construction costs range from a low of \$22,791 (Table 14A) to a high of \$414,655. The number of assessments created ranges from 5 to 285.

Tables 14A and 14B summarize cost recovery for two relatively small projects involving the creation of 30 and 22 assessments respectively. For both of these projects user fee charges are <a href="lower">lower</a> under the proposed system. The proposed fee system will significantly reduce cost recovery on smaller projects with fewer assessments.

Tables 14C and 14D summarize first year cost recovery for two of the larger projects. The major difference between the two projects can be found in the number of assessments. The larger of the two projects involves only 5 assessments. For the smaller project with 285 assessments first year cost recovery increases from a current level of \$,385 to about \$21,600. The major difference is largely due to Customer and Billing and Bonded Lien services. When large numbers of property owners elect to bond their assessments, the user fee system will assign bonded lien costs to these property owners. The result is that projects with these two characteristics will be subject to higher levels of cost recovery.

# Impact of Increased Fees

The major effect of the proposed LID user fee schedule is to increase annual cost recovery. The effect of the proposed fee schedule on any particular project depends on both project costs and the number of assessments created.

## Recommendations

The recommended LID user fee schedule represents a significant departure from current practices. Thus, acceptability must be subject partly, on the basis of its expected effect on property owners. A comparison of first year cost recovery for 24 LID projects suggests that:

- \* The proposed fee schedule will increase administrative costs recovered by about 40%
- \* Property owners electing not to bond their assessments will generally experience little or no increase in user fee costs
- \* LID projects involving the creation of larger numbers of assessments are likely to

.Table 14A Typical Bills Comparison Using Average Property Assessment

Project Cost	\$28, 746 \$22, 791 30 \$620	
Fee Component	Current	Proposed
Superintendence Advertising Project Creation Assessment Creation	\$27.50 \$11.47 NA NA	NA NA \$2.69 \$27.60
Subtotal-Per Average Assessment	\$38.97	<b>\$30.29</b>
Billing & Accounting Bonded Lien (biannual) Open Lien (1 billing) Bonded Lien Application	AK AK AK	\$14.20 \$7.10 \$42.49
Total-Per Average Assessment Bonded Lien Open Lien	\$38.97 \$38.97	\$86.98 \$37.39
Total LID User Fee Cost Recovery		
Superintendence Advertising Project Creation Assessment Creation Bonded Lien Service Billing & Accounting Delinquent Liens (2)	\$1,112 \$211 NA NA NA NA	NA NA \$124 \$386 \$387 \$154 \$40
First Year Cost Recovery	\$1,323	\$1,091

Table 14B Typical Bills Comparison Using Average Property Assessment

LID Project Characteristi	C8	9504
Project Cost	\$78,022 \$53,272 22 \$3,546	
Fee Component	Current	Proposed
Superintendence Advertising Project Creation Assessment Creation	\$92.36 \$23.59 NA NA	NA NA \$15.36 \$27.60
Subtotal-Per Average Assessment	<b>\$115.</b> 96	\$42.96
Billing & Accounting Bonded Lien (biannual) Open Lien (1 billing) Bonded Lien Application	NA NA NA	\$14.20 \$7.10 \$42.49
Total-Per Average Assessment Bonded Lien Open Lien	\$115.96 \$115.96	\$99.65 \$50.06
Total LID User Fee Cost Recovery		
Superintendence Advertising Project Creation Assessment Creation Bonded Lien Service Billing & Accounting Delinquent Liens (2)	\$2,032 \$519 NA NA NA NA NA	NA NA \$338 \$607 \$608 \$242 \$62
First Year Cost Recovery	\$2,551	<b>\$1,857</b>

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Table 14 C Typical Bills Comparison Using Average Property Assessment

LID Project Characteristi	9183	
Project Cost	\$442,485 \$345,331 285 \$1,553	
Fee Component	Current	Proposed
Superintendence Advertising Project Creation Assessment Creation	\$26.85 \$2.57 Na Na	NA NA \$6.72 \$27.60
Subtotal-Per Average Assessment	\$29.42	\$34.32
Billing & Accounting Bonded Lien (biannual) Open Lien (1 billing) Bonded Lien Application	AH AH AH	\$14.20 \$7.10 \$42.49
Total-Per Average Assessment Bonded Lien Open Lien	\$29.42 \$29.42	\$91.01 \$41.42
Total LID User Fee Cost Recovery		
Superintendence Advertising Project Creation Assessment Creation Bonded Lien Service Billing & Accounting Delinquent Liens (2)	\$7,652 \$733 HA HA HA HA	NA 91,916 97,866 97,871 93,136 6808
First Year Cost Recovery	\$8,385	\$21,597

<sup>(1)</sup> Construction, engineering, and interim financing (2) Assumes 10% delinquency rate open liens

Table 14D
Typical Bills Comparison
Using Average Property Assessment

LID Project Characteris	tics	9527
Project Cost Construction Cost Assessments Created	\$580, 255 \$414, 655	
Average Project Cost	\$116,051	
Fee Component	Current	Proposed
Superintendence Advertising Project Creation Assessment Creation	\$1,734.00 \$149.60 NA NA	NA NA \$502.50 \$27.60
Subtotal-Per Average Assessment	\$1,883.60	\$530.10
Billing & Accounting Bonded Lien (biannual) Open Lien (1 billing) Bonded Lien Application	NA NA NA	\$14.20 \$7.10 \$42.49
Total-Per Average Assessment Bonded Lien Open Lien	\$1,883.60 \$1,883.60	
Total LID User Fee Cost Recovery		•
Superintendence Advertising Project Creation Assessment Creation Bonded Lien Service Billing & Accounting Delinquent Liens (2)	\$8,670 \$748 NA NA NA NA NA	NA NA \$2,513 \$138 \$138 \$55 \$14
First Year Cost Recover	\$9,418	\$2,858

<sup>(1)</sup> Construction, engineering, and interim financing(2) Assumes 10% delinquency rate open liens

experience user fee cost increases. Larger LID project cost in conjunction with a larger number of assessments will result in a significant increase in user fee cost recover over the present system.

## Other recommendations

Bases on the results of this study, the City may wish to consider the following additional recommendations:

- 1. Closely monitor user fee revenue recovery over the FY 1986-87-FY 1987-88 biennium and adjust the user fee schedule for FY 1988-89 if needed
- 2. Develop a database that tracks activity levels used in this study to generate user fees.
- 3. Implement a time charging system for appropriate staff that adequately tracts costs by LID service function.