

Current SB 2208 language (lines 28-31 of Page 14 and lines 1-2 of Page 15):

After entering an order establishing ~~the project~~, an assessment project or assessment drain, the water resource board shall cause the assessment list to be published once each week for three successive weeks in the newspaper ~~or newspapers~~ of general circulation in the district and in the official county newspaper of each county in which the benefited lands are located together with a notice of the time when, and place where, the board will meet to hear objections to any assessment by any interested party, or an agent or attorney for ~~that~~ an interested party.

Proposed SB 2208 language (changes in red):

After entering an order establishing ~~the project~~, an assessment project or assessment drain, the water resource board shall cause, **at their option, either a map of the assessment boundary and an electronic reference at which to access the complete assessment list document, or the assessment list in its entirety**, to be published once each week for ~~three~~ **two** successive weeks in the newspaper ~~or newspapers~~ of general circulation in the district and in the official county newspaper of each county in which the benefited lands are located together with a notice of the time when, and place where, the board will meet to hear objections to any assessment by any interested party, or an agent or attorney for ~~that~~ an interested party.

Justification:

Lower Heart WRD is in the process of initiating an assessment district to cover local costs of the flood risk reduction project for Mandan and the surrounding areas. In doing so, there is a potential our assessment list will be as high as 7,000 parcels. Listing all the properties in the paper three (3) times represents a huge investment (~ \$100,000 +) in our project. We believe there is a more effective and efficient way to publish these notices.

Publishing a map of the assessment area in the newspaper is more eye-catching and thus more likely to create interest for the reader. In addition to the map, an electronic pointer (email, website) would also be published to direct the reader to a place where they could download, print, and/or inspect the entire property list.

There is also a direct mailing of these notices required by statute in this same section. We don't foresee that being changed and feel that method significantly reduces the newspaper publishing need.