

# SANTA BARBARA COUNTY BOARD AGENDA LETTER



Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101  
(805) 568-2240

**Agenda Number:**  
**Prepared on:** 4/7/03  
**Department Name:** Planning & Development  
**Department No.:** 053  
**Agenda Date:** 5/6/03  
**Placement:** Administrative  
**Estimate Time:** 45min.  
**Continued Item:** NO  
**If Yes, date from:**

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Dianne Meester, Interim Director  
Planning & Development

**STAFF CONTACT:** Mike Zimmer, Building Official  
568-3119

**SUBJECT:** Adoption of Current Uniform Model Codes Relating to Building Construction as the Santa Barbara County Building Code and a fee resolution for revised hourly rates.

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## **Recommendation(s):**

1. Set a hearing date for May 27, 2003 for the introduction/ first reading of the ordinance amending Chapter 10 of the Santa Barbara County Code relating to building construction and a fee resolution for Building & Safety Division revised hourly rates.
2. Set a hearing on June 3, 2003 (second reading) to consider the adoption of an ordinance amending Chapter 10 of the Santa Barbara County Code and fee resolution.

## **Alignment with Board Strategic Plan:**

The recommendation(s) are primarily aligned with Goal No. 2 – A Safe and Healthy Community in Which to Live, Work and Visit.

## **Executive Summary and Discussion:**

Every three years, the Building and Safety Division of Planning & Development recommends revisions in County construction codes based on recommendations in the latest edition of the Uniform Model Codes for Building, Plumbing, Electrical and Mechanical construction projects. These model codes are adopted by the California Building Standard Commission and used throughout the state as a basis both for uniform regulations and fee recovery. This Code adoption is being coordinated with the County Fire Department's recommendation to your Board of adoption of the 2001 California Fire Code. The proposed fees will be at levels recommended in the Uniform Codes and equal to, or below fees in neighboring jurisdictions.

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The County of Santa Barbara, the cities of Santa Maria and Lompoc and San Luis Obispo County use the 1997 code rate table; the City of Santa Barbara and Ventura County impose fees above the 1997 code rates. Fees will become effective sixty (60) days from date of Board approval. The fee revisions will allow the division to make customer service improvements requested by the building industry, including faster plan reviews and more field inspection support. The new fee schedule has been discussed with the construction industry, AIA, Santa Barbara County Fire and Santa Barbara County Health departments.

**Mandates and Service Levels:** No changes in mandates.

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:** Fees for building permits are not proposed to be changed. An hourly fee increase for extra services hours would result in an increase in revenue of approximately \$10,000, which has been included in the 03/04 budget. This enhanced revenue will be the result of raising the hourly rate of field inspectors from \$55 per hour to \$85 per hour and the new office assistant and permit technician rates at \$58 per hour.

**Special Instructions:**

Direct the Clerk to notice the fee resolution twice in a newspaper of general circulation in the County of Santa Barbara; once at least 10 days prior to the hearing and again with at least 5 days intervening between the dates of first and last adoption.

**Concurrence:**  
Auditor-Controller  
County Counsel  
County Fire