



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

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

Department Name: Treasurer-Tax Collector  
Department No.: 065  
For Agenda Of: 5/12/09  
Placement: Departmental  
Estimated Tme: 15 minutes on 5/12/09  
5 minutes on 5/19/09  
Continued Item: No  
If Yes, date from:  
Vote Required: Majority

---

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Department Bernice James, Treasurer-Tax Collector  
Director(s)  
Contact Info: Kim Tesoro, Treasury Finance Chief, x2153

SUBJECT: **Adoption of Treasurer-Tax Collector Proposed Fees**

---

**County Counsel Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

**Auditor-Controller Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

**Other Concurrence:** Select\_Other

As to form: Select\_Concurrence

**Recommended Actions:**

That the Board of Supervisors:

- A.
  - i. Consider the introduction (First Reading) of an ordinance amending Section 2-10.8 of the Santa Barbara County Code revising the fees for the Treasurer-Tax Collector's Office;
  - ii. Accept a report on costs related to certain fees charged by the Treasurer-Tax Collector (available for public inspection at least ten (10) days prior to the hearing date at the Treasurer-Tax Collector's Office, 105 East Anapamu Street, Room 109, Santa Barbara, CA; week days 8:00 am – 5:00 pm);
- B. Continue the hearing to May 19, 2009, to consider the following:
  - i. The adoption (Second Reading) of an ordinance amending Section 2-10.8 of the Santa Barbara County Code to establish revised fees for the Treasurer-Tax Collector's Office.

**Summary Text:**

The Treasurer-Tax Collector is requesting a hearing to consider revisions to fees for services provided for redemption of tax-defaulted property and the processing of applications for separate valuations. The redemption fee has not been updated from its current statutory amount established in 1984. In the twenty-five years since the last adjustment, the cost to provide these services has increased due to changes in operating costs including salaries and benefits and inflation in the cost of business services and supplies. The separate valuation application fee is a new fee that would recover the costs incurred with processing the application. Thus, the proposed fee revision would bring revenues closer in line with the increased cost of providing services.

**Background:**

State law authorizes fees for a variety of services and in some cases even sets the fee. In many instances the fee set forth in laws no longer covers the actual cost of providing the services. In such cases Government Code 54985 provides the County with the authority to increase or decrease a fee or charge in the amount reasonably necessary to recover the cost of providing any product or service or the cost of enforcing any regulation for which the fee or charge is levied.

These fee increases are not considered “projects” under Section 15378 of the California Environmental Quality Act guidelines.

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

Revenue from these Tax Collector fees typically amounts to approximately \$26,000 per year. The proposed changes in fees are expected to increase revenues by \$18,000 in the first year of implementation (fiscal year 2009-10) and an additional \$2,000 in the second through fifth years of implementation. When implementation is complete, the proposed fee changes are estimated to increase annual revenue of the Treasurer-Tax Collector by an estimated \$26,000. These revenue increases are recommended to recover costs and maintain services.

**Special Instructions:**

1. Request the Clerk of the Board to publish notice of this hearing in the Santa Barbara News Press five and ten days prior to the hearing, in accordance with Government Code 6062a.
2. Return a fully executed copy of the adopted ordinance along with a copy of the minute order to the Santa Barbara County Treasurer-Tax Collector, Attention: Kim Tesoro.

**Attachments:**

Ordinance 2-10.8  
Fee Analysis Report

**Authored by:**

Kim Tesoro, Treasury Finance Chief, Treasurer-Tax Collector’s Office

**cc:**

Auditor-Controller  
County Counsel