



**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
AGENDA LETTER**

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

**Agenda Number:**

**Submitted on:**  
**(COB Stamp)**

**Department Name:** Agricultural Commissioner  
**Department No.:** 051  
**Agenda Date:** June 9, 2026  
Set Hearing for June 23,  
2026 (1<sup>st</sup> reading) and July  
7, 2026 (2<sup>nd</sup> reading)  
**Placement:** Set-Hearing  
**Estimated Time:** 15 minutes (6/23/26)  
**Continued Item:** No  
**If Yes, date from:**  
**Vote Required:** Majority

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors  
**FROM:** Department Director(s): Jose Chang, Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer  
Contact: Matthew Maiten, Deputy Commissioner/Sealer  
**SUBJECT: Ordinance Amending the Agricultural Commissioner's Fee Schedule- Weights and Measures Fees section**

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**County Counsel Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

**Other Concurrence:**

As to form: Yes

**Auditor-Controller Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

**Recommended Actions:**

That the Board of Supervisors set a hearing on June 23, 2026 to:

- a) Approve the introduction (first reading) of an Ordinance amending the Weights and Measure's section of the Agricultural Commissioner's Fee Schedule; and
- b) Read the title, "Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 5145, the Agricultural Commissioner's Fee Schedule," and waive further reading of the Ordinance; and
- c) Set a hearing to the Administrative Agenda of July 7, 2026, to consider the following recommendations:
  - i) Consider and approve the adoption (second reading) of "An Ordinance Amending the Ordinance No. 5145, The Agricultural Commissioner's Fee Schedule," and
  - ii) Find that the proposed actions are administrative activities of the County, which will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment, as they are fees necessary to cover operating expenses, and are therefore not a "project" as defined for the purposes of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines sections 15273(a)(1), 15378(b)(54) and Public Resources Code Section 21080(b)(8)(A) and (B).

- d) Find that the proposed actions are administrative activities of the County, which will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment, as they are fees necessary to cover operating expenses, and are therefore not a “project” as defined for the purposes of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines sections 15273(a)(1), 15378(b)(4) and Public Resources Code Section 21080(b)(8)(A) and (B).

**Summary Text:**

Following the enactment of Assembly Bill 1304 (Papan) in January 2024, counties are now authorized to increase maximum annual registration fees to better recover costs associated with weighing and measuring device inspections. The Department recommends adjusting the County Weights & Measures Device permit fees to the maximum levels permitted under California Business and Professions Code (BPC) § 12240 (**Attachment A**). It should be noted that even at these maximum rates, fee revenue will not fully offset program costs, necessitating a continued General Fund subsidy to sustain these essential services for Santa Barbara County’s commercial sector. The projected cost recovery after the increase in revenue will be estimated at 67%.

**Background:**

The Department, in accordance with State law and County policy, collects fees to help defray the cost of providing weights & measures inspection services to commercial businesses in Santa Barbara County. The last amendment to the Weights & Measures permit fee schedules were approved on September 21, 2021.

The Department’s proposed Fee Schedule adjusts Weights & Measures Device Inspection Permit fees to the maximum rates authorized by BPC § 12240. This alignment ensures parity with state statute, which empowers the Board of Supervisors to establish annual registration fees by ordinance. These fees are specifically designed to recover the costs incurred by the County Sealer in the mandatory testing and inspection of weighing and measuring devices, up to the maximum limits defined by the state for each device category.

The Department’s Weights and Measures registration fees provide critical, though partial, cost recovery for its consumer protection program. To ensure a fair and equitable marketplace, Department inspectors conduct annual accuracy testing on all of the 7,000+ commercial weighing and measuring devices—such as meters and scales—operating within Santa Barbara County. These mandated inspections protect consumers from overpayment and ensure that local businesses can compete on a level playing field. Beyond routine testing, Department staff also provide a vital public service by investigating consumer complaints regarding commercial accuracy.

As illustrated in **Table A**, the County’s current permit fees have fallen below those of neighboring jurisdictions, necessitating an update to align with state standards and regional trends.

Device Annual Registration Fee	Ventura County	Monterey County	Santa Cruz County	Santa Barbara County FY 24-25 Fee	Santa Barbara County Proposed Fee per BPC 12240
Business Location fee	\$120.00	\$120.00	\$120.00	\$100.00	\$120.00
per Vapor Submeter	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$4.00	\$10.00
per Water Submeter	\$6.00	\$6.00	\$6.00	\$2.00	\$6.00
Computing/Counter Scale (<100 lb.)	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$23.00	\$25.00
All other commercial weighing and measuring devices not specified in BPC 12240 (g) to (r)	\$26.00	\$26.00	\$26.00	\$20.00	\$26.00

In accordance with public notification requirements, a notice of the proposed device fee increase (**Attachment B**) was mailed on May 12, 2026, to the 1,100 businesses identified as potentially affected within the County. This outreach provided all stakeholders with a 30-day comment period to submit feedback or inquiries. To date, this notification process has resulted in 0 inquiries from the business community.

If approved, this ordinance will take effect 30 days after board approval.

**Performance Measure:**

The Department maintains an annual frequency of inspection of commercial weighing and measuring devices in the County.

**Fiscal Analysis:**

Funding Source	FY [26/27]	Total
General Fund		
State		
Federal		
Permit Fees	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00
[Other Source]		
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$100,000.00</b>	<b>\$100,000.00</b>

Device fees collected through the adoption of this updated fee ordinance will support weights and measures activities in the department. The anticipated revenue increase is estimated to be \$100,000 per year with the number of business permit fees fluctuating annually. Upon approval, the additional revenue will be included in future budget projections.

**Staffing Impacts:** N/A

**Special Instructions:**

After the June 9, 2026 Hearing direct the Agricultural Commissioner's Office to:

1. Publish a Notice of Public Hearing pursuant to Section 6066 of the Government Code (publish notice on June 9, 2026 and June 23, 2026 in the Santa Barbara Independent.)

After the July 7, 2026 hearing direct the Clerk of the Board to:

1. Email a copy of the adopted Ordinance and a copy of the minute order to the Agricultural Commissioner and County Counsel.
2. Publish a copy of the ordinance or summary with names of the members of the Board of Supervisors voting for or against the Ordinances in the Santa Barbara Independent 15 days of adoption of the Ordinance.

**Attachments:**

**Attachment A** – Business & Professions Code 12240

**Attachment B** – Notice to Stakeholders Business & Professions Code 12240

**Attachment C** – Agricultural Commissioner's Fee Ordinance

**Contact Information:**

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