

**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: 9/6/02
Department Name: Treasurer-Tax Collector
Department No.: 065
Agenda Date: 9/24/02
Placement: Administrative
Estimate Time:
Continued Item: NO
If Yes, date from:

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Gary L. Feramisco
Treasurer-Tax Collector-Public Administrator
STAFF CONTACT: M. Kay Van Horn
Ext. 2499
SUBJECT: Indigent Burial

Recommendation(s):

That the Board of Supervisors:

- A. Approve an increase of Indigent Burial fees to \$1,175.00 effective October 1, 2002.

Alignment with Board Strategic Plan:

Goal No. I. Efficient Government: An efficient government able to anticipate and respond effectively to the needs of the community.

Executive Summary and Discussion:

On March 26, 1990, the Board of Supervisors approved the Deceased Indigent Program Policy that provided a fee of \$550 for cremation with remains scattered at sea and a \$75 embalming fee, based upon Santa Barbara providers' cost analyses.

Currently, burial services to the County are being provided by six funeral homes located in Santa Barbara, Lompoc and Santa Maria. A survey of the funeral homes shows that basic services to \$1,175 for a direct cremation and \$1,457 for an interment service. Since the Indigent Burial fees have not been increased since 1990, we feel that the \$550 increase to \$1,175 per burial amount is equitable.

Mandates and Service Levels:

The Welfare and Institutions Code, Section 17009 and Health and Safety Code 1700 provide that every County shall support its indigent population when relatives or friends or other means are not available which

includes burial. The Indigent Program is based upon the simplest disposition of cremation and remains scattered at sea.

There are no anticipated changes in programs or service levels.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

The fiscal impact to the General Fund for the remaining nine months would be \$12,375, and for Fiscal Year 2003-2004 the fiscal impact would be an increase of \$16,500, the additional costs will be absorbed with current budget allocations.

There are no facilities impacts.

Special Instructions:

Please send a copy of the Minute Order to: Attention: Kay Van Horn, Treasurer-Tax Collector Department

Concurrence:

None