

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE MATTER OF AMENDING CHAPTER 15 OF) RESOLUTION NO. 26-____
THE SANTA BARBARA COUNTY CODE AND)
ADOPTIN A REVISED FEE SCHEDULE)
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_____)

WHEREAS, on May 5, 2026, the Board of Supervisors introduced an Ordinance amending Chapter 15 of the Santa Barbara County Code and adopting a revised fee schedule; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the provisions of 50022.2 of the Government Code and Sections 17922, 17958, 17958.5, 17958.7 and 18941.5 of California Health and Safety Code, the County may adopt amendments, exceptions, modifications and additions to the provisions of the 2025 California Fire Code which are reasonable and necessary due to the unique characteristics of the local climatic, geological, or topographical conditions; and

WHEREAS, amendments, exceptions, modifications and additions to the 2025 California Fire Code comprises a portion of the Santa Barbara County Code, specifically Chapter 15, Fire Prevention; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara finds and declares, as required by Sections 1798.5, 17958.7, and 18941.5 of the California Health and Safety Code, that there exists in certain areas of Santa Barbara County conditions and situations that require modification of the 2025 California Fire Code for buildings and related construction, vegetation management, events and various activities requiring permits, and enforcement actions; and further, that these conditions and situations require specific legislative action to provide for the safety and health of the populace of the County; and

WHEREAS, on May 5, 2026, the Board of Supervisors held a hearing to consider the proposed ordinance containing the amendments in Exhibit A, attached hereto and incorporated by this reference; and

WHEREAS, the following unique characteristics of the local climatic, geological, or topographical conditions exist in the County of Santa Barbara:

- a) That Santa Barbara County is prone to extreme weather conditions, from hot, dry winds from the north and the east (Sundowner and Santa Ana winds), to strong westerly (coastal) winds, which greatly enhance the ability for fire to spread as reflected in devastating recent fires. In addition, the topographical layout and features of the county make the area subject to isolation should a flood or earthquake occur, which would prevent or severely limit and delay the north and south entities from giving or receiving mutual aid and emergency assistance;
- b) The present firefighting resources of this county are constrained in their efforts to control fires in large unsprinklered buildings within the urban limit boundary and all buildings outside of the urban limit boundary as designated in the county comprehensive plan;
- c) Geologic and topographic conditions in the county result in extended response times for firefighting resources, which may contribute to greater life and property loss in large unsprinklered buildings within the urban limit boundary and in all structures outside of the urban limit boundary; and

- d) Climatic conditions and flammable vegetation contribute to the extreme high fire hazard severity in the county, resulting in numerous wildland fires, which draw existing fire department resources from their structure protection areas for extended periods of time. This in turn extends response times, which may contribute to greater life and property loss in large unsprinklered buildings within the urban limit boundary and in all structures outside of the urban limit boundary.

WHEREAS, code amendments listed in Exhibit A are necessary and consistent with the intent of the 2025 California Fire Code based on the unique characteristics of the local climatic, geological, or topographical conditions; and

WHEREAS, a modification to Chapter 15 of the Santa Barbara County Code is reasonably necessary due to local climatic, geological, or topographical conditions;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HERE BY RESOLVED, by the County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors:

1. The above recitations are true and correct.
2. The Board of Supervisors makes the findings, attached in Exhibit A, that changes contained in the Santa Barbara County Code, Chapter 15, Fire Prevention are required in order to provide specific and greater protections to the public health, safety and welfare than are afforded by the California Fire Code. These changes are necessary due to the unique characteristics of the local climatic, geological or topographical conditions.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara, State of California, this ____ day of _____ 2026, by the following vote:

AYES:

NAYS:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

Bob Nelson, Chair
Board of Supervisors
County of Santa Barbara

ATTEST:

Mona Miyasato
County Executive Office
Clerk of the Board

By: _____
Deputy Clerk of the Board

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
Rachel Van Mullem
County Counsel

Signed by:
By: Tyler Sprague
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Deputy

APPROVED AS TO ACCOUNTING FORM:
Betsy Schaffer, CPA
Auditor-Controller

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By: [Signature]
6BAAEA15901943F...
Deputy Auditor-Controller

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
Marisa Kahn
Interim Risk Manager

Signed by:
By: Marisa Kahn
DF54F5C86F0C41A...

APPROVED:
Garrett Huff
Fire Chief

Signed by:
By: [Signature]
92B6B39EF689490...

Exhibit A

Non-Administrative Code Amendment Justification Matrix.

<i>ARTICLE I — SANTA BARBARA COUNTY CODE</i>		
Section Number	Amendment Description	Justification
Section 105	Amended the 2025 Chapter 15 by redefining and reducing permit types.	Footnotes (a), (b), (c) & (d)
Appendix A	Amended entire section to add appealable items and define process.	Footnotes (a), (b), (c) & (d)
Article V, Section 15-101	Updated fee schedule with index increase language and fee schedule additions and deletions throughout.	Footnotes (a), (b), (c) & (d)

Footnotes:

- (a) That Santa Barbara County is prone to extreme weather conditions, from hot, dry winds from the north and the east (Sundowner and Santa Ana winds), to strong westerly (coastal) winds, which greatly enhance the ability for fire to spread as reflected in devastating recent fires. In addition, the topographical layout and features of the county make the area subject to isolation should a flood or earthquake occur, which would prevent or severely limit and delay the north and south entities from giving or receiving mutual aid and emergency assistance;
- (b) The present firefighting resources of this county are constrained in their efforts to control fires in large unsprinklered buildings within the urban limit boundary and all buildings outside of the urban limit boundary as designated in the county comprehensive plan;
- (c) Geologic and topographic conditions in the county result in extended response times for firefighting resources, which may contribute to greater life and property loss in large unsprinklered buildings within the urban limit boundary and in all structures outside of the urban limit boundary; and
- (d) Climatic conditions and flammable vegetation contribute to the extreme high fire hazard severity in the county, resulting in numerous wildland fires, which draw existing fire department resources from their structure protection areas for extended periods of time. This in turn extends response times, which may contribute to greater life and property loss in large unsprinklered buildings within the urban limit boundary and in all structures outside of the urban limit boundary.