



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: Community Services
Department No.: 057
For Agenda Of: November 1, 2022
Placement: Set Hearing
Estimated Tme: 30 Minutes on
December 6, 2022
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department George Chapjian, Director of Community Services (805) 568-2467
Director(s)
Contact Info: Sherman Hansen, Community Services Business Manager (805)
568-3408
**SUBJECT: Proposed Countywide Fee Adjustments for Santa Barbara County Parks and
Services – Set Hearing**

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence:

As to form: N/A

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

On November 1, 2022, set a hearing on December 6, 2022 to consider adjustments to County parks fees for special events, aquatic programs, camping fees, and establishing new fees.

On December 6, 2022, your Board's actions should include the following:

- a) Adopt a Resolution (Attachment 1) that adjusts County Parks fees for special events, aquatic programs, camping fees, and establishes new fees;
- b) Determine that the above-recommended actions are statutorily exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Section 21080(b)(8) of the California Public Resources Code and CEQA Guidelines Section 15273(a)(1), (2), and (4) since CEQA does not apply to the establishment, modification, structuring, restructuring, or approval of rates, tolls, fares, or other charges by public agencies which the public agency finds are for the purpose of: (1) Meeting operating expenses, including employee wage rates and fringe benefits, (2) Purchasing or leasing supplies, equipment, or materials, and (3) Obtaining funds for capital projects necessary to maintain service within existing service areas.

Summary Text:

The Community Services Department is proposing adjustments to Parks fees in order to provide consistency with fees charged by similar jurisdictions. Parks fees were last updated in December 2019. After a review of our established park use fees, staff conducted a market survey to benchmark our camping and user fees against other park systems in the region. These fees adjustments help offset costs of operations and programming within the Parks Division. The Department gathered fee comparisons from adjacent public agencies, including the City of Santa Barbara, the County of Ventura and the County of San Luis Obispo. Of the 200 fees Parks charges, staff proposes to modify 64, eliminate 7, and establish 2 new fees.

With implementation of the proposed fee changes, staff estimates these adjustments will generate an additional \$700,000 annually in total revenue. The majority of this new revenue, approximately \$650,000, will come from camping fees. The additional revenues will help offset the rising cost of operations due to increases in salary and benefit costs, operations, and ongoing maintenance.

If approved by the Board of Supervisors, the fee adjustments would take effect on January 4, 2023.

Background:

Over the past several months, staff has gathered information from several agencies to determine if County fees are aligned with other jurisdictions. Staff determined that modifications of existing fees should be made and new fees should be added. Parks fees were last updated in December 2019.

The following highlights fee adjustments being proposed to the current fee schedule:

Day Use Parks

Staff is not recommending any adjustments to Group Area/Day use reservation or site fees as these sites are predominately used by County residents for small and medium sized gatherings, such as birthdays, graduations, retirements, etc.

Campground Fee Adjustments

Upon review of other agencies' camping fees, staff is recommending to increase 54 of the 99 already-approved camping fees, while proposing the elimination of six fees.

Staff Recommendations:

Reservation fee for campsites be increased from \$8 per reservation to \$10 per reservation to better align with benchmarking, and to offset the on-line reservation fee and credit card processing fees.

All Cachuma Lake group camping fees will be increased by 5%. Jalama Beach Abalone Point increase from \$280 per night to \$300; and Starfish Cove increase from \$250 to \$275 per night. Staff is also recommending that dry camping and R/V hookup fees be increased by \$5 per night, a range of 10%-20%, depending on site type and season. These fees were last adjusted in 2015.

The Extra Vehicle fee be increased from \$10 per night to \$15 per night to better align this fee with benchmarking research.

Increase County Resident Annual Day Use Vehicle passes, \$10 for senior and \$20 for non-senior.

Increase non-resident Annual Day Use Vehicle passes by \$30 for non-senior and \$10 for seniors.

Increase Annual Boat passes by \$10 for County residents and \$15 for non-residents.

The Cachuma Cabin fee be increased from \$175 to \$200 a night for holidays and weekends and from \$150 to \$175 per night for week nights.

“Off Season” rate for Cachuma cabins, from October 1st to March 31st, is to be eliminated as the occupancy rates for Cachuma cabins match those of Jalama Beach, which does not have an “Off Season” rate.

Jalama cabin rates be increased by \$10 per night, to \$250 per night for weekend and holidays and \$200 per night for weekday nights. Staff is not recommending any changes to the Jalama Affordable Cabin and Cachuma Lake Yurt fees.

Eliminate the Pet fee for both campgrounds as well as Pet Annual Vehicle pass, as this better aligns with benchmarking research. Note: This does not apply to our Pet Cabin fees, which incur additional cleaning costs.

The Cachuma Recreational vehicle storage rate be increased from \$75 per month to \$90 per month. And, that both the daily rate and annual rate be eliminated. For the past two years the storage facility has been full with a waiting list, so the daily rate has not been used. Benchmarking research showed that other recreational vehicle storage facilities do not offer annual rates.

Sports Fields

Due to greater demand for sports field usage, staff has updated the sports field use policy to give preference to local sports teams. The policy states that organizations comprised of 70% County residents will be given this preference. This policy was unanimously approved by the County Park Commission on August 25, 2022. Based on this new field use policy, staff is recommending the fees for the sports fields at Waller Park and Orcutt Community Park now be “tiered” from \$15 per hour to \$50 per hour based on type of usage. Staff is also recommending daily field use be “tiered” from \$150 to \$1,000 per day depending on usage. Staff is recommending to add a “Sports Field Daily-Tournament Usage” fee of a minimum of \$1,000 per day and a “Sports Field Security Deposit” fee of up to \$1,500. Staff does not anticipate these changes to increase the current fees paid by local youth groups.

Aquatics

Staff is recommending the Junior Lifeguard session fee be lowered from \$315 to \$250 and the Sibling rate be lowered from \$275 to \$225. This decrease in fees is due to the shortening of the sessions from three weeks to two weeks. Staff continues to evaluate the Junior Lifeguard programs and believe this modification will better align with program participant needs.

Facilities and Special Events

Staff is recommending wedding reservation fees for the Mural Room at the Courthouse be increased from \$400 to \$500, and Courthouse Sunken Garden weddings be increased from \$900 to \$1,000. Benchmarking research shows these two facilities are still the one of the lowest priced wedding venues in the County. Staff is also recommending the rental fee for the Auditorium at the Lompoc Veterans Building be increased from \$400 to \$600 and the rental fee for the Banquet room be increased from

\$200 to \$300. These fee increases will better align this facility with similar ones located in the Lompoc Valley.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Proposed fee changes for use of County parks, programs and services are listed below and highlighted in yellow; fees proposed for elimination are highlighted in green (Note: This is not the full fee schedule; for the comprehensive list of Parks fees, please refer to Attachment 4):

County of Santa Barbara, Community Services Department, Parks Division			
Day Use and Aquatic Fees January 2023			
Day Use	Current Fee (Jan 2020)	Proposed (Jan 2023)	Var. %
Reservation Fee	\$15	\$15	0%
Day Use Group Picnic Area - Capacity: Up to 25	\$50	\$50	0%
Day Use Group Picnic Area - Capacity: 26 - 75	\$75	\$75	0%
Day Use Group Picnic Area - Capacity: 76 - 100	\$100	\$100	0%
Day Use Group Picnic Area - Capacity: 101 - 200	\$125	\$125	0%
Day Use Group Picnic Area - Capacity: 201 - 300	\$200	\$200	0%
Day Use Group Picnic Area - Capacity: 301 +	\$300	\$300	0%
Utility (Bouncer) Fee	\$30	\$30	0%
Cancellation Fee	\$20	\$20	0%
Security Deposit	up to \$1,500	up to \$1,500	
Sports Field Fees-Orcutt Community and Waller Park			
	Current Fee	Proposed	Var. %
Sports Field Reservation Fee	\$15	\$15	0%
Sports Field Seasonal Use (per field)	min. \$1,000	min \$1,000	
Sports Field Hourly (per field)	\$15	\$15-\$50	
Sports Field Daily Use (per field)	\$150	\$150-\$500	
Sports Field Daily Use All Fields-Orcutt Community Park	\$300	\$300-\$1,000	
Sports Field Daily-Tournament Usage		min \$1,000	
Sports Field Security Deposit		up to \$1,500	
Junior Lifeguard Program			
	Current Fee	Proposed	
JG Standard rate (2 Week Session)	\$315	\$250	-21%
Sibling rate (2 Week Session)	\$275	\$225	-18%
Cancellation fee, up to 7 days before session begins	\$50	\$50	0%
Cancellation fee, no refunds given with less than 7 day notice			
T-Shirt	\$15	\$15	0%
Sweatshirt - Crew	\$25	\$25	0%
Sweatshirt - Hooded	\$30	\$30	0%
Rash guards	\$25	\$30	20%

County of Santa Barbara, Community Services Department, Parks Division			
Cachuma Fees January 2023			
	Current Fee (Jan 2020)	Proposed (Jan 2023)	Var. %
Camping			
Day Use			
Extra vehicle Drive In/Joiner	\$10.00	\$15.00	50%
Pet	\$3.00	\$0.00	-100%
Boat Launch Fee	\$13.00	\$15.00	15%
Annual Permits			
Annual Vehicle - County Resident	\$100.00	\$120.00	20%
Annual Vehicle - Non-Resident	\$120.00	\$150.00	25%
Pet Annual With Vehicle Annual - Per Pet	\$25.00	\$0.00	-100%
Senior Annual -County Resident	\$50.00	\$60.00	20%
Senior Annual - Non-Resident	\$60.00	\$70.00	17%
Boat Annual - County Resident	\$100.00	\$110.00	10%
Boat Annual - Non-Resident	\$125.00	\$140.00	12%
Replacement/Transfer of Annual Permit	\$3.00	\$5.00	67%
Eagle and Wildlife Lake Cruises			
Adult	\$15.00	\$18.00	20%
Child (12 and Under)/Seniors (62 and older)	\$10.00	\$12.00	20%
School Groups and Youth Organizations	\$5.00	\$6.00	20%
Other			
Non-Refundable Reservation Fee, Per Site Tent or RV Site	\$8.00	\$10.00	25%
Overnight			
Tent Sites Off-Peak	\$25.00	\$30.00	20%
Tent Sites Peak*	\$30.00	\$35.00	17%
Tent Sites Premium-Year Round	\$40.00	\$45.00	13%
Partial Hook-Up Off-Peak (no sewer)	\$40.00	\$45.00	13%
Partial Hook-Up Peak (no sewer)*	\$45.00	\$50.00	11%
Full Hook-Up Off-Peak	\$45.00	\$50.00	11%
Full Hook-Up Peak* (including Holidays)**	\$50.00	\$55.00	10%
Snow Bird Program	\$30.00	\$35.00	17%
*Peak season is from April 1 to September 30			
** Holidays included, New Years Day, MLK Day, Presidents Day, Memorial Day, Fourth of July, Labor Day, Thanksgiving and the day after, Christmas Day			

County of Santa Barbara, Community Services Department, Parks Division			
Cachuma Fees January 2023			
Camping	Current Fee (Jan 2020)	Proposed (Jan 2023)	Var. %
Cabins Weekend (incl Holiday weekends)	\$150-\$175	\$200.00	25%
Cabins Weekday	\$125-\$150	\$175.00	28%
Group Area Camping			
Group Area Reservation Fee	\$15.00	\$15.00	0%
Barona Butte (max 32)	\$220.00	\$230.00	5%
Barona Shores (max 32)	\$220.00	\$230.00	5%
El Dorado Vista- Area I (max 32)	\$220.00	\$230.00	5%
Chumash Meadows (max 32)	\$220.00	\$230.00	5%
Apache Sunrise (max 60)	\$400.00	\$420.00	5%
Pawnee Plateau (max 60)	\$400.00	\$420.00	5%
Dakota Plains (max 80)	\$550.00	\$575.00	5%
Apache Pines - Hook Ups (max 52)	\$500.00	\$525.00	5%
Mohawk Shores (max 88)	\$600.00	\$630.00	5%
Lanford Memorial (max 120)	\$825.00	\$865.00	5%
Cachuma - Live Oak Area			
Live Oak Reservation Fee	\$200.00	\$200.00	0%
Live Oak Site	\$1,400.00	\$1,600.00	14%
Security Deposit	up to \$1,500	up to \$1,500	
Recreational Vehicle Storage			
Daily Trailer Storage	\$10.00	\$0.00	-100%
Monthly Trailer Storage	\$75.00	\$90.00	20%
Annual Trailer Storage	\$750.00	\$0.00	-100%

Note: The Community Services Director or his/her designee have the authority to modify or waive fees in the event of system errors or double bookings, in periods of extreme vacancy and for marketing/promotional purposes.

County of Santa Barbara, Community Services Department, Parks Division			
Jalama Beach Fees January 2023			
	Current (Jan 2020)	Proposed (Jan 2023)	Var. %
Camping			
Overnight			
Tent Sites Off-Peak	\$30.00	\$35.00	17%
Tent Sites Peak*	\$35.00	\$40.00	14%
Tent Sites Premium	\$50.00	\$55.00	10%
Electrical Hook-Up Off-Peak	\$45.00	\$50.00	11%
Electrical Hook-Up Peak (including holidays)*	\$50.00	\$55.00	10%
* Peak season is from April 1 to September 30. Holidays included, New Year's Day, MLK Day, Presidents Day, Memorial Day, Fourth of July, Labor Day, Thanksgiving and the day after, Christmas Day			
Cabins			
Non-Refundable Reservation Fee - Cabins	\$20.00	\$20.00	0%
Late Check-Out	\$35.00	\$35.00	0%
Cabins Weekend (incl Holiday weekends)	\$240.00	\$250.00	4%
Cabins Weekday	\$190.00	\$200.00	5%
Miramar Funded Cabins (Affordable Accommodations)			
Cabins Weekend (incl Holiday weekends)	\$120.00	\$120.00	0%
Cabins Weekday	\$90.00	\$90.00	0%
Group Area Camping			
Group Area Reservation Fee	\$15.00	\$15.00	0%
Abalone Point (max 20)	\$280.00	\$300.00	7%
Starfish Cove (max 32)	\$250.00	\$275.00	10%
Note: The Community Services Director or his/her designee have the authority to modify or waive fees in the event of system errors or double bookings, in periods of extreme vacancy and for marketing/promotional purposes.			

County of Santa Barbara, Community Services Department			
Facility and Event Fees January 2023			
Special Events	Current Fee (Jan 2020)	Proposed Fee (Jan 2023)	Var. %
Courthouse Garden and Interior Weddings			
	Current Fee	Proposed Fee	Var. %
Admin Fee (non-refundable)	\$200	\$200	0%
Courthouse Gardens	\$900	\$1,000	11%
Mural Room*** - Capacity 100	\$400	\$500	25%
Cancellation fee, up to 60 days before event	50% of Rate Paid	50% of Rate Paid	
Security Deposit	up to \$1,500	up to \$1,500	
***Private use in 2 hour increments.			
Lompoc Vets			
	Current Fee	Proposed Fee	Var. %
Admin Fee (non-refundable)	\$40	\$40	0%
Auditorium Room	\$400	\$600	50%
Banquet Room	\$200	\$300	50%
Conference Room	\$30/hr	\$30/hr	
Kitchen	\$200	\$200	0%
Cleaning Fee	Hourly Billable Rate	Hourly Billable Rate	
Staff/Monitor Fee	Hourly Billable Rate	Hourly Billable Rate	
Security Fee	Hourly Billable Rate	Hourly Billable Rate	
Security Deposit	up to \$1,500	up to \$1,500	
*50% discount for non-profits (IRS Code Section 501c3) on room rental.			
Cachuma Rec Hall			
	Current Fee	Proposed Fee	Var. %
Recreation Hall*	\$30/hr 2 hrs min	\$30/hr 2 hrs min	
Kitchen Fee	\$100	\$100	0%
Security Deposit	up to \$1,500	up to \$1,500	
*50% discount off full day rental rate for Group Campers			

Fiscal Analysis:

The proposed fee schedule will not meet the County’s full cost recovery policy when compared to program expenditures. The department determined that to set fees at full cost recovery would be cost prohibitive to the public for such services. The recommended fee modifications would provide the Parks division an estimated additional \$700,000 in revenue. These fees help off-set the rising cost of salaries and benefits, operations, and ongoing maintenance. If approved by the Board of Supervisors, the fee adjustments will take effect on January 4, 2023 for uses and reservations made on or after that date.

Special Instructions:

After the November 1, 2022 Hearing, direct the Clerk of the Board to:

1. Publish a Notice of Public Hearing pursuant to Section 6066 of the California Government Code (publish within 5 and 11 days before the hearing) in the Santa Barbara News-Press and the Santa Maria Times; and
2. Send a copy of the minute order and a signed copy of the Notice of Public Hearing to the Community Services Department, Attention: Sherman Hansen, shansen@countyofsb.org

Attachments:

Attachment 1 – Resolution

Attachment 2 – Fee Benchmarks

Attachment 3 – PowerPoint Presentation

Attachment 4 – Fee Schedule

Attachment 5 – Notice of Public Hearing