



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

Submitted on:
(COB Stamp)

Department Name: Community Services
Department No.: 057
Agenda Date: July 15, 2025
Placement: Administrative Agenda
Estimated Time: N/A
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from: N/A
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Director(s): Jesús Armas, Director of Community Services
Contact: Sherman Hansen, Business Manager, Community Services
SUBJECT: **Fee Waiver Request for Use of Courthouse Sunken Gardens by Old Spanish Days' Fiesta Celebration, July 26 - August 3, 2025 (Supervisory District 1)**

DS
JL

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: Risk

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Pursuant to Santa Barbara County Code Section 26-5, authorize the Community Services Director to waive site use, set up, and break down fees for use of the Historic Santa Barbara County Courthouse Sunken Gardens by Old Spanish Days in Santa Barbara, Inc., a 501(c)(3) organization, for the Fiesta Celebration from July 26 to August 3, 2025 (Total of 9 Calendar Days), in the amount of \$6,600; and
- b) Request Old Spanish Days in Santa Barbara, Inc. publicly acknowledge the County's assistance in making the facilities available for the event; and
- c) Authorize the Community Service Director to approve fee waivers for the next three Old Spanish Days events, through August 2028, given there is no substantial change to the event format; and
- d) Determine that the above recommended actions are exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guideline Section 15323, which consists of the normal operations of existing facilities for public gatherings for which the facilities were designed where there is a part history of the facility being used for the same or similar kind of purpose.

Summary Text:

Old Spanish Days has been hosting Fiesta Celebrations as an annual event in Santa Barbara for many years and is again this year requesting to waive \$6,600 in fees for the Old Spanish Days celebration from July 26 – August 3, 2025, a total of 9 days. The Board of Supervisors waived these fees in 2019 in the amount of \$8,567. The Board also waived these fees in 2022, 2023 and 2024, in the amount of \$6,600. The 2020 and 2021 events were canceled due to COVID. Staff does not recommend that the Board waive fees for security monitoring and ranger overtime in the amount of \$4,500, or waive the refundable security deposit in the amount of \$1,500.

Discussion:

Old Spanish Days, a 501(c)(3) organization, reserves the Santa Barbara Sunken Gardens annually to showcase and celebrate the past Spanish heritage of Santa Barbara. This year’s event is scheduled for three set up days, three event days, and one breakdown day, with two “off days” between set up and event days. For the event days, County Parks provides overtime Park Ranger and event security monitors for the Sunken Gardens.

The breakdown of Set up, Site use and Break down fees are as follows:

Set up and Rehearsal	\$1,575*
Site use	\$4,500*
Break down	\$525*
Total =	\$6,600*

*** Fees shown are the Non-Profit rate, 50% of Full Price rates.**

\$6,600 – Amount requested to be waived by the Board of Supervisors

Background:

Since 2011, Old Spanish Days has reserved the Courthouse through the Santa Barbara County Parks Division for a Board-approved fee at the discounted non-profit rate. Prior to 2011, the General Services Department was responsible for overseeing this event along with collection of use fees.

During event showcases and rehearsals, all the dancers utilize the interior Anacapa Gallery and Figueroa Hallway area as a green room for performance preparation. The interior is monitored by overtime facilities personnel provided by General Services, who also instruct security of event job duties.

The following fees have not been waived in the past and staff recommends continuance of this practice.

Park Ranger and General Services Facilities Personnel Overtime and Monitoring Fees - \$4,500
Security Deposit (Refundable) - \$1,500

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

This reduction in Park revenues has been incorporated into Parks Fiscal Year 2025/26 Adopted budget.

Fiscal Analysis:

Funding Source	FY [25/26]	FY [26/27]	FY [27/28]	Total
General Fund	6,600	6,600	6,600	19,800
State				
Federal				
Fees				
[Other Source]				
Total	6,600	6,600	6,600	19,800

Special Instructions:

After Board action, please distribute Minute Order to Sherman Hansen at Shansen@countyofsb.org

Attachments:

Attachment A – 2025-Fiesta Schedule Financial Breakdown

Contact Information:

Sherman Hansen
CSD Business Manager
Shansen@countyofsb.org