



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: January 5, 2016
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Tme: NA
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: Ryder Bailey, CFO (805) 568-3526

SUBJECT: Proposed Adjustment to Parks Fee Schedule – Removal of Vehicle Tow-In Fee

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence:

As to form: N/A

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Adopt a resolution adjusting County Parks Fees to remove the camping vehicle tow-in fee at Cachuma Lake and Jalama Beach (the “Resolution”) (Attachment A); and
- b) Determine that the adoption of the Resolution is 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), (3) 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, (3) Meeting financial reserve needs and requirements, (4) Obtaining funds for capital projects necessary to maintain service within existing service areas and direct staff to file the attached Notice of Exemption on that basis (Attachment B).

Summary Text:

Based on continued review of camping fees at Cachuma Lake and Jalama Beach, it is recommended that the Board of Supervisors approve the removal of the camping vehicle “tow-in” fee from the existing fee schedule. This adjustment will provide greater consistency with fees charged by similar jurisdictions at camping park locations in the market area. The Community Services Department gathered additional

feedback from line staff and customers on the newly implemented fee. Based on the feedback and continued study, Staff recommends that the Board remove the camping vehicle “tow-in” fees as discussed further below.

On December 10th, 2015 the Santa Barbara County Park Commission unanimously recommended that the Board of Supervisors .

If approved by the Board of Supervisors, the fee adjustment would take effect January 5th, 2016.

Background: On June 2, 2015 the Board of Supervisors approved the adjustments of fees for use of park facilities. Included in those fees was a new \$10 per day vehicle tow-in fee. The vehicle tow-in fee would be charged if a customer towed in a smaller vehicle (e.g., an RV towing in an attached sedan). The tow-in fee was designed to function similarly to the \$10 joiner fee for campers that had more than one vehicle.

Over the past few months, the Department has received negative feedback from customers to the new vehicle tow-in fee that was approved as part of the recent Parks Fee Adjustment. As a result of the feedback, Parks Management performed additional review and comparison to other camping parks, and determined that the tow-in fee was not aligned with industry practices.

In other camping parks, vehicles that are attached and towed in by a larger vehicle are considered to be one unit, and charged as one unit. In better aligning fees with other camping parks, the County can remain competitive, ensure customer satisfaction, and continue to see customers return to our camping parks.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

The following adjustment is proposed to the current fee structure:

Camping	Cachuma		Jalama	
	Current Fee	Proposed Fee	Current Fee	Proposed Fee
Other				
Tow-in	\$10	\$0	\$10	\$0

No other changes to the existing fee schedule are proposed at this time.

Fiscal Analysis:

Year to date 123 tow-in fee transactions have occurred, totaling \$3,600 in revenues. However, the removal of the vehicle tow-in fee will align more closely to fees charged in similar camping parks.

Special Instructions:

Please send a copy of the signed resolution to the Community Services Department, Attention: Marie Gensler.

Attachments:

Attachment A: Resolution

Attachment B: CEQA Notice of Exemption

Exhibit 1: Parks Fee Schedule