



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:** May 19, 2015  
**Placement:** Set Hearing  
**Estimated Tme:** 30 Minutes on June 2,  
2015  
**Continued Item:** No  
**If Yes, date from:**  
**Vote Required:** Majority

---

**TO:** Board of Supervisors  
**FROM:** Department Renee Bahl, Interim Director of Community Services (805) 568-  
Director(s) 3407  
Contact Info: Ryder Bailey, CFO (805) 568-3526  
**SUBJECT: Proposed Countywide Fee Adjustments for Santa Barbara County Parks and  
Services – Set Hearing**

---

**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:

On May 19, 2015, set a hearing on June 2, 2015 to consider adjustments to County parks fees for special use of day use park facilities and camping fees, and establishing new fees.

On June 2, 2015, your Board's actions should include the following:

- a) Adopt a resolution adjusting County parks fees for special use of day use park facilities and camping fees, and establishing new fees. (the "Resolution") (Attachment 3); 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 4).

## **Summary Text:**

Based on a recently conducted survey for camping and user fees at Cachuma Lake and Jalama Beach, as well as user fees within the day use parks, it is recommended that the Board of Supervisors approve recommended adjustments of County parks fees. These adjustments will provide consistency with fees charged by similar jurisdictions at park locations for aquatic facilities, programs, and services in the market area. The Community Services 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 (Attachment 2). Staff recommends that the Board modify specific special use fees in day use parks and camping fees and establish new fees for services as discussed further below.

With implementation of the proposed fee changes, staff estimates these adjustments will generate approximately \$180,000 in additional revenue, of which approximately \$160,000 is from additional camping revenue and \$20,000 from wedding revenue beginning in Fiscal Year 2015-2016. The additional revenue will help partially off-set the rising cost of operations due to increases in employee costs, operations and continued ongoing maintenance.

On March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2015 the Santa Barbara County Park Commission unanimously recommended that the Board of Supervisors approved the adjustment of fees for use of park facilities and establishment of new fees for park use.

If approved by the Board of Supervisors, the fee adjustments would take effect on July 1, 2015.

## **Background:**

Over the past several months, staff has gathered information from several agencies to determine if County parks fees are aligned with other jurisdictions. Staff determined that minor modifications of existing fees should be made, and new fees should be established (see Attachment 1).

The following fee adjustments are proposed to the current fee structure:

### Special Use (Day Use Parks)

Staff recommends adjustments to the reservation fees for Special Uses in County day use parks. Special Use events have a larger impact on parks than regular day use site rentals. The current reservation fee is \$100 and the proposed reservation fee is \$200. The proposed change more appropriately reflects the amount of time it takes to reserve and coordinate field staff with a special event. Additionally, staff proposes to increase our reservation fee at Orcutt Park Sports Field by \$5 to \$15.

### Courthouse

Parks currently offers six different areas at the Courthouse that are available to rent for private use events at fees ranging from \$175-\$700 for a 3 hour rental period; an additional non-refundable reservation fee of \$100 is required. Parks current policy is to only rent one area out at a time, so that events don't interfere with each other. Staff proposes a \$50 increase across the five most used sites and the removal of one site, Redwoods, due to lack of usage. The increase is within the local benchmarks for weddings, commonly on the lower end. Staff proposes that the non-refundable reservation fee be increased to \$200. Increasing the non-refundable reservation fee and modifying the cancellation policy for weddings will cut down on unnecessary staff time spent on the 20% of reservations that are

cancelled. It also ensures that sites are available to those members of the public who will use it, as these events can be planned up to one year in advance.

*Dog Wash Services*

Parks proposes a fee of \$10 per wash to cover costs of maintaining and stocking the dog wash station. This is the same rate that was charged by the concessionaire who formerly ran the dog wash station.

*Camping Fee Adjustments – Cachuma Lake and Jalama Beach*

Upon review of other agencies' camping fees, staff has found that comparable camping fees have increased across the region. Changes are proposed to partially cover the rising costs of maintenance and overhead expenses associated with County camping parks, and will more closely align with other agencies' camping parks (see Attachment 2). It is therefore recommended that camping fees increase by \$2 at the County's two camping parks, Cachuma Lake and Jalama Beach. This proposed change will impact all Peak, Non-Peak, and Premium camping sites as well as RV hook-up sites.

In addition, we are proposing that the reservation fee for tent sites and hook-ups increase from \$6.50 to \$7.

Additionally, comparable cabin and yurt fees have increased across the region. Changes are proposed to help partially cover the rising costs of maintenance expenses associated with County cabins, and to more closely align with other camping parks in the region. It is therefore recommended that cabin fees increase between \$5 - \$10 (4%-11%) at Cachuma Lake and Jalama Beach camping parks and that yurt fees at Cachuma Lake increase by \$5 (6%-8%).

Staff proposes a new fee for pets staying overnight in our cabins due to increased staff time for cleaning. The fee would be \$20/night per pet, with a maximum of two pets per cabin. This fee will not apply to properly licensed service animals. This new fee would be paid in addition to the already established pet entry fee.

Lastly, changes in fees are proposed for our group camping areas. These fees were last modified in 2011. The proposed 7%-10% increase in rates will align our group camping costs with our individual site costs increases. In addition, staff is proposing that the Snow Bird program fee increase from \$20 nightly to \$30 nightly due to the overwhelming popularity of the program, and the significant discount off nightly rental prices.

In addition to modifying existing fees to offset rising costs, staff suggests the following new fees;

In addition, staff proposes a fee of \$10 for tow-in vehicles, which Parks had previously only charged to day use and drive-ins, as vehicles towed in take up parking space.

Parks currently charges \$50 for an annual day use entry for household's second vehicle and \$25 for an annual day use entry pass for the third vehicle. Parks proposes eliminating these distinctions and charging \$50 for an annual day use entry pass for each additional vehicle of the same household.

*Recreational Vehicle Storage*

Upon review of the current trailer storage fees, staff recommends the removal trailer towing fee and the impound fee as the County no longer provides this services. Lastly, a daily trailer storage fee of \$10

will be added, this fee will supplement existing monthly and annual storage fees, which will remain unchanged

The proposed additional \$180,000 in revenue, of which \$20,000 is from the wedding revenue and \$160,000 from camping fee adjustments, will help off-set the rising cost of operations due to increases in employee costs and continued ongoing maintenance. If approved by the Board of Supervisors, the fee adjustments will take effect on July 1, 2015 for reservations made on or after that date.

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

Proposed fee changes for use of County parks, programs and services are listed below:

**County of Santa Barbara, Community Services Department, Parks Division – Fees**

<b>Special Use (Day Use Parks)</b>	<b>Current Fee</b>	<b>Proposed Fee</b>
Reservation Fee	\$100	\$200

  

<b>Orcutt Park</b>	<b>Current Fee</b>	<b>Proposed Fee</b>
Sports Field Reservation Fee	\$10	\$15

  

<b>Dog Wash Services</b>	<b>Current Fee</b>	<b>Proposed Fee</b>
Sports Field Reservation Fee	\$10	\$10

  

<b>Courthouse</b>	<b>Current Fee</b>	<b>Proposed Fee</b>
Reservation Fee (non-refundable)	\$100	\$200
Rotunda - Capacity 25	\$175	\$225
Bird of Paradise - Capacity 40	\$300	\$350
Fiesta Stage - Capacity 75	\$500	\$550
Redwood - Capacity 100	\$550	N/A
Palm Terrace - Capacity 175	\$625	\$675
Sunken Gardens - Capacity 200	\$700	\$750
Cancellation fee, up to 60 days before event	N/A	50% of Rate Paid

  

<b>Junior Lifeguard Program</b>	<b>Current Fee</b>	<b>Proposed Fee</b>
Sweatshirt – Hooded	N/A	\$25

Camping	Cachuma		Jalama	
	Current Fee	Proposed Fee	Current Fee	Proposed Fee
<b>Other</b>				
Non-Refundable Reservation Fee, Per Site				
Tent or RV Site	\$6.50	\$7	\$6.50	\$7
Extra Vehicle Drive In/Joiner/Tow-in	\$10	\$10	\$10	\$10
Add'l Annual Vehicle (same household only)	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50
3 <sup>rd</sup> Annual Vehicle (Same Household only)	\$25	\$0	\$25	\$0
Pet Annual with Vehicle Annual – Per Pet	\$20	\$25	\$20	\$25
Lake Cruise – Adult	\$15	\$17		
Cachuma Recreation Hall half day	\$50	\$75		
Cachuma Recreation Hall full day	\$100	\$150		
Daily Trailer Storage	\$0	\$10		
<b>Overnight</b>				
Tent Sites Off Peak	\$23	\$25	\$23	\$25
Tent Sites Peak	\$28	\$30	\$28	\$30
Tent Sites Premium	\$38	\$40	\$43	\$45
Basic Hook-Up Off Peak	\$38	\$40	\$38	\$40
Basic Hook-Up Peak	\$43	\$45	\$43	\$45
Full Hook-Up Off Peak	\$43	\$45		
Full Hook-Up Peak	\$48	\$50		
Snow Bird Program	\$20	\$30	\$20	\$30
Yurt Small	\$60	\$65		
Yurt Medium	\$70	\$75		
Yurt Large	\$85	\$90		
<b>Cabins</b>				
<i>Cabins Peak</i>				
Cabins Weekend (incl Holiday weekends)	\$135	\$140	\$210	\$220
Cabins Weekday	\$110	\$120	\$160	\$170
<i>Cabins Off Peak</i>				
Cabins Weekend (incl Holiday weekends)	\$110	\$120	\$185	\$195
Cabins Weekday	\$90	\$100	\$110	\$120
Pet Fee/Night (per pet, max 2)	N/A	\$20	N/A	\$20
<b>Group Camping</b>				
Barona Butte	\$200	\$220		
Barona Shores	\$200	\$220		
El Dorado Vista-Area I	\$200	\$220		
El Dorado Vista-Area II	\$200	\$220		
Apache Sunrise	\$375	\$400		
Pawnee Plateau	\$375	\$400		
Apache Pines – Hook Ups	\$455	\$500		
Dakota Plains	\$500	\$550		
Mohawk Shores	\$550	\$600		
Lanford Memorial	\$750	\$825		
Live Oak	\$1,000	\$1,100		
Abalone Point (Previously Area C)			\$200	\$220
Starfish Cove (Previously Area D)			\$200	\$220

**Fiscal Analysis:**

The new proposed fee structure will help to partially off-set the cost of operations, maintenance and administrative services for specific uses, programs and services at County parks and facilities.

**Special Instructions:**

After the May 19, 2015 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: Marie Gensler.

**Attachments:**

- Attachment 1 – Fee Schedule
- Attachment 2 – Fee Benchmarks
- Attachment 3 – Resolution
- Attachment 4 – CEQA Notice of Exemption
- Attachment 5 – PowerPoint Presentation