

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

**IN THE MATTER OF ADOPTING FEES)
FOR ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH)
SERVICES RELATING TO WATER)
WELLS AND PRIVATE WATER)
SYSTEMS)**

RESOLUTION NO. 25-109

WHEREAS, Chapter 34A §34A-5 of the Santa Barbara County Code (County Code) relating to wells provides that the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors may by resolution modify the fees set forth therein relating to water well construction, destruction, inactivation and inspection; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 34A §34A-5, subdivision (b)(4), of the County Code provides for a supplemental hourly fee to be charged to applicants for any inspection service including staff time in excess of the hourly time limit, as established in the fee resolution for permit processing and related inspections; and

WHEREAS, Resolution 22-157 was adopted on June 28, 2022 as local and State proclamation of emergency drought conditions in Santa Barbara County per Executive Order N-7-22 imposing temporary permit review and processing provisions on local water well permitting agencies (Executive Order); and

WHEREAS, Chapter 34B §34B-11 of the County Code relating to domestic water systems provides that the Board of Supervisors may modify the fees set forth therein for applications for domestic water system permits; and

WHEREAS, California Health and Safety Code §§116340(c) and 101325 provide that the Board of Supervisors may adopt a resolution prescribing fees to pay the reasonable expenses of the health officer incurred in the enforcement of any statute or regulation relating to public health; and

WHEREAS, the present fees for certain specified services have remained unchanged since the adoption of Resolution 22-157, effective June 28, 2022; and

WHEREAS, this Resolution will repeal Resolution 22-157; and

WHEREAS, the fees established by this resolution will recover the costs of administering and enforcing the California Health and Safety Code and Chapters 34A and 34B of the County Code; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors finds that the fees set forth in this resolution are exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review pursuant to 14 CCR 15273 and Public Resources Code §21080, subd. (b)(8)(A) and (B), in that the fees will be used for operating expenses and for the purchase of supplies, equipment and materials; and

WHEREAS, the County of Santa Barbara has, in connection with the above fees, held a public hearing as part of a regularly scheduled meeting and published notice of the meeting, including a general description of the matter to be considered, in accordance with Government Code § 6062a; and

WHEREAS, the fees may be revised as needed by the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors, and if the revision does not occur, the existing fees shall remain in effect.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, DETERMINED AND ORDERED:

1. That the permitting, service, administration, and enforcement fees which are set forth in the attached schedule of fees, are hereby adopted pursuant to Chapters 34A and 34B of the County Code and §116340(c) and §101325 of the California Health and Safety Code. Said fees are to be assessed against all applicants and persons as defined in Chapters 34A and 34B and against all persons as defined in §116275, subdivision (g) of the Health and Safety Code. Said fees are to become effective July 12, 2025.
2. The Director of Environmental Health Services shall annually review and may adjust fees adopted herein pursuant to the changes to the Consumer Price Index (CPI). Adjustments shall be rounded to the nearest dollar and become effective no earlier than July 1 of each year and appropriate notice shall be provided to the public 60 days prior to the adjustment effective date. Consumer Price Index adjustments shall be based on the All Urban Consumers, Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County area and shall use the percent change of that index from January through December of the year prior to the effective date.
3. Resolution 22-157, effective June 28, 2022, is hereby repealed on the above-mentioned date that the fees imposed by this resolution become effective. The repeal of Resolution 22-157 shall not affect any obligation to pay any fees incurred under said resolution, and such obligation shall continue in effect after said resolution is repealed, and the County of Santa Barbara may take any appropriate action in regard to any delinquent fees imposed pursuant to said resolution.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara, State of California, this 13th day of May, 2025, by the following vote:

AYES: Supervisors Lee, Capps and Hartmann

NOES: Supervisor Nelson

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Supervisor Lavagnino

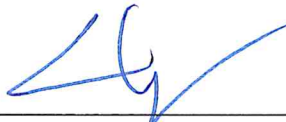
ATTEST:

Mona Miyasato
County Executive Officer
Clerk of the Board

By: 
Deputy Clerk

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA:

Laura Capps

By: 
Chair, Board of Supervisors

Date: 5-13-25


RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL:

Mouhanad Hammami, Director
Public Health Department

By: 
CD0E0674C89245C...
Department Head

APPROVED AS TO ACCOUNTING FORM:

Betsy M. Schaffer, CPA
Auditor-Controller

By: 
6BAAFE15901943F...
Deputy

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Rachel Van Mullem
County Counsel

By: 
B881EBAD8CD448F...
Deputy County Counsel

**SANTA BARBARA COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES (EHS) FEE SCHEDULE**

WATER WELLS AND PRIVATE WATER SYSTEMS

1. Water Wells, Fixed Permit Fees

A fee is required for review and approval of permit applications for construction, destruction, modification or inactivation of a water well, including a geothermal and cathodic protection well. Permit fees include inspection of well sites, construction evaluation and final clearance.

	<u>Fee</u>
Water Well Construction or Modification Permit	\$ 1,239
Water Well Destruction	\$ 938

2. Water Wells, Hourly Rate \$ 214 per hour

An hourly rate fee shall be determined by the number of person-hours, rounded up to the nearest one-quarter hour, including reasonable travel time, actually expended by Environmental Health Services of the Public Health Department (hereafter, Environmental Health Services) personnel in performing the following services:

- A. Inspections required to gain compliance with provisions of Chapters 34A of the County Code.
- B. Re-inspections (each occurrence) – Follow-up investigations and/or re-inspections when violations remain uncorrected after an original inspection. The hourly rate shall apply to the reinspection and all subsequent re-inspections, including reasonable travel time, until all violations have been corrected.
- C. The abatement of nuisances or hazards resulting from the well drilling operation.
- D. Services provided by Environmental Health Services for the inspection or evaluation of well(s) constructed, modified or destroyed without a permit(s), as required in Chapter 34A of the County Code (such hourly rate shall be in addition to the permit fee(s) subsequently charged pursuant to this resolution).

3. Private State Small Water System Construction, Fixed Fees

All proposed new State Small water systems must submit a Plan Review Application, on a form approved by the Director of Environmental Health Services, with the appropriate fee. Plan review fees includes plan and system specification review, approval/disapproval, construction inspection(s), final approval and occupancy clearance. Plans that are found to be unsatisfactory will be returned for revision or denied. Systems that have been operating without benefit of permit will be subject to all applicable fees.

State Small Water System Application	\$ 3,042
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4. Private Single- and Multi-Parcel Water System Construction, Alteration/Modification, Fixed Fees

A permit fee is required for the construction or alteration/modification of private domestic water supply systems. Construction permit fees shall be based on the number of connections, as defined in Santa Barbara County Code, Chapter 34B, §34B-2, served by a private domestic water system. This permit process shall include construction plan and system specification review, approval/disapproval, construction inspection(s), water sampling and analysis, final approval and

occupancy clearance. All alterations/modifications of existing Private Water Systems require a flat, fixed fee.

Single Parcel Water System (1-4 connections) ¹	\$ 2,479
Multiple Parcel Water System (2-4 connections)	\$ 2,161
Single or Multiple Parcel Water System Alteration/Modification	\$ 1,538

5. Private State Small Water Systems, Annual Fees

An annual operating fee is required for state small water systems under the jurisdiction of the Health Officer for inspection, surveillance, administration and enforcement activities. The annual fee for state small water systems is based on the number of service connections, as defined in Santa Barbara County Code Chapter 34B, §34B-2, of the water system and does not include the costs of bacteriological water sampling.

State Small Water System (5-14 connections)	\$ 1,061
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6. Private Water Systems, Hourly Rate \$ 214 per hour

An hourly rate fee shall be determined by the number of person-hours, rounded up to the nearest one quarter hour, including reasonable travel time, actually expended by Environmental Health Services personnel in performing inspections, evaluations, and enforcing Chapter 34B of the County Code and Health and Safety Code §116340, including the following services:

- A. Modification/Amendment to State Small Water System Permit;
- B. Evaluation of water systems constructed or modified without having obtained permits as required in Chapter 34B of the County Code or in state law (such hourly rate shall be charged in addition to the permit fees subsequently charged pursuant to this resolution);
- D. Special inspections or consultations requested by operators or prospective new facility operators;
- E. Notices of Violation – Preparation, issuance and monitoring of compliance in conjunction with a Notice of Violation or other enforcement action.

7. Additional Program Charges

Photocopies each	\$ 0.35	
Returned Check fee		\$ 41.00
*Clerk of the Board CEQA Processing Fee		\$ 50.00
*CEQA Filing Fee(s)		<i>As set by California Fish and Wildlife</i>

*Fees that are required by the Santa Barbara County Clerk of the Board for filing California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) documents, if applicable.

8. Delinquent Fees

Fees that are invoiced by Environmental Health Services, as outlined in this fee resolution, which are not paid by the due date on the invoice shall be considered delinquent, and the following additional charges added:

¹Single parcel and multiple parcel water systems are defined in Section 34B-2 of Chapter 34B of the County Code. State small water systems are defined in California Health and Safety Code Section 116275 and Section 34B-2 of Chapter 34B of the County Code.

- A. For the first 30 days of delinquency, any unpaid portion will have a penalty of 10% assessed.
- B. After 30 days of delinquency, an additional penalty of 15% of the unpaid balance will be assessed, and a Final Notice will be issued.
- C. If the fee, and any penalty assessed pursuant to this resolution, is not paid within three weeks from the date on the Final Notice, the unpaid balance may be referred to either the Santa Barbara County Treasurer/Tax Collector's office or the County's contracted collection agency for collection. In addition to the fee(s) and any penalties associated with delinquent fee(s) as described above, accounts referred for collection shall be charged for the actual cost associated with collection efforts. The delinquency fees are in addition to any other remedies available to the County.
- D. If any person required to pay a fee pursuant to this resolution has an outstanding balance due for any service rendered by Environmental Health Services, any past due amount shall be paid before Environmental Health Services will approve a subsequent application from that person or renewal of an existing permit for that person, unless such past due amount is waived or reduces as provided in this resolution.

9. Contest of Charges

Any person required to pay fees or charges pursuant to this resolution may file a written notice of contest of charges accompanied by such materials as will support the claim for relief, including payment in full as invoiced, with the Director (or designee) of Environmental Health Services for determination of the correct amount of fees due under this resolution.

Such written notice shall be filed with the Director (or designee) within 45 days after mailing or personal delivery of the fee invoice or other notification of fees due. This period may be extended by the Director upon a showing of good cause. Upon receipt of such written notice of contest of fees, the Director (or designee) shall make a decision on said contested fees. The decision shall be final with no further right of review. Failure to include payment in full as invoiced will result in denial of review.

Refunds made as a result of this process shall be paid by Environmental Health Services and shall not include interest.

10. Fee Waiver

Any person required to pay fees or charges pursuant to this fee resolution may file a written application, including payment in full as invoiced, with the Board of Supervisors for a waiver or reduction of any said fees, or any part thereof. The Board of Supervisors may waive or reduce the fees to the extent permitted by law and public policy, upon a showing of good cause by the applicant. The application shall be filed with the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors within 45 days after mailing or personal delivery of the fee invoice. Failure to include payment in full as invoiced will result in denial of review.

Refunds made as a result of this process shall be paid by Environmental Health Services and shall not include interest.