



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AGENDA LETTER

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Agenda Number:

Submitted on:
(COB Stamp)

Department Name: County Health
Department No.: 041
Agenda Date: April 8, 2025 (Set Hearing)
May 13, 2025 (First Reading)
June 3, 2025 (Second Reading)
Placement: Set-Hearing
Estimated Time: 60 minutes on May 13, 2025
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Mouhanad Hammami, Director, County Health Department
Contact Info: Jason Johnston, Environmental Health Services Director 805-346-8463
SUBJECT: Environmental Health Services Fees

Signed by:
Mouhanad Hammami
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County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: N/A

As to form: N/A

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

On April 8, 2025, set a hearing on the Departmental Agenda of May 13, 2025 to consider recommendations regarding Environmental Health Services fee resolutions and ordinances, excluding fees related to retail food facilities;

On May 13, 2025:

- a) Receive and file a presentation regarding Environmental Health Services' Fee Schedule Resolutions and Ordinances;
- b) Adopt a Resolution amending fees for Environmental Health Services relating to Public Swimming Pools;
- c) Adopt a Resolution amending fees for Environmental Health Services relating to Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems, Pumping, Maintenance and Disposal Services, Sewage Violation Inspections, and Land Development Review Services;
- d) Adopt a Resolution amending fees for Environmental Health Services relating to Organized Camps and Housing Complaint Inspections;

- e) Adopt a Resolution amending fees for Environmental Health Services relating to Body Art;
- f) Adopt a Resolution amending fees for Environmental Health Services relating to Public Water Systems (California Safe Drinking Water Act);
- g) Adopt a Resolution amending fees for Environmental Health Services relating to Water Wells and Private Water Systems;
- h) Approve the introduction (First Reading) of an Ordinance amending fees for Environmental Health Services relating to Solid Waste;
- i) Approve the introduction (First Reading) of an Ordinance amending fees for Environmental Health Services relating to Monitoring Wells and Borings;
- j) Approve the introduction (First Reading) of an Ordinance amending fees for Environmental Health Services relating to Site Mitigation;
- k) Approve the introduction (First Reading) of an Ordinance amending fees for Environmental Health Services relating to Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA);
- l) Read the titles of the above Ordinances amending fees for Environmental Health Services relating to Solid Waste, Monitoring Wells and Borings, Site Mitigation, and Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA) into the record and waive full reading of these Ordinances;
- m) Find that approval of the recommended actions a) – l) is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21080(b)(8)(A) & (B) because the fees will be used for operating expenses and for the purchase of supplies, equipment and materials; and CEQA Guidelines Section 15273 because the proposed actions are administrative activities of the County, which will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment and is therefore not a "Project" as defined for purposes of CEQA, and direct staff to file a Notice of Exemption on that basis.
- n) Continue the hearing on Environmental Health Services' Fee Ordinances to the Administrative Agenda for June 3, 2025 to consider recommendations, as follows:

On June 3, 2025:

- i) Consider and approve the adoption (Second Reading) of an Ordinance amending fees for Environmental Health Services relating to Solid Waste;
- ii) Consider and approve the adoption (Second Reading) of an Ordinance amending fees for Environmental Health Services relating to Monitoring Wells and Borings;
- iii) Consider and approve the adoption (Second Reading) of an Ordinance amending fees for Environmental Health Services relating to Site Mitigation;
- iv) Consider and approve the adoption (Second Reading) of an Ordinance amending fees for Environmental Health Services relating to Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA);
- v) Find that approval of the above recommended actions i-iv is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21080(b)(8)(A) & (B) because the fees will be used for operating expenses and for the purchase of supplies, equipment and materials; and CEQA Guidelines Section 15273 because the proposed actions are administrative activities of the County, which will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the

environment and is therefore not a "Project" as defined for purposes of CEQA, and direct staff to file a Notice of Exemption on that basis.

Summary Text:

The County Health Department's Environmental Health Services (EHS) division is requesting to set a public hearing on May 13, 2025, with a second hearing on June 3, 2025, to consider the adoption of listed EHS fee resolutions and ordinances, as required by Santa Barbara County Code and applicable State regulations. The proposed fees reflect the summary findings of a Cost of Services (User Fee) Study completed by Wohlford Consulting and filed with your Board on December 10, 2024. EHS has also considered feedback provided by health permit holders to restructure fees, where practicable, to simplify fee schedules for consumers. A full review of the annual cost of fee-related services for EHS was last considered by the Board on April 2, 2019. If the fee resolutions and ordinances are adopted by your Board at the requested hearings, the new fee schedules will take effect at least 30 days following their adoption.

Discussion:

EHS administers a variety of public health and environmental protection programs that are primarily supported by permit and user service fees. County policy (Fees, Board Minute Order March 8, 1982) states that where allowed or mandated, departments will charge a fee for service that is determined by the costs incurred by the County to provide the service. Departments are responsible for ensuring that all legally allowed fees and charges are presented to the Board for adoption and for reviewing/adjusting as appropriate.

Background:

EHS administers a variety of programs that are primarily supported by user permit and service fees. These fees are addressed in six separate fee resolutions and four separate fee ordinances. The resolutions and ordinances are based on specific mandates and authority to set fees in California law and Santa Barbara County Code. The fee schedule revisions will update EHS program fees in order to align permitting and inspection fees with the cost of providing those services.

On December 10, 2024, EHS filed with the Board the results of Wohlford Consulting's *Environmental Health Services Cost of Services (User Fee) Study*, dated August 11, 2024, and is returning as directed with proposed recommendations to achieve full cost recovery. The fee study used a combination of permit volumes, staff time, and current cost allocations to determine a reasonable rate for cost recovery for all services. The results of the study identified that many of the individual fees reviewed (99 of 122; or 81% of the current unit fees) no longer recover the actual cost of providing services since they were last considered by your Board on April 2, 2019.

In an effort to solicit feedback from potentially impacted stakeholders, EHS directly contacted approximately 5,700 businesses, consultants, and individual stakeholders via email and conducted twelve outreach meetings since December 10, 2024, including a presentation to the Agricultural Advisory Committee. These meetings were designed to discuss the basis and structure of the fees, and receive feedback to consider revising fee structures, where practicable, for consumers.

The recommendation for your Board today is to set a public hearing on May 13, 2025 to consider the fee resolutions and ordinances prepared by EHS, excluding fees related to retail food facilities. The fee resolutions and ordinances will be posted for public review at least 10 days prior to this hearing.

Special Instructions:

1. Request the Clerk of the Board to publish the attached legal notice (Attachment A) of this hearing pursuant to Section §6062a of the Government Code in a newspaper of general

circulation in Santa Barbara County (*Santa Barbara Independent* and *Santa Maria Times*) at least ten (10) days prior to the hearing and again five (5) days prior to the hearing and shall make available information as required per Section 54986 and Section 66016 of the Government Code.

2. Please email one (1) Minute Order to PHDGROUPContractsUnit@sbcphd.org.

Attachments:

Attachment A – Notice of Public Hearing

Authored by:

Jason Johnston
Environmental Health Services Director
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