



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

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AGENDA LETTER

Department Name:

County Executive Office

Department Number:

012

Agenda Date:

August 18, 2026

Placement:

Administrative Agenda

Estimated Time:**Continued Item:**

No

If Yes, date from:**Vote Required:**

Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Department Director: Mona Miyasato, County Executive Officer

CONTACT: Brittany Odermann, Deputy County Executive Officer
Clare Tobin, Legislative Analyst

SUBJECT: Outdoor Festival License – Palm Tree Music Festival

Concurrences:**County Counsel Concurrence:**

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence:

As to form: N/A

Other Concurrence: Risk

As to form: Yes

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Find that the application for an Outdoor Festival License for the Palm Tree Music Festival, to be held on October 10 and 11, 2026, substantially meets the requirements set forth in Chapter 6, Article VI, Sec. 6-81 of the Santa Barbara County ordinance;

- b) Approve and authorize the Chair to execute the attached Outdoor Festival License for Palm Tree Music Festival, to be held on October 10 and 11, 2026; and
- c) Find that the proposed actions are not a “project” under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(5) and 15268, as they involve organizational and administrative activities of government that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes to the environment and since approval of a qualifying application for an outdoor festival license is a ministerial action.

Summary Text:

Palm Tree Music Festival is an event scheduled for Saturday, October 10 and Sunday, October 11, 2026. It meets the definition of an outdoor festival set out in County ordinance and requires a license from the County Executive Office (CEO). Because the anticipated total attendance at the Palm Tree Music Festival exceeds 5,000 people, the license must be approved by the Board of Supervisors in a public hearing. Actual attendance is expected to be up to 7,500 people per day, or 15,000 people total. CEO staff have reviewed the application with the appropriate county departments and state agencies and determined that the application substantially meets the requirements of the ordinance. Staff recommend that the Board approve and issue the license. As a condition of the license, the applicant must obtain permits and approvals from other county departments and state agencies named in the license. The license also states that the applicant must report any change to submitted plans to CEO within three days of the change. The license is subject to revocation in accordance with the criteria and process specified in the ordinance.

Discussion:

Festival Description

The Palm Tree Music Festival is an outdoor festival planned for Saturday, October 10 and Sunday, October 11, 2026 from 3:00pm to 10:00pm and will take place at the Santa Barbara Polo and Racquet Club, 3300 Via Real, Carpinteria, CA 93013. It is a two-day music festival that is held on private property and is open to the public. It consists of multiple musical acts each day, and hosts food vendors and bars. Up to 7,500 people may attend the festival each day, for a total of 15,000.

Outdoor Festival Licensing

The County Executive Office (CEO) issues licenses for outdoor festivals. Licenses are required for music festivals held on private or public property, in temporary settings, and hosting over 500 people (or over 250 people for events in Isla Vista). Staff review applications, solicit input from other county departments and state agencies, and issue licenses based on findings set by county ordinance (Chapter 6, Article VI, Sec. 6-81). If staff anticipate that attendance will exceed 5,000 people per festival, approval of the license can only be granted by the Board of Supervisors in a public hearing.

Chapter 6, Article VI, Sec. 6-81 of the County ordinance sets the criteria for issuance of an outdoor festival license:

The administrative officer or the board of supervisors may grant a license for an outdoor festival if he or it finds:

(a) That the outdoor festival will be held at a location which complies with and meets all of the health, zoning, and fire and safety requirements and standards of the laws of the State of California and ordinances of this county applicable thereto.

(b) That all information required by this article is in the application and all documents required by this article have been filed.

(c) That the proposed outdoor festival will not, in any way jeopardize, adversely affect, endanger or otherwise constitute a menace to the public health, safety or general welfare, or be materially detrimental to the property of other persons located in the vicinity of such use. The administrative officer and the board of supervisors may find that a location is unsuitable even if in the proper zone if it does not meet the standards contained in this subsection.

(d) The applicant, his employees, agents or any person connected or associated with the applicant as partner, director, officer, stockholder, as defined in subsection (a) of section 6-74, associate or manager, has not knowingly made any false, misleading or fraudulent statement of material fact in the application for a license or in any document or record required to be filed with the administrative officer.

(e) The applicant has not had a similar type of license previously revoked for good cause within one year prior to the application, or if he has, he has not shown material changes in circumstances since such revocation.

Other county departments and state agencies have their own requirements for outdoor festivals. CEO staff assist with coordination, but applicants are ultimately responsible for securing all required permits and approvals. Obtaining these permits and approvals is a condition of the license.

Applicants must inform CEO of a change to submitted plans within three days of making a change, as required by the ordinance. The ordinance also details the criteria and process for revocation of a license. A revocation must be determined by the Board in a public hearing.

In accordance with the ordinance, CEO staff do not proactively notify property owners adjacent to the location of a festival. When a license must be approved by the Board, staff provide notification of the Board hearing to all property owners within 500 feet of the event boundary.

Recommendation to the Board of Supervisors

CEO staff have reviewed the application and associated materials for the Palm Tree Music Festival. Materials submitted include plans for security protection, drinking water supply, food supply, medical and first aid facilities, fire safety, emergency communications, sanitary facilities, parking, traffic control, clean-up, and other items. (See Attachment A. Some pages are redacted for security purposes). Staff consulted the following county departments and state agencies: Planning and Development, Public Works, Carpinteria-Summerland Fire, Sheriff's Office, California Highway Patrol, Risk Management, Environmental Health Services, and Caltrans.

Following review and input from other county departments and state agencies, CEO staff find that the Palm Tree Music festival plan substantially meets the requirements set out in the ordinance and recommend that the Board of Supervisors approve and issue the license for an outdoor festival. As a condition of the license, the applicant must obtain the permits and approvals from other county departments and state agencies named in the license. The license also states that the applicant must report any change to submitted plans to CEO within three days of the change. The license is subject to revocation in accordance with the criteria and process specified in the ordinance.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

None

Special Instructions:

Send a copy of the executed license (Attachment B) to ctobin@countyofsb.org.

Attachments:

Attachment A – Palm Tree Application

Attachment B – Outdoor Festival License – Palm Tree (Signature Required)

Contact Information:

Clare Tobin

Legislative Analyst

ctobin@countyofsb.org