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# Memorandum

**Date:** February 13, 2007

**To:** Board of Supervisors

**From:** Bob Nisbet, Director, General Services *Robert Nisbet*

**Subject:** Addendum to Board item entitled  
 "Countywide Policy regarding the use of County Meeting Rooms"

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The attached letter from Ann Ruhge, President of the Alpha Literary and Improvement Club in Lompoc requests a partial fee waiver for use of the Lompoc Veteran's Memorial Building for their upcoming flower show. The current fee established by the Board is \$870 per day. Ms. Ruhge indicates in her letter that historically they have only been charged \$250 for the entire 5-day event. This is true, and the reason for this deviation from the established fee schedule is that management of events in the facility were handled by a volunteer, and this individual elected to subsidize fees for certain events such as the flower show. Although this individual was handling the events under general direction from the county, his decisions to subsidize fees were never authorized by county staff.

### Recommendation:

It is recommended that the Board consider one of the following three options regarding the fee waiver request from Alpha Literary and Improvement Club:

- 1) Charge the fee as established in the attached fee schedule (i.e. \$870 per day).
- 2) Charge \$250 for the entire 5-day event as requested in the letter.
- 3) Establish an alternative fee somewhere between the two options above.

### Further discussion:

This request raises the question about whether or not the current fee schedule for the use of the Lompoc Veteran's Memorial Building and the Santa Barbara Courthouse is appropriate. It also raises the question of whether or not a formal fee waiver policy should be established for these facilities (currently there is none). One option would be to establish a separate, lower fee schedule for non-profits and government entities. Under this scenario, staff would recommend to not allow fee waiver requests.

The CEO's office is bringing various fees for county services to the Board in July in order to discuss the amount of each fee, and whether or not subsidies are appropriate in some instances. Staff can return at the same time with the fees for these facilities and include recommendations regarding a new fee schedule and fee waiver policy.

### Attachments:

- 1) Letter from Ann Ruhge
- 2) Resolution Establishing Fee

February 4, 2007

To: Janet Wolf, 2<sup>nd</sup> District Supervisor

Dear Supervisor Wolf,

The Alpha Literary and Improvement Club, in existence as a Federated Woman's Club since 1898, has presented the Annual Flower Show for the past 84 years for the enjoyment of the community and many visitors from out of the area. It was started as a "Dahlia Show" in 1922. During the years the show evolved into a general flower show in 1925 and was held at various sites around Lompoc. Prizes were given and the event drew many visitors to the area.

In 1937, the show was held in the brand new Veteran's Memorial Building. It has been held there for the past 69 years. In the '50s the show was combined with the Flower Festival and has continued so up to this year. The events during this time bring thousands of visitors to Lompoc and Santa Barbara County and the reputation of the Alpha Flower Show is worldwide. The five-day event takes the efforts of all of our 90 members. There are 2 days of set-up and another day after the event for the clean up. We also hold a Tea for our visitors with the members supplying the homemade cookies. Any profits realized from this event are put right back into the community, either in scholarships or donations to local charities.

This year we have a real problem. The fees to use the building in the past have been nominal. We have been charged \$100 for the use of the building for 5 days and we paid a custodian \$150. We were informed last week the fees to use the building have been increased by the Board of Supervisors to \$800 per day plus \$40 a day for an event coordinator's time. Needless to say, our club cannot afford the increase!

We are asking you to help us keep this 85-year tradition alive by waiving the exorbitant fees for the use of the Veteran's Memorial Building in Lompoc for our 2007 Alpha Club Flower Show.

Would it be possible to put this item on your agenda as soon as possible? Thank you for your serious consideration.

Sincerely,  
Ann Ruhge, President  
525 Brookside Dr.  
Lompoc, CA 93436  
737-9536

cc. Lompoc City Council members  
Gary Keefe, Lompoc City Administrator

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

In the Matter of Establishing Fees            )  
To be collected by the General Services    )  
Department for the use of the Mural        )  
Room and Anacapa Gallery of the County)    )  
Courthouse and the use of the Lompoc     )  
Veterans Memorial Building                )

Resolution No. 03-159

**WHEREAS**, the General Services Department of the County of Santa Barbara, State of California, administers and maintains the historic Mural Room in the County Courthouse; and

**WHEREAS**, the General Services Department of the County of Santa Barbara, State of California, administers and maintains the historic Anacapa Gallery in the County Courthouse; and

**WHEREAS**, the General Services Department of the County of Santa Barbara, State of California, administers and maintains the Lompoc Veterans Memorial Building; and

**WHEREAS**, performing these services is a cost to the County General Fund in terms of maintenance, utilities, employees' salaries, overhead expenses, equipment and material costs; and

**WHEREAS**, the use of these facilities are of direct benefit to specific parties; and

**WHEREAS**, in order to continue to offer the use of such facilities it is necessary to charge fees sufficient to cover the approximate costs thereof.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:**

Effective the date of adoption of this Resolution, use of the Mural Room in the County Courthouse shall be charged at an hourly rate of \$100.00. The fees established by this Resolution will continue in effect until revised, repealed or otherwise amended.

Effective the date of adoption of this Resolution, use of the Anacapa Gallery in the County Courthouse shall be charged at an hourly rate of \$350.00. The fees established by this Resolution will continue in effect until revised, repealed or otherwise amended.

Effective the date of adoption of this Resolution, use of the Lompoc Veterans Memorial Building shall be charged at a rate of \$870.00 per day or portion thereof. The fees established by this Resolution will continue in effect until revised, repealed or otherwise amended.

Passed and adopted by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara, State of California, this 20th day of May, 2003, by the following vote:

AYES: Supervisors Schwartz, Rose, Marshall, Gray, Centeno

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAINED: None

ATTEST:  
MICHAEL F. BROWN  
CLERK OF THE BOARD

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

By: Naomi Schwartz  
Chair, Board of Supervisors

By: Robert Cohen  
Deputy

APPROVED AS TO FORM:  
STEPHEN SHANE STARK  
COUNTY COUNSEL

By: Johnnie J. Casey  
Deputy

APPROVED AS TO FORM  
ROBERT W. GEIS, C.P.A.  
AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

By: Johnnie J. Casey