

**Ordinance Amending Chapter 32, Article IV
of the County Code to Establish and
Implement a fee for processing
Applications for Changed Assessment**



COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICE

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS HEARING

ITEM D-7

APRIL 12, 2011

Why a Processing Fee ?



- Clerk of the Board processed 768 Applications for Changed Assessment in 2009. There is currently no fee or cost recovery for this service.
- Today, staff is requesting approval of a nominal processing fee in order to recover a significant portion of the cost of this service.
- Proposed fee for processing Applications for Changed Assessment is the fairest way to accomplish this and to achieve cost recovery.
- 21 counties in California charge Assessment Appeal filing fees to help offset the significant costs associated with these programs. (Attachment A of Board Letter)

Costs of the Assessment Appeals Process



- **Cost to process each appeal is approximately \$75 to \$100.**
- **Total Assessment Appeals Program costs were in excess of \$119,000 for the Office of the Clerk of the Board in 2009.**
- **Processing fee will provide much-needed revenue to offset the costs of processing applications.**
- **Corollary benefit will be a likely reduction appeals filed by mass mailings, a large portion of which are withdrawn or fail to appear at the AA Board Hearings, as described in the Board Letter.**

Revenue to Offset Program Costs



- Estimated number of Assessment Appeals filed will reach approximately 800-1,000 for Fiscal Year 2010/2011.
- Proposed nominal fee of \$50 per parcel for general appeals and \$1,000 for complex cases would generate between \$40,000 and \$45,500 in revenue to help offset the cost of the Assessment Appeals process.
 - 750 standard appeals x \$50 = \$37,500 for FY 2010/2011
 - 8 complex cases x \$1,000 = \$8,000 for FY 2010/2011
 - **Total estimated revenue (\$37,500 + \$8,000) = \$45,500**

Staff Recommendations



- That the Board of Supervisors approve the introduction of the proposed Ordinance during its first reading establishing fees for filing Applications for Changed Assessment, as follows:
 - A \$50.00 per parcel, non-refundable processing fee for Assessment Appeals applications on parcels, or appraisal units, with an assessed value of less than \$30,000,000; and
 - A \$1,000.00 per parcel non-refundable processing fee for Assessment Appeals applications on parcels, or appraisal units, with an assessed value of greater than \$30,000,000.