

Proposed Amendment to the Agricultural Commissioner's Fee Schedule – Weights and Measures Section

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June 23, 2026



Background:

- **Expanded Fee Authority** - Effective January 2024, **AB 1304 (Papan)** amended state law (BPC §12240) increasing the maximum annual registration fees to improve cost recovery for commercial device inspections.
- **Partial Cost Recovery:** While BPC 12240 narrows the funding gap, maximum allowable fees still do not fully offset the total operational costs of mandated device inspections.



Background:

- **Business and Profession Code (BPC) §12240 Statutory Authority:** Authorizes the Board of Supervisors to establish annual registration fees by ordinance to recover the costs of inspecting and testing weighing and measuring devices pursuant to BPC 12210.



Current vs Proposed Device Fees:

Weights & Measures Device Fee Type	Current Fees	Proposed Fees
Business Location Fee	\$100.00	\$120.00
Vapor Submeter	\$4.00	\$10.00
Water Submeter	\$2.00	\$6.00
Computing Scales and Counter Scales <100lb	\$23.00	\$25.00
All other commercial weighing and measuring devices not specified in BPC §12240(g) to (r)	\$20.00	\$26.00



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Why This Need Matters:

- Rising operational costs (staff, equipment, training, etc.).
- Requirement for full cost recovery per Board Policy.
- Comparison with neighboring counties

Device Annual Registration Fee	Ventura County	Monterey County	Santa Cruz County	Santa Barbara County FY 24-25 Fee	Santa Barbara County Proposed Fee per BPC 12240
Business Location fee	\$120.00	\$120.00	\$120.00	\$100.00	\$120.00
per Vapor Submeter	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$4.00	\$10.00
per Water Submeter	\$6.00	\$6.00	\$6.00	\$2.00	\$6.00
Computing/Counter Scale (<100 lb.)	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$23.00	\$25.00
All other commercial weighing and measuring devices not specified in BPC 12240 (g) to (r)	\$26.00	\$26.00	\$26.00	\$20.00	\$26.00



Industry Outreach

- Comprehensive Stakeholder Engagement (English and Spanish)
- Conducted direct outreach to:
 - ✓ All impacted businesses
 - ✓ Local Chambers of Commerce
 - ✓ California Retailers Association
 - ✓ California Grocers Association
 - ✓ The California Fuels & Convenience Alliance

AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE
WEIGHTS & MEASURES

Date: May 18, 2024

To: Weights and Measures Device Registrants in Santa Barbara County

Subject: Proposed Fee Adjustments for Weights and Measures Device Registrations

The Santa Barbara County Agricultural Commissioner's Office is that report our local businesses and residents at the lowest cost to ensure fair market competition, equity in the marketplace, and enforcement, and complaint services.

California Business and Professions Code (BPC) §12240 authorizes, to ensure an annual maintenance fee to ensure the cost of measuring devices used in commercial transactions, as required by Effective January 1, 2024, Assembly Bill 1504 (Pajon) amended the registration fee. To address rising operating costs and maintain the Agricultural Commissioner's Office in proposing to adopt fees.

The proposed fee schedule will be presented to the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors for their review and approval. If approved, the new fees will take effect 30 days after final adoption. Most businesses will not see the updated fees until after January 1, 2025.

Proposed Weights & Measures Device Registration Fees

Weights & Measures Device Fee Type	Current Fees	Proposed fees
Business Licenses*	\$100.00	\$120.00
Vapor Submitter	\$4.00	\$10.00
Water Submitter	\$3.00	\$8.00
Composting Scales and Counter Scales <1000	\$21.00	\$25.00
All other commercial weighing and measuring devices not specified in BPC §12240(a) to (f)	\$20.00	\$24.00

*Maximum fee authorized per business location will increase from \$1,000 to \$1,200 under BPC 12240 (g) and (h).

For questions or concerns, please contact the Santa Barbara County Agricultural Commissioner's Office by Phone at (805) 451-5000 or by Email at agcommissioner@county.sba.ca.gov.

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Summary:

- **Legislative Alignment & Fiscal Sustainability:** Implementing AB 1304 and BPC §12240 allows the County to update fee structures for the first time since 2021, maximizing cost recovery for mandated device inspections.
- Expected additional revenue: \$100,000 annually.



Recommended Action:

- a) Approve the introduction (first reading) of an Ordinance amending the Weights and Measure's section of the Agricultural Commissioner's Fee Schedule; and
- b) Read the title, "Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 5145, the Agricultural Commissioner's Fee Schedule," and waive further reading of the Ordinance; and
- c) Set a hearing to the Administrative Agenda of July 7, 2026, to consider the following recommendations:
 - i) Consider and approve the adoption (second reading) of "An Ordinance Amending the Ordinance No. 5145, The Agricultural Commissioner's Fee Schedule," and
 - ii) Find that the proposed actions are administrative activities of the County, which will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment, as they are fees necessary to cover operating expenses, and are therefore not a "project" as defined for the purposes of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines sections 15273(a)(1), 15378(b)(54) and Public Resources Code Section 21080(b)(8)(A) and (B).
- d) Find that the proposed actions are administrative activities of the County, which will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment, as they are fees necessary to cover operating expenses, and are therefore not a "project" as defined for the purposes of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines sections 15273(a)(1), 15378(b)(4) and Public Resources Code Section 21080(b)(8)(A) and (B).

Questions?



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