

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

**IN THE MATTER OF ADOPTING FEES )  
FOR ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH )  
SERVICES RELATING TO ONSITE )  
WASTEWATER TREATMENT )  
SYSTEMS, PUMPING, )  
MAINTENANCE AND DISPOSAL )  
SERVICES, SEWAGE VIOLATION )  
INSPECTIONS, AND LAND )  
DEVELOPMENT REVIEW SERVICES )**

**RESOLUTION NO.** 25-105

**WHEREAS**, California State Water Code §13282, allows individual liquid waste disposal on-site provided the authorized public agency assures proper design and construction of said systems; and

**WHEREAS**, the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board approved the County of Santa Barbara's Local Agency Management Program in accordance with the State Water Resources Control Board's Onsite Wastewater Treatment System Policy for the siting, design, operation and maintenance of onsite wastewater treatment systems; and

**WHEREAS**, Environmental Health Services of the Public Health Department (hereafter, Environmental Health Services) is designated as the administrative authority for private sewage disposal system review and approval in Santa Barbara County Code §10-4.2(G); and

**WHEREAS**, Santa Barbara County Code §18C-4(B) authorizes the board of supervisors to adopt fees to enable the County to recover the reasonable and necessary costs incurred by the administrative authority; and

**WHEREAS**, Santa Barbara County Code §16-40 requires any person engaged in the business of pumping, maintaining and disposing of the contents of septic tanks, cesspools, sewage seepage pits, or chemical toilets to obtain an annual registration permit from the health officer; and

**WHEREAS**, California Health and Safety Code Article 2, §5410 - 5416, Sewage and Other Wastes, is enforced by Environmental Health Services when sewage is discharged in a manner that results or may result in contamination, pollution and or a nuisance and the illegal discharge must be abated; and

**WHEREAS**, the County of Santa Barbara is authorized to establish reasonable fees for the processing of tentative, final, and parcel maps, and other procedures authorized by local ordinance pursuant to Government Code §66451.2; and

**WHEREAS**, Government Code §66016 authorizes the Board of Supervisors to approve an increase in an existing fee or service charge by resolution; and

**WHEREAS**, Health and Safety Code §101325 provides that the Board of Supervisors may adopt a resolution prescribing fees to pay the reasonable expenses of the health officer incurred in the enforcement of any statute or regulation relating to public health; and

**WHEREAS**, §16-47 of the Santa Barbara County Code provides that the Board of Supervisors may adopt by resolution a schedule or schedules of required fees for specified health services by the Public Health Department; and

**WHEREAS**, the present fees for administering, reviewing and approving permits for on-site sewage disposal systems, administering, reviewing and approving permits for cleaning and disposing of sewage, and response to, and enforcement of, sewage waste have remained unchanged since the adoption of Resolution 19-110, effective July 1, 2019; and

**WHEREAS**, the present fees for Land Development have remained unchanged since the adoption of Resolution 19-115, effective July 1, 2019; and

**WHEREAS**, this Resolution will repeal Resolution 19-110; and

**WHEREAS**, this Resolution will repeal Resolution 19-115; and

**WHEREAS**, the fees established by this resolution will recover the costs of administering, reviewing and approving permits for on-site sewage disposal systems, administering, reviewing and approving permits for cleaning and disposing of sewage, and response to, and enforcement of, sewage waste by Environmental Health Services; and

**WHEREAS**, the fees established by this resolution will recover the costs of administering land use review by Environmental Health Services; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Supervisors finds that the fees set forth in this resolution are exempt from CEQA review pursuant to 14 CCR 15273 and Public Resources Code §21080, subd. (b)(8)(A) and (B) in that the fees will be used for operating expenses and for the purchase of supplies, equipment and materials; and

**WHEREAS**, the County of Santa Barbara has, in connection with the above fees, held a public hearing as part of a regularly scheduled meeting and published notice of the meeting, including a general description of the matter to be considered, in accordance with Government Code §6062a; and

**WHEREAS**, the fees may be revised as needed by the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors, and if the revision does not occur, the existing fees shall remain in effect.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, DETERMINED AND ORDERED:**

1. That the permitting, service, administration, and enforcement fees for all on-site sewage disposal systems, and the processing of tentative, final, and parcel maps, and other procedures for land development cases, that are reviewed and approved by Environmental Health Services are set forth in the attached schedule of fees and are hereby adopted pursuant to §101325 and §5412.5 of the California Health and Safety Code and Chapter 18C and sections 18C-4(B) and §16-47 of the Santa Barbara County Code; and pursuant to Government Code §§66016 and 66451.2. Said fees are to become effective July 12, 2025.
2. The Director of Environmental Health Services shall annually review and may adjust fees adopted herein pursuant to the changes to the Consumer Price Index (CPI). Adjustments shall be rounded to the nearest dollar and become effective no earlier than July 1 of each year and appropriate notice shall be provided to the public 60 days prior to the adjustment effective date. Consumer Price Index adjustments shall be based on the All Urban Consumers, Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County area and shall use the percent change of that index from January through December of the year prior to the effective date.
3. Resolution 19-110, effective July 1, 2019, is hereby repealed on the above-mentioned date that the fees imposed by this resolution become effective.

4. Resolution 19-115, effective July 1, 2019, is hereby repealed on the above-mentioned date that the fees imposed by this resolution become effective.
5. The repeal of Resolutions 19-110 and 19-115 shall not affect any obligation to pay any fees incurred under said resolutions, and said obligation shall continue in effect after said resolutions are repealed, and the County of Santa Barbara may take any appropriate action in regard to any delinquent fees imposed pursuant to said resolutions.

**PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED** by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara, State of California, this 13th day of May, 2025, by the following vote:

AYES: Supervisors Lee, Capps and Hartmann

NOES: Supervisor Nelson

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Supervisor Lavagnino

**ATTEST:**

Mona Miyasato  
County Executive Officer  
Clerk of the Board

By:

  
Deputy Clerk

**County of Santa Barbara:**

Laura Capps

By:

  
Chair, Board of Supervisors

Date:

5-13-25

**RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL:**

Mouhanad Hammami, Director  
Public Health Department

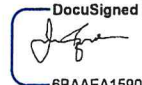
By:

Signed by:  
  
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Department Head

**APPROVED AS TO ACCOUNTING FORM:**

Betsy M. Schaffer, CPA  
Auditor-Controller

By:

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Deputy

**APPROVED AS TO FORM:**

Rachel Van Mullem  
County Counsel

By:

Signed by:  
  
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Deputy County Counsel

**SANTA BARBARA COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT  
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES FEE SCHEDULE**

**ONSITE WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEMS, PUMPING, MAINTENANCE AND DISPOSAL SERVICES,  
SEWAGE VIOLATION INSPECTIONS (COLLECTIVELY REFERRED TO AS OWTS) AND  
LAND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES (ALSO KNOWN AS "LAND USE")**

**OWTS FEES:**

**1. Onsite Wastewater Treatment System (OWTS), Operating Permits, Annual Fee**

**A. Septic Tank Pumper Trucks - Liquid Waste Haulers**

Annual registration/inspection fee for each vehicle engaged in the business of pumping septic tanks, cesspools, seepage pits, or chemical toilets.

Annual Registration/Inspection Fee, each vehicle \$ 198/each year

**B. Alternative Disposal or Supplemental Treatment Systems, Annual Fee**

Operating permits are required for onsite waste systems that utilize an alternative dispersal system or supplemental treatment to ensure that they are functioning properly and as designed. Permits are valid for one (1) year and require regular inspections of the system by a Qualified Inspector or a trained manufacturer's representative and submittal of reports to Environmental Health Services (EHS) pursuant to the Local Agency Management Program (LAMP).

Alternative Disposal or Supplemental Treatment Systems Operating Permit \$ 156/each year

**C. OWTS Repair or Abandonment, Fixed Fee**

A one-time permit fee is required to cover the costs of administration and enforcement of California Water Code §13282 for onsite sewage disposal system repair and abandonment plan review and evaluation.

Repair Permit \$ 713  
Abandonment Permit \$ 644

**2. OWTS Building Site Clearance, Fixed Fee**

Evaluation of existing on-site sewage disposal systems that can be accomplished at an EHS office front counter, related to a minor project that does not increase potential wastewater flow and does not require any modification of the existing system, including the building sewer or 100% expansion area.

Written Notice of Clearance \$ 322

**3. Onsite Wastewater Voluntary Maintenance Program, Fixed Fee**

A submittal fee shall be applied to each Maintenance Report submitted by the registered liquid waste pumper for review, evaluation and follow-up of noted violations.

Maintenance Report, per submittal \$ 105

#### **4. Onsite Wastewater Construction for Standard or Supplemental Treatment Systems, Fixed Fee**

All proposed Standard or Supplemental Treatment systems must submit a Plan Review application, on a form approved by the EHS Director, with a permit fee. Systems that have been operating without benefit of permit will be subject to all applicable fees.

Permit Fee \$ 2,016

Plan review fees provide for the administration and enforcement of California Water Code §13282 for on-site sewage disposal systems. Plan review fees include: review of soil tests and Environmental Health Services records, plan check of system design, site check, approval/disapproval of permit application, construction evaluation and final clearance. Plans that are found to be unsatisfactory will be returned for revision or denial.

#### **5. Onsite Wastewater Modification to Standard or Supplemental Treatment Systems, Fixed Fee**

All proposed modifications to Standard or Supplemental Treatment systems must submit a Plan Review application, on a form approved by the EHS Director, with a permit fee. Systems that have been operating without benefit of permit will be subject to all applicable fees.

Permit Fee \$ 1,451

Plan review fees provide for the administration and enforcement of California Water Code §13282 for on-site sewage disposal systems. Plan review fees include: review of soil tests and Environmental Health Services records, plan check of system design, site check, approval/disapproval of permit application, construction evaluation and final clearance. Plans that are found to be unsatisfactory will be returned for revision or denial.

#### **6. Onsite Wastewater Sewage Discharge Violations**

An hourly rate fee, as described in Section 8, shall be charged for response to confirmed complaints of any unauthorized sewage discharges, including but not limited to, releases from onsite wastewater treatment systems or publicly operated sewage systems (in violation of Health & Safety Code § 5411). This fee shall be assessed to the owner of the property upon confirmation of the sewage discharge violation and shall include all time rounded to the nearest quarter hour actually expended by County personnel in the investigation and abatement of the sewage discharge, including reasonable travel time.

#### **7. Land Development Case Review, Application plus Hourly fees**

A fee is required on all applications for Land Use case review and approval. The application fee is part of the overall plan review project and is non-refundable. The application fee shall be deposited with Santa Barbara County Planning and Development Department (Planning and Development) by the applicant, prior to determination by Planning and Development of application completeness.

Application Fee \$ 446

#### **8. Land Development, Hourly Case Review Fees**

An hourly fee will be applied to an applicant's accounting record for costs associated with full case review, site visits, consultation, report review, letter writing, public meeting attendance, and

determining compliance with project conditions. Environmental Health Services will not issue case approval until all applicable fees have been paid.

Hourly Case Review \$ 214 per hour

9. Hourly Rate, Other Services \$ 214 per hour

An hourly rate fee, determined by the number of person-hours expended by Environmental Health Services personnel, including reasonable travel time and rounded up to the nearest one-quarter hour, shall be charged for the following services:

- A. Plan/record review and periodic inspection services of sites using reclaimed/recycled water or enhanced treatment systems.
- B. Consultation Services – Special inspections or consultations requested by property owner or their agent.
- C. Notices of Violation – Preparation, issuance and monitoring of compliance in conjunction with a Notice of Violation or other enforcement action.
- D. Pre-application assessments, special consultations, generation of reports or correspondence, or other activities related to a land use project and requested by a project applicant or the County Department of Planning and Development.
- E. Required activities of Environmental Health Services staff related to appeals of approved land use cases.

10. Additional Program Charges

Photocopies, each \$ 0.35  
Returned Check fee \$ 41.00

11. Prorating of Fees

The County reserves the right to prorate all fees described in this resolution at the discretion of the Director of Environmental Health Services.

12. Delinquent Fees

Environmental Health Services will not issue plan approval until all appropriate fees have been paid. Fees that are invoiced by Environmental Health Services as outlined in this fee schedule, which are not paid by the due date on the invoice shall be considered delinquent, and the following additional charges added:

- A. During the first 30 days of delinquency, any unpaid portion of the balance due will have a penalty of 10% assessed.
- B. After 30 days of delinquency, an additional 15% of the unpaid balance will be assessed, and a Final Notice will be issued.
- C. If the delinquent fee is an annual fee for operation of a septic tank pumper truck/liquid waste hauler registration fee and such fee is not paid within two weeks from the issuance of a Final Notice, a Notice of Violation will be issued for operating without having paid the required fee. The operator will have 48 hours to pay the required fee and any penalty assessed during the delinquent period or cease the activity subject to the annual fee.
- D. If the fee, and any penalty assessed pursuant to this resolution, is not paid within three weeks from the date on the Final Notice, the unpaid balance may be referred to either the County

Treasurer/Tax Collector's office or the County's contracted collection agency for collection. In addition to the fee(s) and any penalties associated with delinquent fee(s) as described above, accounts referred for collection shall be charged for the actual cost associated with collection efforts. The delinquency fees are in addition to any other remedies available to the County.

- E. If any person required to pay a fee pursuant to this resolution has an outstanding balance due for any service rendered by Environmental Health Services, any past due amount shall be paid before Environmental Health Services will approve a subsequent application from that person or renewal of an existing permit for that person, unless such past due amount is waived or reduced as provided in this resolution.

### **13. Contest of Charges**

Any person required to pay fees or charges pursuant to this resolution may file a written notice of contest of charges accompanied by such materials as will support the claim for relief, including payment in full as invoiced, with the Director (or designee) of Environmental Health Services for determination of the correct amount of fees due under this resolution.

Such written notice shall be filed with the Director (or designee) within 45 days after mailing or personal delivery of the fee invoice or other notification of fees due. This period may be extended by the Director upon a showing of good cause. Upon receipt of such written notice of contest of fees, the Director (or designee) shall make a decision on said contested fees. The decision shall be final with no further right of review. Failure to include payment in full as invoiced will result in denial of review.

Refunds made as a result of this process shall be paid by Environmental Health Services and shall not include interest.

### **14. Fee Waiver**

Any person required to pay fees pursuant to this fee resolution may file a written application, including payment in full as invoiced, with the Board of Supervisors for a waiver or reduction of any said fees, or any part thereof. The Board of Supervisors may waive or reduce the fees to the extent permitted by law and public policy, upon a showing of good cause by the applicant. The application shall be filed with the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors within 45 days after mailing or personal delivery of the fee invoice. Failure to include payment in full as invoiced will result in denial of review.

Refunds made as a result of this process shall be paid by Environmental Health Services and shall not include interest.