

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY BOARD AGENDA LETTER



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

Agenda Number:
Prepared on: 5/9/01
Department Name: Planning & Development
Department No.: 053
Agenda Date: 5/22/01
Placement: Departmental
Estimate Time: 15 Minutes
Continued Item: NO
If Yes, date from:

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: John Patton, Director
Planning & Development

STAFF CONTACT: Frank Breckenridge x-3119
Building Official

SUBJECT: Adoption of Revised Fee Resolutions for Grading Fees

Recommendation(s):

That the Board of Supervisors:

Set a Hearing for June 5, 2001 to approve a revised Grading Fee Resolution.

Alignment with Board Strategic Plan:

The recommendation(s) are primarily aligned with:

Goal No. 1. An Efficient Government Able to Respond Effectively to the Needs of the Community and Goal No. 3. A Strong, Professionally Managed County Organization.

Executive Summary and Discussion:

Grading permit fees are set by Resolution by your Board in order to recover costs incurred with grading project reviews. This proposed fee increase relates only to grading that supports structures and development and does not apply to agricultural or soil remediation grading activities.

The department proposes to raise grading fees in response to new demands of grading project reviews and to offset accumulated labor costs. Over the past ten years, grading for development projects requiring structural grading permits has become more difficult and requires more inspections. This increased complexity is due to project sites that are constrained by existing development surrounding the project, drainage concerns for adjacent parcels, steep slopes and other natural features that must be considered when evaluating and inspecting grading projects. New state requirements for erosion control and water quality protection have

raised the time required to review grading plans to ensure compliance with these water quality regulations. Community concerns about off-site effects of grading requires more site reviews by staff. In the south county, complaints of illegal grading or grading in excess of permitted levels have expanded in the last several years. These enforcement activities often do not result in permit revenue. Because of these trends the existing fee structure is inadequate for the level of grading review that is now necessary.

The Board of Supervisors adopted fee policy dated 1/94 directs departments to adjust fees annually to recover operating costs. Grading fees were last raised in 1991. The proposed fee increase will offset increased salaries from cost of living and salary equity adjustments of approximately 35%. The remaining fee revenues are necessary to support the grading permit and inspection review that is now required. The following table is a comparison of the existing fee and the proposed fee.

Size of Project (Cubic Yards)	Current Fee	Proposed Fee
100	\$165 + Plan Check	\$320 + Plan Check
300	\$225 + Plan Check	\$440 + Plan Check
1,000	\$335 + Plan Check	\$580 + Plan Check
5,000	\$735 + Plan Check	\$1,380 + Plan Check

The proposed fees have been reviewed by the Auditor-Controller and are included in the Department's recommended 2001-02 fiscal year budget.

Mandates and Service Levels:

No changes in mandates. Service levels will be improved with additional staff.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Building and Safety permitting revenue will increase approximately \$250,000 annually. The revenue will offset operation costs of the grading section next year.

Special Instructions:

The Clerk of the Board ensures that noticing for the proposed fee adjustment is completed as described in Government Code §66016.

Concurrence:

County Counsel
Auditor-Controller