

**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

#-6

Agenda Number:  
Prepared on:  
Department Name: Fire  
Department No.: 031  
Agenda Date: 6/20/06  
Placement: ~~Administrative~~ **Departmental**  
Estimate Time: 25 min.  
Continued Item: NO  
If Yes, date from:

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** John M. Scherrei   
Fire Chief

**STAFF CONTACT:** Randy Coleman, Fire Marshal/Division Chief  
x5554

**SUBJECT:** Adoption of a Resolution to Increase Fire Code Permit Fees and Amend the Fee Schedule

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**Recommendation:** That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Adopt a Fee Resolution setting Fire Code Permit fees as of July 1, 2006.
2. Accept changes (noted in the attachment) that will bring the list of permits in the fee schedule into alignment with the list of permits in the 2001 California Fire Code (CFC), as well as, include language that was inadvertently omitted at the adoption of Resolutions 03-182 and 04-284.

**Alignment with Board Strategic Plan:**

The recommendation is primarily aligned with actions required by law or by routine business necessity and with Strategic Plan goal number two: A Safe and Healthy Community in which to Live, Work and Visit.

**Executive Summary and Discussion:**

The Santa Barbara County Fire Department charges a fee to issue Fire Code permits for processes that produce conditions hazardous to life and/or property, such as, 'open burning' or 'places of assembly'. On June 3, 2003, your Board adopted the 2001 California Fire Code, approved fee adjustments based on the results of a full-fee study by adopting Ordinance No. 4494 and approved Resolution No. 03-182. On October 5, 2004 the Board adopted resolution 04-284 increasing Fire Code Permit Fees based on salary increases for FY 04/05. Permit fees are applicable to all sectors of the community and are set to cover the costs incurred to assure compliance with the CFC as adopted in Chapter 15 of the County Code. The fees are based on the average inspection time necessary for each type of permit. The proposed fees for FY 06/07 are the result of a fee study and take into account a variety of factors including inspection time, inspector salary, and overhead costs. The increases will range between \$9.00 and \$274.00, depending on the permit type.

The attached fee schedule contains changes (other than fee amounts) from the fee schedule adopted by Resolution No. 03-182 and 04-284. These changes will bring the list of permits in the fee schedule into

alignment with the permits listed in the 2001 California Fire Code (CFC) adopted by the Board in June of 2003, as well as, include language that was inadvertently omitted at that time. The changes are as follows:

1. The language for the *Flammable and combustible liquids* Permit is revised to match the language in the 2001 CFC. The previous permit language did not encompass all uses and processes that need to be permitted. The new language is taken directly from section 105.8.f.3 of the currently adopted 2001 CFC.
2. *Garages (motor vehicle repair)* has been removed and replaced by *Repair garages* (CFC 105.8.r.3).
3. The *Oil and natural gas wells* permit has been removed, as this permit is covered under the *Flammable and combustible liquids* permit (CFC 105.8.f.3).
4. *Tank vehicles (not regulated by CHP)* will be removed, as this permit is covered under the *Flammable and combustible liquids* permit (CFC 105.8.f.3).
5. A surcharge has been included, based on an hourly rate of \$128.00/hr., and will apply when unusual circumstances develop that require extraordinary time for issues including but not limited to special research, consultation, numerous return inspections to ensure code compliance, etc. This surcharge was inadvertently omitted at the time of Resolution No. 03-182 and 04-284.
6. Include language describing 'Groups 1-4' as referenced by the *Hazardous Materials, Highly Toxic Pesticides, and Radioactive Materials* Permits. Under these permits in the fee schedule, there are currently four groups listed with a notation to 'see below'. The notation refers to language that was inadvertently omitted at the time of Resolution No. 03-182 and 04-284. This referenced language explains how each 'group' is categorized, such as chemical quantity and/or type.

The fees are given statutory CEQA exemption under Public Resource Code section 21080 subd. (b) (8) (1) & (2) and Title 14 (California Code of Regulations) section 15273.

**Mandates and Service Levels:**

All programs are operating at State-specified levels.

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

The proposed fee increases have been incorporated in the Fire Department 's FY 06/07 proposed budget.

**Special Instructions:**

- Clerk of the Board to notice the fee resolution twice in a newspaper of general circulation in the County of Santa Barbara, once at least 14 days prior to the hearing and again with at least 5 days intervening between the dates of first and last publication, per Government code Section 6066.
- Please send a copy of the completed resolution and a certified copy of the minute order to Santa Barbara County Fire Department, attention Rose Pueschel.

**Concurrence:** County Counsel/Auditor-Controller

**Attachments:**

Santa Barbara County Fire Department Fire Code Permit Fee Schedule  
Resolution  
CEQA Exemption