

HEALTH DEPARTMENT ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH
FEE INCREASE
AND FEE WAIVER PROPOSAL
FISCAL YEAR 2021-22

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April 27, 2021



Monterey County Health Department
Nationally Accredited for Providing Quality Health Services

RECOMMENDATION

- Adopt a Resolution amending Article I.E. of the Monterey County Master Fee Resolution effective July 1, 2021, to adjust fees relating to oversight and services provided by the Health Department's Environmental Health Bureau; and
- Provide direction to staff regarding waiver of certain fees for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 and provision of supplemental funding from the County's designated American Rescue Plan Act funds.



BUDGET IMPACTS FY 2021-22

- In Fiscal Year 2016-17, the EHB contracted with MGT America to conduct a comparison analysis of its facility and permit fees
- MGT American recommended a fee increase of 14%, which was approved and implemented incrementally at the request of the Board
- EHB requests a 2% increase which herein only continues to partially recapture the true current costs of services
 - Additional costs incurred since FY 2017 not included in
 - Employee salary cost of living adjustments (10.5%)
 - COWCAP/Indirect Costs (35%)
 - Salary wage adjustments (11% based on market)



PROPOSED INCREASE

The Health Department's Environmental Health Bureau (EHB) is requesting approval of:

- A proposed 2% across-the-board fee increase to more closely reflect, while still not exceeding, the actual and reasonable costs of services and benefits provided to the public.
- Adoption of the proposed fees will contribute to the self-sufficiency of the EHB programs; however, the fee increase will not fully cover cost of services and benefits and may still result in the need for additional future General Fund Contributions for those services to remain at current 2020-21 staffing levels.



EHB PROGRAM RESPONSIBILITIES*

- California Retail Food Code (food facility inspections)
- California Childhood Lead Prevention Program (CLIPP) (lead investigations)
- California Pool Code (pools and spas)
- Employee Housing (including farm labor camps)
- Detention Facility Inspections (Monterey County Jail)
- Hazardous Materials Facilities (UST,AST, Cal Arp, Hazardous Waste)
- Emergency Response (24/7 response)
- Drinking Water Wells (construction, destruction)
- Drinking Water Systems (permitting and sampling, 1265 systems)
- Solid Waste Franchise
- Recycling and Solid Waste Diversion
- Body Art (facilities and artist)/Medical Waste Act
- Landfill/Transfer Station Inspections
- Land Use (Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems)
- Consumer Complaints (general sanitation, mold, vectors and COVID-19 health orders)



FEE WAIVER PROPOSAL

Subject to Board approval, the EHB is prepared to waive fees on certain permit categories for businesses that have been impacted the most by the COVID-19 pandemic. These categories include:

- Restaurants
- Personal Care Services (Body Art)
- Public Swimming Pools and Spas
- Grocery Retailers (Retail Markets)

Per Board direction from the Board's April 6, 2021 Budget Workshop, staff seeks direction regarding a one-time permit fee waiver for FY 2021-22 for certain types of businesses most likely to have been significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Staff seeks Board direction on the categories of fees to be waived and the amount of the reduction, whether 100% or partial waiver.



SUPPLEMENTING FEE WAIVER PROPOSAL

Staff also seeks direction on the proposal to supplement the amount not received due to the waiver with funds from the American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) expected to be received by the County. Staff recommends ARPA as the source of funding this action, as it is an allowable use as per the language in the Act.

If the Board were to approve a waiver for these proposed fees, the EHB would request supplemental funding in the amount of:

- \$3.4 million for a fee waiver equivalent to 100% of the annual permit cost
- \$2.5 million for a fee waiver equivalent to 75%, or
- \$1.7 million for a fee waiver equivalent to 50%
- Fees are assessed however the payment method would be COVID-19 assistance through ARPA funds.



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