

Hourly Service Fee

Services requested by or provided to the public that do not fall within the definitions of other services identified in the fee article may be subject to the hourly service rate. It is proposed that this rate be increased from \$130.00 to \$135.00 per hour to reflect 3.8% in Environmental Health Bureau's (EHB) overall operating costs due to Board approved salary increases for all staff in Fiscal Years 2014 and 2015, and increases in allocated costs such as insurance, Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP), Information Technology Department (ITD) and the Countywide Cost Allocation Plan (COWCAP).

Food Facilities

In an on-going effort to more fairly distribute Ice Cream Push Cart inspection fees among the permit holders based on the burden to the County and benefit to the holder, fees have been reassigned based on the number of carts owned. The new fee groupings will more equitably reflect EHB staff time needed to complete the appropriate inspections because of the benefit of the economies of scale that permit larger groups of carts to be inspected in one location and reflect similar data base entries can take less time per unit to inspect.

Staff experience with the relatively new tiered fee (risk-based) inspection system has shown that the restaurant and market types that are most prevalent in the County require more staff time to maintain the level of service needed to administer the associated inspection and complaint response programs. For this reasons, Tier 1, Tier 2 and Tier 3 fees for restaurants, delicatessens and bars, and Tier 2 fees for retail markets with food preparation, have been increased 3.8% (based on the same percentage increase in the Hourly Service Fee) to reflect increased staff time invested in these facilities.

Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (OWTS)

An extensive revision of definitions of services, and some fee restructuring, is being proposed for the fee categories that pertain to OWTS. Implementation of pending changes in law, changes in technology, and changes in staff inspection methods have combined to outdate the current fee article schedule. The proposed changes will better define the fee categories (note the footnotes (1) through (5) in this section to provide extensive descriptions of fee categories where needed) and will better establish fee-to-service equitability.

Land Use

Land Use fees were developed in conjunction with RMA fees, and approved by the Board in February 2014 (Attachment 2 – Board Resolution and Staff Report 02-25-14). Those fees have been incorporated as part of this proposed adjustment to the fee article to reflect proper tracking and are inserted without change into this proposed Article I.E. amendment, *with the exception* of non-deposit fees, that were originally computed using EHB's pre-2014 \$130.00 hourly service fee as a basis, as well as the correction of a separate clerical error and adjustment in the fee for Variances. Fees based on the hourly rate have been adjusted to reflect the proposed 3.8% cost adjustment – or \$5.00 per hour – in accord with the documentation and intent of the EHB in the representation of the land use fees presented in the February 2014 staff report. The purpose of the proposed modification at this time is to keep EHB land use related fees tied to EHB's hourly service fee. The issue with the Variance fee is that, due to a typographical error, a digit was dropped and the pre-2013 fee of \$551.00 was reduced to \$51.00; in the process of discovering

that error it was determined that, due to current conditions, it is proposed that the fee should be set at \$377.00 (plus \$94.00 for Condition Compliance) instead of reverting to the original \$551.00.

Water

The proposed changes to the fee article in the Water section are to better define the Community Water System fees, for clarity, and to update those fees that are directly related to the actual recomputed hourly service fee. Additionally, water well, borehole and monitoring well fees have been adjusted to reflect the different investments in staff time these activities typically require.

Solid Waste

The only change for the Solid Waste section of EHB's proposed fee article is to add a new permit inspection fee for a Temporary Body Art Demonstration Booth. State law requires such booths to be inspected but EHB's existing fee article does not have a mechanism to charge for this mandated service. EHB staff is acting in response to an increase in body art conventions, hosting multiple booths representing various body art shops, as they become more common in Monterey County.

Toxics / Hazardous Materials and Miscellaneous

Only those fees in these categories that are based on hourly service fees are proposed for adjustment to reflect a closer relationship to the recovery of the actual increase in the recomputed hourly service costs of those fees.