



County of Monterey

Board of Supervisors
Chambers
168 W. Alisal St., 1st Floor
Salinas, CA 93901

Board Report

File #: RES 23-068, **Version:** 1

Adopt a Resolution amending Section 6 of Article I.E. of the Monterey County Master Fee Resolution effective July 1, 2023, to adjust fees relating to Drinking Water and Well oversight and services provided by the Health Department's Environmental Health Bureau.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the County of Monterey Board of Supervisors:

Adopt a Resolution amending Section 6 of Article I.E. of the Monterey County Master Fee Resolution effective July 1, 2023, to adjust fees relating to Drinking Water and Well oversight and services provided by the Health Department's Environmental Health Bureau.

SUMMARY:

The Health Department's Environmental Health Bureau (EHB) is requesting approval of a proposed 15% increase to EHB Drinking Water and Well fees, as set forth in Section 6 of Article I.E. of the Monterey County Fee resolution, effective July 1, 2023.

DISCUSSION:

The fee increase is proposed to reflect more closely, while still not exceeding, the actual and reasonable costs of services and benefits provided to the public by the Environmental Health Bureau. Adoption of the proposed fees will contribute to the self-sufficiency of the programs within the Environmental Health Bureau; 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 Fiscal Year (FY) 2022-23 staffing levels.

On February 28, 2023, EHB requested approval of a 15% fee increase effective July 1, 2023, to contribute to meeting its Fiscal Year 2023-24 Requested Budget. Fees excluding Section 6 of Article I.E. were approved and staff were directed to identify options for Drinking Water and Well permit fees and return to the Board of Supervisors for approval. After a review and evaluation of options, the fee structure remains unchanged, and fees are presented for approval.

By definition, the changes to these charges are not a "tax" and are exempt from voter approval pursuant to Article XIII C section 1(e)(1)-(3) and (5) of the California Constitution (Prop. 26; charges imposed for specific benefit conferred/privilege/service or product, reasonable regulatory costs provided or granted to the payor, and/or fines and/or penalties). As such, they reflect no more than the actual cost of the service/benefit received by the payor.

The proposed fee adjustments are attached as follows: Attachment 1 - Redlined Article I.E. Fee Schedule for Fiscal Year 2023-24, Section 6 and Attachment 2 - Board Resolution with Article I.E. Fee Schedule for Fiscal Year 2023-24, Section 6.

This work supports the Monterey County Health Department 2018-2022 Strategic Plan Goals to enhance community health and safety through prevention and to engage MCHD workforce and improve operational functions to meet current and developing population health needs. It also supports three of the ten essential public health services, specifically, 2) diagnose and investigate health problems and health hazards in the

community; 3) inform, educate, and empower people about health issues; and 6) enforce laws and regulations that protect health and ensure safety.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:

County Counsel has reviewed, and approved as to legal form, the proposed amendment to Article I.E. of the Monterey County Master Fee Resolution.

FINANCING:

The recommended fee adjustments are intended to improve on the recapture of a portion of the costs associated with the provision of the indicated services, and do not exceed actual costs for providing these services. As such, the fees represent a charge imposed for the specific regulatory service provided directly to the payor that is not provided to those not charged, and which does not exceed the reasonable costs to the County for providing the regulatory service. Anticipated revenues resulting from the proposed fee adjustments are included in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2023-24 Requested Budget (001-4000-HEA005).

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS STRATEGIC INITIATIVES:

Check the related Board of Supervisors Strategic Initiatives:

☐ Economic Development:

- Through collaboration, strengthen economic development to ensure a diversified and healthy economy.

☐ Administration:

- Promote an organization that practices efficient and effective resource management and is recognized for responsiveness, strong customer orientation, accountability and transparency.

☒ Health & Human Services:

- Improve health and quality of life through County supported policies, programs, and services; promoting access to equitable opportunities for healthy choices and healthy environments in collaboration with communities.

☐ Infrastructure:

- Plan and develop a sustainable, physical infrastructure that improves the quality of life for County residents and supports economic development results.

☐ Public Safety:

- Create a safe environment for people to achieve their potential, leading businesses and communities to thrive and grow by reducing violent crimes as well as crimes in general.

Prepared by: Robin Kimball, Management Analyst III, 796-1297

Approved by:

Date
Elsa Mendoza Jimenez, Director of Health, 755-4526

Attachments:

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Redlined Article I.E. Master Fee Schedule for Fiscal Year 2023-24, Section 6.

Board Resolution (proposed) with Article I.E. Master Fee Schedule for Fiscal Year 2023-24, Section 6.

