

Department of Public Works

Introduction of an Ordinance

Adding Section 2.50.100 “Survey Monument Preservation Fund”
to Chapter 2.50 of Title 2 of the San Mateo County Ordinance Code



Ann M. Stillman, Director, Department of Public Works

August 27, 2024

COUNTY OF SAN MATEO



Survey Monument Preservation Fund

Background:

- A survey monument is a physical marker placed generally on the ground to indicate specific survey points and referenced coordinates.
- Survey markers are critical for establishing property boundaries, conducting land surveys, mapping, and various engineering projects.
- Preservation of survey monuments is important.
- California Government Code Section 27584 allows this Board to establish a County Survey Monument Preservation Fund (Fund) to pay necessary expenses incurred or authorized by the County Surveyor in any retracement or remonument survey of major historical land division lines upon which later surveys are based.
- California Government Code Section 27585 allows this Board to impose a user fee, not to exceed ten dollars (\$10) to be charged and collected by the County Recorder, over and above any other fees required by law, to be deposited into the Fund.

Survey Monument Preservation Fund

Examples of Survey Markers



Monument on side of
the road



Close up of monument

Survey Monument Preservation Fund

Examples of Survey Markers



Metal stake to help identify monument

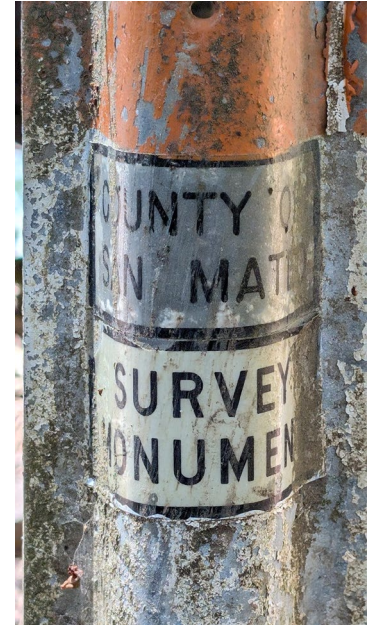


Survey marker dated Sept. 30, 1970

Survey Monument Preservation Fund

Adding Section 2.50.100 of the Ordinance Code - Survey Monument Preservation Fund:

- a) Survey Monument Preservation Fund Established - Pursuant to California Government Code § 27584, a Survey Monument Preservation Fund is hereby established to pay for the necessary expenses incurred or authorized by the County Surveyor in any retracement or remonument survey of major historical land division lines upon which later surveys are based, such as, but not limited to, government section lines, ranch lines, grant lines, ranch section lines, acreage subdivision lot lines, and subdivision boundary lines within San Mateo County.
- b) Collection of Fees - For the limited purpose of financing the Survey Monument Preservation Fund, there is hereby imposed a user fee of ten dollars (\$10.00) which shall be charged and collected by the County Recorder, over and above any other fees required by law, as a condition precedent to the filing or recording of any grant deed conveying a fee interest in real property in San Mateo County.
- c) Exemptions – Grants deeds conveying entire lots created by recorded tract maps shall be exempt from the user fee. A user fee shall not be imposed on the State, any county, city, district or other political subdivision, whenever such entity is the grantee of the conveyance of a fee interest in real property.
- d) Forwarding of fees - The County Recorder shall forward all fees collected each month to the County Treasurer for deposit in the County Survey Monument Preservation Fund to be used only for the purposes set forth in Section (a).



Survey Monument Preservation Fund

Survey Monument Preservation Funds by Other Counties:

County	Fee	Effective Date
Alameda	\$10	July 1986
Contra Costa (<i>Resolution #78/629</i>)	\$10	June 1978
Santa Clara (<i>Ordinance Section A14-2</i>)	\$10	January 1979
San Francisco (<i>Ordinance Section 8.24-6</i>)	\$10	November 2005
Sonoma (<i>Ordinance #4182</i>)	\$10	April 1989

Survey Monument Preservation Fund

Projected Annual Revenue:

Year	Deeds Filed	Average Deeds Filed Per Year	Proposed Monument Preservation Fund	Projected Annual Revenue
2018	19,041	22,190	\$10	Approximately \$200,000
2019	19,947			
2020	23,561			
2021	30,304			
2022	18,109			

Source: County Recorder's Office - Summary Report by Year.
Recorder's Office to assess 10% or \$1/recorded deed charge.



Survey Monument Preservation Fund

Funds to be used for:

1. Maintenance and restoration of survey monuments.
2. Provide legal and surveying accuracy.
3. Preserve monuments associated with significant events, historical surveys, or landmarks.
4. Provide accurate reference points for infrastructure in engineering projects.
5. Help meet professional standards set by the industry.
6. Maintain accessible and reliable survey data for the benefit of the general public.



Survey Monument Preservation Fund Notification and Coordination

- Department website to be updated with information about the Survey Monument Preservation Fund
- County Clerk-Recorder to update fee schedule
- City and County Engineers Association (CCEA) presentation on Sept 19, 2024 (Rescheduled from canceled August meeting)

Survey Monument Preservation Fund

Timeline:

August 27, 2024: Introduce Ordinance

September 10, 2024: Second Reading of Ordinance

October 10, 2024: Ordinance (and Fund) effective 30 days
from passage date

Thank you!

COUNTY OF SAN MATEO

