



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Inter-Departmental Correspondence
Health System



Date: February 19, 2014
Board Meeting Date: March 25, 2014
Special Notice / Hearing: None
Vote Required: Majority

To: Honorable Board of Supervisors

From: Jean S. Fraser, Chief, Health System
Dean D. Peterson, P.E., REHS, Director, Environmental Health

Subject: Amendment to sections of the San Mateo County Ordinance Code to revise Program Fees

RECOMMENDATION:

Introduction of an ordinance amending Section 5.64.060 (Imposition of Fees) of Chapter 5.64 (Fees for Enforcement of State Public Health Laws) of Title 5 (Business Regulations) of the San Mateo County Ordinance Code, relating to imposition of fees for enforcement of state public health laws, and waiving the reading of the ordinance in its entirety.

BACKGROUND:

Section 101325 of the California Health and Safety Code permits recovery of costs incurred in enforcing state public health laws and regulations. Environmental Health (EH) fees are established by Ordinance of the Board of Supervisors and are effective in both cities and unincorporated areas of the County.

EH provides unique public health services, community and business education, and regulatory oversight through the technical expertise and consultation of its professional staff. EH relies on revenue from permits, fees for service, and grants to offset the majority of program costs. In 2013, your Board approved a fee amendment that established new risk-based food inspection fees and consolidated all EH fees under one section in the County Ordinance.

San Mateo County, despite being considered an urban county, is home to a vibrant farming community. The agricultural community was responsible for a total output valued at \$140,032,000 in 2012 despite the challenges that accompany this work. One challenge that the agricultural community faces is access to labor. In the isolated rural areas of San Mateo County, this challenge is exacerbated by the lack of housing options close to where the work is performed. Currently EH and the Planning and

Building Department permit approximately 45 properties to provide housing for approximately 335 farm laborers and their families. These properties include employee housing for 5 or more employees and smaller sites specifically permitted as farm labor housing. In order for the agricultural community to thrive, safe affordable farm labor housing is necessary. Improvement of current housing stock, much of which is considered substandard, is important. Much of the housing is beyond its expected useful life and was built for a seasonal male workforce, rather than the existing year-round workforce accompanied by their families.

Resolution 54443 (April 10, 1973) stated your Board’s desire to encourage farm labor housing by eliminating all Planning and Building fees associated with farm labor housing and permit renewals. Under the leadership of Supervisor Horsley, your Board is once again focusing on additional ways to encourage safe, affordable farm labor housing.

DISCUSSION:

The proposed amendment allows qualifying properties of farm labor and employee housing to be exempt from one-time EH fees for the maintenance, improvement and new projects associated with the installation and repair of onsite sewer treatment and water wells. As a result of these measures, the amendment can be expected to promote the building or maintaining of affordable, safe, healthy housing for farm laborers and their families.

All public notification requirements have been met.

The Ordinance has been reviewed and approved by County Counsel as to form.

Adoption of this Ordinance amendment will contribute to the Shared Vision 2025 outcome of an Environmentally Conscious Community by promoting farm labor and employee housing in San Mateo County. It is anticipated that there will be a 5% annual increase of rehabilitated and/or new farm labor and employee housing.

PERFORMANCE MEASURE(S):

Measure	FY 2013-14 Actual	FY 2014-15 Projected
Percent increase of rehabilitated and/or new farm labor and employee housing	0%	5%

FISCAL IMPACT:

The proposed fee Ordinance takes effect July 1, 2014. It is anticipated that this Ordinance will result in an annual cost to EH of \$15,000, through the loss of these one-time fees.