



**COUNTY OF SAN MATEO**  
Inter-Departmental Correspondence  
Agriculture / Weights & Measures



**Date:** November 17, 2015  
**Board Meeting Date:** December 8, 2015  
**Special Notice / Hearing:** None  
**Vote Required:** Majority

**To:** Honorable Board of Supervisors

**From:** Fred W. Crowder, Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer

**Subject:** Ordinance repealing and replacing Section 5.124.020

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Adoption of an ordinance repealing and replacing Section 5.124.020 of Chapter 5.124 of Title 5 of the San Mateo County Ordinance Code increasing annual device registration fees for commercial weighing and measuring devices, previously introduced on November 17, 2015, and waive the reading of the ordinance in its entirety.

**BACKGROUND:**

California's Business and Professions Code (BPC) provides authority for counties to set device registration fees by ordinance and sets maximum fees that counties may charge. The Board of Supervisors approved an ordinance amendment setting the current device registration fee schedule on September 13, 2011 (Ordinance No. 04582).

**DISCUSSION:**

Device registration fees fund the County's commercial weighing and measuring device inspection program. The proposed fee increase is for annual device registration fees as applicable to commercial weighing and measuring devices. Inspection program costs have been estimated using FY 2014-15 direct personnel hours and projected FY 2015-16 salaries and benefits, direct expenditures such as mileage and equipment, and associated indirect costs. The Division's salaries and benefits have increased 28 percent due to negotiated labor increases since the current fee schedule was updated and adopted in 2011. Device fees vary as different weighing and measuring devices require specialized equipment and/or greater time to conduct testing. This fee schedule will set all the County's weighing and measuring device fees at the maximum rate authorized by the BPC. The changes will also make the County's device fees equivalent to the location and device fees of neighboring counties, San Francisco, Santa Clara and Alameda, as well as all other Bay Area counties except Contra Costa. The proposed fee revenue is estimated to be less than full cost recovery for this

program. The chart below outlines the current and proposed fee schedules for the affected devices. The proposed ordinance has been reviewed and approved by County Counsel.

<b>Device Type</b>	<b>Current Fee Schedule January 1, 2012</b>	<b>Proposed Fee Schedule effective January 1, 2016</b>
Electric Meters at marinas, mobile home parks, recreational vehicle parks, and apartments	\$100/Business Location Plus \$2 per Meter	\$100/Business Location Plus \$3 per Meter
Vapor Meters at marinas, mobile home parks, recreational vehicle parks, and apartments	\$100/Business Location Plus \$2 per Meter	\$100/Business Location Plus \$4 per Meter
Stationary & Truck Mounted LPG Meters	\$100/Business Location Plus \$175 per Meter	\$100/Business Location Plus \$185 per Meter
Wholesale & Vehicle Meters	\$100/Business Location Plus \$25 per Meter	\$100/Business Location Plus \$75 per Meter
Scales at least 100 Pounds but less than 2,000 Pounds	\$100/Business Location Plus \$20 per Scale	\$100/Business Location Plus \$50 per Scale
Prescription/ Jewelry Scale	\$100/Business Location Plus \$20 per Scale	\$100/Business Location Plus \$80 per Scale

Approval of this Ordinance contributes to the Shared Vision 2025 outcome of Environmentally Conscious Community by providing additional revenue to maintain the commercial device inspection program at the current level of service.

**PERFORMANCE MEASURE(S):**

<b>Measure</b>	<b>FY 2014-15 Actual</b>	<b>FY 2015-16 Projected</b>
Percent of businesses in compliance with Weights and Measures requirements	84%	90%

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

The proposed fee ordinance takes effect thirty (30) days after adoption. Annual invoices will be issued to affected businesses in January, 2016. The proposed fees will contribute to the Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer's ability to maintain current customer service levels. The new fees are projected to result in an annual revenue increase of \$33,546. This revenue associated with the proposed fees has been included in the Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer FY 2015-17 Adopted Budget. There will be no impact on net county cost.