



County of San Diego

HA DANG
AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER/
SEALER OF WEIGHTS & MEASURES

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, WEIGHTS AND MEASURES
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SEALER OF WEIGHTS & MEASURES

February 28, 2022

INVITATION - FEE PROPOSAL WORKSHOPS

The County of San Diego Department of Agriculture, Weights and Measures (AWM) is committed to continue providing important services that support consumer confidence and fair business competition for the San Diego region.

We are cognizant of the pandemic's impacts on regulated businesses but in order to provide quality services to you and other members of the regulated industry AWM needs the resources so we can support your business continuity and the regional economic recovery. AWM is also sensitive to customers stated preference for annual fee updates to allow businesses to plan for fee adjustments

This proposal also demonstrates AWM's commitment to the Board of Supervisors (Board) that cost recovery is a regular part of business by ensuring compliance with Board B-29 - *Fees, Grants, Revenue Contracts - Department Responsibility for Cost Recovery*. This policy directs departments to recover the cost of services from individuals or entities that receive and benefit from the services provided; any exception to these requires the Board's approval. This fee proposal aligns the needed resources with the quality service level and represents cost recovery as a regular part of AWM's fiscal management.

The last cost recovery proposal was approved by the Board on May 5, 2021, for the current Fiscal Year (FY) 2021-22. The fees proposed for FY 2022-23 will be necessary to address cost increases based on retirement costs and anticipated negotiated labor agreements. The fees proposed listed on page 2 are for Fiscal Year 2022-23 and do not address cost increases based on negotiated labor agreements, due to the timing of the fee proposal and the labor negotiations still in process. Instead, the proposal reflects the County's standard assumptions. Any unrecovered cost increases due to approved labor negotiations will be reflected in future fee proposals.

AWM has worked to contain costs where possible through business process improvements to enhance efficiency, leverage technology to streamline operations, improve customer service, and increase compliance. Some of the cost containment measures include utilizing applications for efficient field inspections, improved customer service, and streamlined submeter inventory tracking. As a result, AWM has applied cost savings derived from these operational efficiencies where applicable to mitigate the cost increases.

Based on this year's cost review, AWM is proposing increases to 3 fees, while leaving 42 fees unchanged 41 of these are capped by the State. This proposal is applicable to fees associated with the registration fees and re-inspection hourly rates for Price Verification and the hourly rate for the requested inspection of water submeters and non-commercial devices. On average, the increase in fees is \$2 for an overall adjustment of approximately 2.4%.

We will present the following fee adjustments for the programs below to the County Board of Supervisors on April 6 and April 27, 2022, for approval to be effective July 1, 2022. The fee adjustments are as follows:

Price Verification Annual Registration	Current Fee	New Fee	Change
Tier 1 Registration (1-3 Point-of-Sale Stations)	\$149	\$155	\$6
Tier 2 Registration (4-9 Point-of-Sale Stations)	\$204	\$210	\$6
Tier 3 Registration (10 or more Point-of-Sale Stations)	\$256	\$263	\$7
Re-inspection Hourly Rate for Non-compliance	\$156	\$156	\$0

Commercial Weights & Measure Devices			
Non-Commercial Device Inspection Hourly Rate	\$156	\$156	\$0
Non-Registered Water Submeter Fee Hourly Rate	\$156	\$156	\$0

You are invited to attend one of the workshops below so we may provide you additional information and answer your questions. The workshops' content provided will be the same and two different dates listed below to accommodate your schedule.

When: Tuesday, March 15, 2022
 Time: **2 PM – 3 PM**
 Meeting
 Link: <https://zoom.us/j/96997701726?pwd=a2tPL09BMIF6a3g4V1IKWG9Fem1ldz09>
 Website <https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/awm/>
 RSVP: (858) 694-2778 or sdcawm@sdcounty.ca.gov

When: Thursday, March 17, 2022
 Time: **2 PM – 3 PM**
 Meeting
 Link: <https://zoom.us/j/96398963333?pwd=cEpQdkRQemdQWWQvOVb5ZEJQZFJnQT09>
 Website <https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/awm/>
 RSVP: (858) 694-2778 or sdcawm@sdcounty.ca.gov

The workshops will be held virtually and a link to these meetings will be available at AWM's website, <https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/awm/>, where you will be able to access the meeting on the specified dates and times.

If you need this notice translated, please email sdcawm@sdcounty.ca.gov to request a copy of this notice in your preferred language. Please include if translations services are needed for the public meeting.

إذا كنت تحتاج إلى ترجمة هذا الإشعار، يرجى إرسال بريد إلكتروني إلى sdcawm@sdcounty.ca.gov لطلب نسخة عن الإشعار بلغتك المفضلة. يرجى ذكر ما إذا كانت خدمات الترجمة مطلوبة للاجتماع العام.

如需翻譯本通知，請電郵 sdcawm@sdcounty.ca.gov 請求以您的首選語言提供本通知的副本。如果公開會議需要翻譯服務，請註明。

Si necesita que se traduzca este aviso, envíe un correo electrónico a sdcawm@sdcountry.ca.gov para solicitar una copia de este aviso en su idioma preferido. Incluya si se necesitan servicios de traducción para la reunión pública.

Kung kailangan mong isalin sa ibang wika ang paunawang ito, mangyaring magpadala ng elektronikong koreo sa sdcawm@sdcountry.ca.gov upang humiling ng kopya ng paunawang ito sa iyong gustong wika. Mangyaring isama kung kailangan din ng mga serbisyo ng pagsasalin para sa pampublikong pagpupulong.

Nếu quý vị cần dịch thông báo này, vui lòng gửi email đến sdcawm@sdcountry.ca.gov để yêu cầu một bản sao thông báo bằng ngôn ngữ ưa thích của quý vị. Vui lòng ghi ra yêu cầu nếu cần dịch vụ phiên dịch cho cuộc họp công cộng.

If you have questions regarding the fees, please contact Deputy Sealer of Weights and Measures Austin Shepherd by phone at (858) 614-7726 or by email at Austin.Shepherd@sdcountry.ca.gov.

Frequent Asked Questions

1. Why is AWM proposing fee adjustments when businesses are impacted by COVID?

We are cognizant of the pandemic's impacts on regulated businesses, but in order to provide quality services to you and other members of the regulated industry AWM needs the resources so we can support your business continuity and the regional economic recovery. In addition, our customers had stated their preference for annual fee updates to allow them to plan for fee adjustments. This proposal also demonstrates AWM's commitment to the Board that cost recovery is a regular part of business to ensure compliance with Board Policy B-29 *Fees, Grants, Revenue Contracts - Department Responsibility for Cost Recovery*. This policy directs departments to recover the cost of services from individuals or entities that receive and benefit from the services provided; any exception requires the Board's approval. This fee proposal aligns the needed resources with quality service level and represents cost recovery as a regular part of AWM's fiscal management.

The last cost recovery proposal was approved by the Board on May 5, 2021, for Fiscal Year 2021-22. The fees proposed for FY 2022-23 will be necessary to address cost increases based on retirement costs, anticipated negotiated labor agreements, and to ensure compliance with Board Policy B-29. The fees proposed listed on page 2 are for Fiscal Year 2022-23 and do not address cost increases based on negotiated labor agreements, due to the timing of the fee proposal and the labor negotiations, but instead, the proposal reflects the County's standard assumptions. Any unrecovered cost increases due to approved labor negotiations will be reflected in future fee proposals.

2. What has AWM done to contain costs?

The practice of focusing on continuous improvement, implementing operational efficiencies, and prioritizing resources in key areas has positioned AWM to respond to customer needs and regulatory changes. AWM is committed to continuous improvement and partners with stakeholders to identify opportunities and areas for improvement. AWM strives to enhance program effectiveness and efficiency to achieve positive outcomes and a collective impact. Since the last fee proposal, AWM has improved operational efficiency by leveraging technology and streamlining processes. Innovations include apps for mobile field inspection, customer service, and submeter inventory tracking. This resulted in an annual savings of \$23,985, without which fees would increase an additional 3% on average.

3. How was the fee proposal developed?

AWM conducts an annual analysis of its programs including a review of state mandates, program operations, inspection frequencies, service levels, and benchmarking to obtain a comprehensive understanding of how our fees compare to similar counties. We considered the projected program costs for Fiscal Year 2022-23 and applied projected cost savings due to operational efficiencies to determine

the proposed fee adjustments. This fee proposal does not address cost increases based on negotiated labor agreements, due to the timing of the fee proposal and the labor negotiations, but instead, the proposal reflects standard assumptions made by the County. Increased costs due to approved labor negotiations will be reflected in future fee proposals. The County Auditor and Controller reviewed the supporting documentation and the methodology in this proposal to ensure compliance with County policies.