

SAN DIEGO COUNTY - SPECIAL EVENTS ORDINANCE
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

Traffic Control

1. Will traffic control plans need to be re-signed/sealed each year if there are no changes from the previous year's event?

Traffic Control Plans previously approved by Department of Public Works (DPW) Traffic will not need to be re-signed/sealed so long as the event is identical to the previously approved permit. Any alterations or revisions to the plans will require a new signature/stamp. New events will be required to submit signed/sealed Traffic Control Plans.

2. Will event staff (not CHP, Sheriff, Senior Sheriff, Traffic Control Contractor) be able to act as traffic control personnel?

Yes, but they will be required to be under the supervision of a certified traffic control supervisor. Certification may be obtained through the American Traffic Safety Services Association (ATSSA); fees may be associated with the training.

Agency Approvals

3. Do we still need to obtain permits from other agencies before we receive the County permit?

Applicants will be required to obtain written approval from CHP, Sheriff and the local fire agency prior to obtaining the County permit.

Event Promotion

4. When will we be allowed to promote our event?

Event promotion will be allowed at any stage of the event. Event promotion will not guarantee a permit is issued; it will be the applicant's responsibility to convey this to its participants.

Submittal Deadlines

5. What are the deadlines to submit the application package?

Neighborhood Block Party applications are due at least 30 days but no more than 180 days before the event.

Special Events applications with no environmental impacts are due at least 60 days but no more than 180 days before the event.

Special Events with environmental impacts are due at least 90 days but no more than 180 days before the event.

Environmental impacts are determined by the applicant's responses in the Environmental Review Questionnaire.

6. Why can't the permit application be submitted more than 180 days in advance of the event? Is a multi-year permit allowed?

The 180 day cutoff is to allow for adequate review of the previous year's event operations.

A multi-year permit is not allowed at this time. Road conditions may change over time and a review of the event is needed each year.

Non-Profit vs. For-Profit

7. Will for-profit organizations be allowed to apply for a Special Event permit.

Yes. Special Event permits will be open to both non-profit and for-profit organizations. Requirements will be the same whether the applicant is non-profit or for-profit.

Event Categories

8. Instead of sorting events by size, the County should distinguish types of events. Community/local events (parades, street fairs) are different than outside pass-thru events (bike rides).

The Medium and Large event categories have been removed from the draft ordinance. The revised draft ordinance includes Neighborhood Block Parties, Offsite Events, and Special Events.

Fees

9. Why is the County now imposing fees for a permit that has been free for years? We already pay taxes.

The draft fee schedule is only to inform the Board of Supervisors what it is costing the DPW to process the permits. It will be up to the Board of Supervisors to decide whether to impose the fees.

10. Can Neighborhood Block parties and non-profit events be exempt from paying the fee? The fee will take away from fundraising for local causes and will eliminate smaller events that add value to the community.

It will be up to the Board of Supervisors to decide if fees will be waived for a type of event.

11. I don't want to rent cones and barricades from the County. Can I rent them from someone else?

Yes, applicants may use traffic control devices provided by others.