



County of San Diego, Planning & Development Services
**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH &
WILDLIFE FEES (Effective January 1, 2022)**
ZONING DIVISION

The State of California requires the payment of a fee to the California Department of Fish & Wildlife (CDFW), as a condition for filing Notices of Determination required by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Stats. 1990, ch 1706). The fee is \$2,548.00 for a project receiving a Negative Declaration and \$3,539.25 for a project with an Environmental Impact Report (EIR). A \$50 County administrative charge is also collected with the fee. Payment must be by certified or cashier's check payable to the "County of San Diego Recorder", and submitted to the County Recorder's Clerk.

A fish & wildlife fee is required by Section 711.4 of the CDFW Code for discretionary projects not exempt under CEQA that have an "effect", regardless of the significance, on fish and wildlife. This fee is associated with filing of CEQA Notices of Determination (NOD) for discretionary land use projects. Unless the CDFW signs a "No Effect" form for a project, fish & wildlife fees for the subject project will be required prior to public review or prior to project hearing and/or decision as determined by the County (Administrative Code Section 362, Article XX).

The State Clearinghouse will not accept or post a NOD filed by any State lead agency unless it is accompanied by one of the following: (1) a receipt with the correct CDFW fee payment, (2) a copy of a receipt showing prior payment of CDFW fees or a "De Minimis" finding for the same previously approved project approved prior to January 1, 2007 that relies on a previous environmental document pursuant to CEQA §15162, or (3) a completed form from the CDFW documenting the Department's determination that the project will have "no effect" on fish and wildlife.

The "no effect" standard is more stringent than the de minimis standard that CEQA Lead Agencies previously applied to projects they determined were exempt from having to pay the CDFW Fee. Note that the "no effect" standard is not limited to sensitive fish and wildlife species; it encompasses all fish and wildlife species as well as habitat. It is anticipated that less than 5 percent of projects not exempt from CEQA will qualify for the "no effect" determination. If after consultation with County Staff you feel that your project has "no effect" on fish and wildlife, it is your responsibility to complete and submit to the CDFW the "No Effect" form for their concurrence.

CDFW fees are collected by the County of San Diego and forwarded to the California Department of Fish & Wildlife. The project will not proceed to a decision and/or hearing without payment of CDFW Fees and associated administrative fees. A receipt will be issued upon payment.

The CDFW adjusts fees annually based on inflation. If your project is decided in January, but fees were paid in the prior year, you must pay the amount effective January 1 of the year of the project decision.

For more information, about CDFW Fees, contact the CDFW Regional Office directly at (858) 467-4201 for the (South Coast Region) or visit the California Department of Fish & Wildlife website at <https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/CEQA/Fees>.