



FRESNO COUNTY FIRE

PROTECTION DISTRICT

Honor, Integrity, Cooperation & Professionalism

MEMORANDUM

Date: March 4, 2024

To: Board Directors

Attn: John Arabian
President

From: Fire District Staff

Subject: Resolution 2024-01, Protection and Planning Fee Schedule Update

BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S BRIEFING PAPER

ISSUE:

Revenue generated by fees associated with the Protection and Planning Division are no longer covering 100% of the expenditures created by personnel and operating costs of the division. There is also a new fee that staff is recommending adding to the current fee schedule related to excessive false fire alarm activations due to malfunctioning and or noncompliant systems.

BACKGROUND:

The District Board authorizes the fee schedule associated with Protection and Planning tasks. The last update was done in 2021. Staff has understood the goal of the fee schedule was to offset associated costs related to the division. In a recent review of the schedule, it was determined that expenditures were 25% more than the total revenue. It was also determined that some facilities have fire alarm systems that routinely malfunction and are not being repaired in a timely matter. Resources respond to the facility and can miss other higher priority traffic that occurs simultaneously. In one example, one facility has activated their alarm over 18 times within a 90 day period in recent months, causing a significant burden on emergency response resources. Normal operations, such as testing or repairing fire alarm equipment, can still be completed without concern of penalty if done the proper way.

DISCUSSION:

Staff has identified the need to adjust the fee schedule in order to maintain cost neutral within Protection and Planning. Staff is also recommending including an automatic 2% annual increase in the fee schedule to eliminate large adjustments in the future. Staff would also like to include a fee of \$325.00 for any facility that has more than 3 false fire alarm activations within any 12-month period. The goal is to encourage prompt and effective repairs of fire alarm systems in order to ensure safety of the public while covering the costs associated with the emergency response and processing related documentation should there be an excessive use of the system.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Accept the difference in expenditures and revenue and make no changes at this time.
2. Propose a different percent increase associated with the fee other than the proposed rate increase and or adjust the value of the annual update percentage.
3. Direct staff to adjust some portions of the fee schedule, but not others.

IMPACTS *(Consider potential consequences related to each of the following areas of concern for proposed alternatives):*

- Fiscal – Increase revenue to match expenditures.
- Operational – Potentially reduce excessive false alarms increasing operational readiness of associated resources and helping to limit risk to the public with a functioning system.
- Legal – No known impacts
- Labor - No known impacts
- Sociopolitical – Potential negative perception associated with increased fees.
- Policy – Updates the current policies related to fee structure and annual update and creates a policy related to excessive fire alarm false activations.
- Health and safety - No known impacts
- Environmental - No known impacts
- Interagency - No known impacts

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended by Staff that the District Board of Director's approves adding a fee for abusing the false alarm notifications, as well as increasing the fee schedule to match actual current expenditures with a 2% annual adjustment increase after the first year to take effect the 1st of July each year.

APPROVED:

Ryan Michaels, Division Chief

Date



FRESNO COUNTY FIRE

PROTECTION DISTRICT

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PROTECTION AND PLANNING FEE SCHEDULE Revision 7/1/2024

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Fee</u>
Site Plan Review (Over-the-Counter Meetings)	No Charge
Site Plan Review	
➤ Includes up to one (1) hour of time.	\$152.00
Pre-Plan Submittal Site Inspection	
On-site consultation	\$280.00
Plan Review, non-sprinkler, no alarm (includes)	\$476.00
➤ One (1) Plan review, two (2) back checks	
➤ One (1) On-site acceptance test/final inspection.	
➤ \$10.00 Archiving Fee	
<i>Not to be used for alarm/sprinkler/suppression systems</i>	
Plan Check Resubmittal	\$157.00
Fire Alarm System – New Construction	\$905.00
➤ One (1) Plan review, one	
➤ One (1) Rough inspection, functional test, battery start	
One (1) Battery ring-out/final inspection.	
➤ \$10.00 Archiving Fee	
<i>Each additional device: \$7.00</i>	
<i>This fee is for the alarm panel and the first 10 initiation/detection devices</i>	
Underground System and Water Storage Tank (New Construction)	\$1014.00
➤ One (1) Plan review	
➤ One (1) Inspection of the trench/thrust block and laid pipe	
➤ Hydro test/flush completed w/trench	
➤ Final Inspection	
➤ \$10.00 Archiving Fee	
Tentative Improvement Fire Alarm	\$321.00
➤ One (1) Plan review	
➤ One (1) Inspection/final	
➤ \$10.00 Archiving Fee	

Activity

Fee

Overhead fire sprinkler system fees are calculated on a per riser basis.

Overhead Fire Sprinkler System – Tenant Improvement

\$977.00

- One (1) Plan review
- One (1) Weld inspection, pre-pipe
- One (1) Rough inspection
- Final Inspection
- \$10.00 Archiving Fee

Overhead Fire Sprinkler System – New System (20 or fewer heads)

\$1239.00

- One (1) Plan review
- One (1) Weld inspection, pre-pipe
- One (1) Rough inspection
- Hydro test/flush
- Final inspection
- \$10.00 Archiving Fee

Overhead Fire Sprinkler System – New System (21 to 100 heads)

\$1,294.00

- One (1) Plan review
- One (1) Weld inspection, pre-pipe
- One (1) Rough inspection
- Hydro test/flush
- Final inspection
- \$10.00 Archiving Fee

Overhead Fire Sprinkler System – New System (101 to 300 heads)

\$1,349.00

- One (1) Plan review
- One (1) Weld inspection, pre-pipe
- One (1) Rough inspection
- Hydro test/flush
- Final inspection
- \$10.00 Archiving Fee
- **Additional heads over 300 – New System (cost per head)**

\$2.58

Fire Pump

\$561.00

- One (1) Plan review
- One (1) On site acceptance test/final inspection.
- \$10.00 Archiving Fee

Residential Fire Sprinkler System

\$828.00

- One (1) Plan review
- One (1) Rough inspection
- Final Inspection
- \$10.00 Archiving Fee

The fee is the same with or without a fire alarm system

Inert Gas, Halon, Carbon Dioxide, Foam or other Special System

\$603.00

- One (1) Plan review
- One (1) Inspection/final
- \$10.00 Archiving Fee

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Fee</u>
Kitchen Hood System	\$603.00
➤ One (1) Plan review	
➤ One (1) Acceptance test/final inspection.	
➤ \$10.00 Archiving Fee	
Spray Booth	\$549.00
➤ One (1) Plan review	
➤ One (1) Acceptance test/final inspection.	
➤ \$10.00 Archiving Fee	
Above Ground or Below Ground Storage Tanks	\$549.00
➤ One (1) Plan review	
➤ One (1) Acceptance test/final inspection.	
➤ \$10.00 Archiving Fee .	
<i>FIRE CODE ENFORCEMENT AND SAFETY INSPECTIONS</i>	
Facilities Life Safety Inspection	\$ 115.00
➤ One (1) On-site inspection; Prevention Staff (charge hourly rate)	
New Business, License Inspection, Life Safety	\$225.00
➤ One (1) On-site inspection	
Pre-Inspection Licensed Facility (1-25 Clients)	\$225.00
➤ One (1) On-site inspection	
Pre-Inspection Licensed Facility (Over 25 Clients)	\$280.00
➤ One (1) On-site inspection	
Hydrant Flow Test - Minimum	\$280.00
➤ Flow Test	
Multi-family Dwelling Inspection	\$280.00
➤ One on-site Inspection	
Fireworks Storage Permit	\$846.00
➤ One (1) Permit review	
➤ One (1) Approval Inspection	
➤ One (1) Compliance Inspection	
Retail Fireworks Sale Permit	\$443.00
➤ One (1) Permit Review	
➤ One (1) Compliance Inspection	
➤ One (1) Re-inspection	
➤ \$100 non-refundable deposit, added to total fee when all paperwork is received	

Public Fireworks Display Permit	\$871.00
➤ One (1) Permit review	
➤ One (1) Pre-Inspection	
➤ One (1) Compliance Inspection	
➤ One (1) Re-Inspection	

MISCELLANEOUS FEES

Alternative Methods Evaluation and Research	\$158.00
➤ One (1) On-site inspection	

Outside Consultant Service (per hour) not currently used	\$0.00
Per hour	

Occupant Load Calculations - Minimum	\$274.00
➤ One (1) On-site inspection, documentation	

Will Serve Letter	\$274.00
➤ One (1) Field inspection	
➤ Research into fire station locations, response time & water system	
➤ Written correspondence	

Property Environmental History Research	\$ 115.00
➤ Due diligence records search	

Service Fee for Archived Plans Retrieval	\$ 110.00
➤ Research and printing	

Request for Paper Copies of Documents (non-victim)	\$ 6.00
➤ Document search	

Re-inspection Fee	\$280.00
➤ Inspection	

Civil Depositions Requests	\$344.00
Fee (gov. code sets rate)	

Excessive Fire Alarm Response	\$325.00
(Fee charged to all responses after the 3 rd response within any 12 months)	

Express Plan Review Service

Available option to expedite project plan review. Availability dependent on available staff, project complexity and inspector workload. supervisor approval required. Double standard fee.

NOTES:

1. All fees or charges shall be calculated at a one hour minimum unless otherwise specified.
2. All fees for specified services shall be calculated by Fresno County Fire Protection District.
3. Whenever a requestor fails to cancel a requested inspection, at least one hour prior to the scheduled time of the inspection, a \$96 fee may be charged.
4. Work done without a permit may be charged up to three (3x) times the plan review and inspections fee.
5. When required, no permit or approval shall be issued until such facility or process is brought into compliance with applicable codes and the required fees are paid in full.
6. Any collection cost, attorney fees or fines will be billed at the actual cost of the service and in addition to those costs you will be billed an administrative fee of 18% of the total fee charge.