



Meeting Date: May 6, 2026
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May 1, 2026

Supervisor Terra Lawson-Remer, Chair
Supervisor Monica Montgomery Steppe, Vice Chair
Supervisor Paloma Aguirre, Chair Pro Tem
Supervisor Joel Anderson
Supervisor Jim Desmond
County Board of Supervisors
5510 Overland Avenue, Suite 210
San Diego, CA 92123

RE: FY 2026-27 Cost Recovery

Proposal To Whom it May Concern:

For many years PDS has presented their proposed annual fee package to the North County Civil Engineers & Land Surveyors Association (NCCELSA) and sought letters of support from NCCELSA for those proposed fee packages. NCCELSA serves the dual purpose of maintaining the high professional standards of its members and providing liaison between government agencies and private businesses. In fact, NCCELSA began 45 years ago with a primary focus of working with the County to improve processes within the County. Our group has always been trusted to provide critical feedback from professionals doing most of their business within the County of San Diego as most of North County is in the unincorporated areas. We are advocates for our clients, and in order to provide the best service to them and supporters of development in the County, this feedback has been instrumental in improving the Applicants' experience.

NORTH COUNTY CIVIL ENGINEERS AND LAND SURVEYORS ASSOCIATION



The purpose for this letter is two-fold: first, we wish to express our opposition to the proposed 2025-26 Cost Recovery Proposal, and more specifically to the proposed fee increases – for reasons explained below; more importantly, however, it is our *goal* with this letter is to again reaffirm our unwavering commitment to continue assisting PDS in meaningful efforts to improve efficiencies of both discretionary and ministerial review processes.

Various efforts over the years have resulted in some improvements in efficiencies, which have diminished over time. Most recently, for example, in July 2019, Supervisor Jim Desmond introduced “Streamlining the Discretionary Permit Process.” This was unanimously approved by the Board of Supervisors, and in February 2020, seven bullet points were recommended to County staff to follow up. The Board requested annual progress reports from staff. Unfortunately, we have not seen measurable nor meaningful lasting improvements emanating from this effort.

We are recommending *meaningful* reengagement with those who are experiencing the inefficiencies of the various land development processes within PDS. Examples may be showcased and “dissected” in an effort to better understand these issues, but unless such examples are placed within the context of a broad reexamination of the various processes, this can also be counter-productive; We believe continued discussions between NCELSA and County staff is vital for reestablishing and maintaining efficiencies in the County approval processes.

The last update to the Board of Supervisors from Staff was more than 5 years ago. There might be justifiable reasons for discontinuing the progress reports, that are unknown to us, but that just might be a place to reengage with NCELSA and other industry leaders. As stated above, we remain committed to assisting PDS in all *meaningful* efforts to improve efficiencies of review processes. Full cost recovery must be paired with accountability to those directly impacted for it to be justified.

NCELSA remains committed to reengage PDS on issues of concern to our industry, as we believe we can help PDS restore a level of efficiency that must be attained



before we can support any increases in fees. We look forward to helping PDS achieve these goals.

Sincerely,

David Caron, President (and by unanimous action of the Board of Directors)

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'David Caron', written in a cursive style.

Alpine April 21, 2026

Bonita

Bonsall

Borrego Springs

Bostonia

Boulevard

Camp Pendleton

Campo

Carlsbad

Casa de Oro

Chula Vista

Coronado

Crest

Cuyamaca

Del Mar

Descanso

El Cajon

Encinitas

Escondido

Eucalyptus Hills

Fallbrook

Granite Hills

Imperial Beach

Harbison Canyon

Hidden Meadows

Jacumba

Jamul

Julian

La Mesa

La Presa

Lake Henshaw

Lake Morena

Lake San Marcos

Lakeside

Lemon Grove

Lincoln Acres

Mount Laguna

National City

Oceanside

Pala

Palomar Mountain

Pauma Valley

Pine Valley

Potrero

Poway

Rainbow

Ramona

Rancho San Diego

Rancho Santa Fe

Rincon

San Diego

San Luis Rey

San Marcos

Santa Ysabel

Santee

Solana Beach

Spring Valley

Valley Center

Vista

Warner Springs

Winter Gardens

Chair Terra Lawson-Remer and Members of the Board of Supervisors
County of San Diego
1600 Pacific Highway
San Diego, CA 92101

Dear Chair Lawson-Remer and members of the Board of Supervisors,

The San Diego County Disposal Association has taken a **neutral position** on the solid waste Local Enforcement Agency (LEA) fee increases within the 2027 cost recovery proposal by the Department of Environmental Health and Quality (DEHQ).

We understand that the proposed fee increases are primarily driven by non-discretionary costs, such as the rising costs of salaries and benefits set through labor negotiations. However, cost recovery fees continue to rapidly outpace the rate of inflation in the region.

The Board should remember that fees charged to solid waste facilities must be passed on to customers in the form of higher rates, creating real economic impacts that ripple throughout the region. We urge the Board to make a priority of returning future cost recovery proposals to a level closer to the Consumer Price Index (CPI) increase.

We recognize the strong effort that DEHQ and LEA leaders have put into creating efficiencies and improving processes. DEHQ leadership has also invested significant time in building and maintaining relationships with our association and with the front-line workers and supervisors at the facilities regulated by the LEA. We appreciate this approach and hope it serves as a model for other programs and departments at the County.

Thank you for considering the perspective of the San Diego County Disposal Association.

Sincerely,



Jim Madaffer
Executive Director