

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
TUESDAY, MAY 19, 2026**

MINUTE ORDER NO. 7

**SUBJECT: ADMINISTRATIVE ITEM:
SECOND CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF ORDINANCES:
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING: ADOPT ORDINANCES RELATED TO FEES
AND RATES FOR COUNTY FIRE AND MEDICAL EXAMINER EFFECTIVE
FISCAL YEAR 2026-27 (05/05/26 - FIRST READING; 05/19/26 - SECOND
READING UNLESS ORDINANCE IS MODIFIED ON SECOND READING)
(DISTRICTS: ALL)**

OVERVIEW

On May 5, 2026 (09), the Board of Supervisors took action to further consider and adopt the Ordinances on May 19, 2026.

Two County of San Diego (County) Public Safety departments, San Diego County Fire (County Fire) and the Department of the Medical Examiner (Medical Examiner) recently conducted a review of fees and rates to ensure compliance with Board Policy B-29 *Fees, Grants, and Revenue Contracts - Department Responsibility for Cost Recovery* (Board Policy B-29), which requires County departments to recover the costs of providing services to agencies or individuals. As a result, both departments are proposing actions that support the cost of providing services, while ensuring fair and equitable fees for customers and the public.

County Fire, which includes Fire Marshal services, Emergency Medical Services Office (County EMS), acting as the Board of Supervisors (Board) designated Local EMS Agency (LEMSA), and County Service Area 17 (CSA 17) ambulance transportation zone is proposing to increase 22 fees/rates, decrease 16 fees/rates, and remove one fee as noted below. County Fire is also proposing 16 new rates, nine of which are for businesses and organizations requesting on-site and dedicated fire apparatus and staff, and seven for false alarm responses and inspection violations.

The Medical Examiner is proposing to increase two fees and decrease four fees. Fees are only charged for optional services, such as a family requested autopsy, as allowed by statute and approved by the Board.

The Auditor and Controller reviewed and approved the supporting documentation and methodology used to determine the proposed fees to be adjusted in both departments for Fiscal Year 2026-27.

Today's action requests that the Board approve amendments to Article XX of the San Diego County Administrative Code to fees charged for services by the County Fire Marshal, County EMS, and CSA 17 and find the project exempt from CEQA. Since 100% of the fees assessed on ambulance transports are not collected, full cost recovery for services will not be achieved in FY 26-27 and a waiver of Board Policy B-29 is being requested. The Board last approved revisions to County Fire's, CSA 17's, and County EMS' fees on May 6, 2025 (3). Today's request is to also approve amendments to Article XX of the San Diego County Administrative Code to fees charged for services by the Medical Examiner, which last had Board approved revisions on May 6, 2025 (4). Today's request includes two steps, first the ordinances will be introduced on May 5, 2026, then they will be scheduled for consideration and adoption on May 19, 2026.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Consider and adopt the ordinances (unless ordinances are modified on second reading):

- a. AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ARTICLE XX THE SAN DIEGO COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE ORDINANCE CODE, ARTICLE XX, RELATING TO SAN DIEGO COUNTY FIRE, SAN DIEGO COUNTY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES, AND COUNTY SERVICE AREA 17 CHARGES AND FEES
- b. AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE SAN DIEGO COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE CODE ARTICLE XX SECTION 364.6, RELATING TO MEDICAL EXAMINER FEES AND CHARGES

EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT

Services and oversight provided by San Diego County Fire (County Fire) are partially supported through a fee charged to individuals and agencies applying for new residential and commercial building permits, tenant improvement permits, gate and grading permits, and special event permits. County Fire provides this detailed level of oversight ensuring residents in the San Diego County and Deer Springs Fire Protection Districts receive equitable fire protection by appropriately inspecting residential and commercial properties and ensures compliance with the County Fire Code and California Fire Code.

The County Emergency Medical Services Office (County EMS) provides regional leadership and regulatory oversight of the EMS delivery system and ensures that residents in all areas of the County have access to safe, effective, and equitable prehospital care from trained and verified EMS professionals. County EMS also ensures this through appropriately credentialing licensed and verified personnel, permitting and inspecting privately operated transport vehicles, and designating specialized hospital facilities as required by State statute.

The Department of the Medical Examiner's (Medical Examiner) mission is to contribute to safe communities and to justice and equity for the residents of San Diego County by certifying the cause and manner of death for all homicides, suicides, accidents, and sudden and/or unexpected deaths in the county. The Medical Examiner has and continues to identify ways to reduce departmental costs to provide services to the public. Fees paid by customers ensure that Medical Examiner services benefiting a single agency or individual do not reduce resources available to the entire region.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT

Today's actions are supportive of the County's Sustainability goals to provide just and equitable access to County services by ensuring all residential and commercial properties are appropriately inspected and comply with County Fire Code and California Fire Code. The County Emergency Medical Services Office (County EMS) ensures all EMS responders are duly credentialed in a comprehensive and timely manner, all private ambulances (including air ambulances) are permitted and inspected, continuing education providers have accurate and current lesson plans and course records, and hospitals have the correct specialty care designations. The fees for ambulance transports ensure communities remain resilient and capable of responding to the immediate needs of individuals and families within CSA 17.

The proposed adjustments to the Department of the Medical Examiner fee structure are based on updated cost information, including salaries and benefits, services and supplies, and other departmental and countywide cost drivers. These updates ensure that fees accurately reflect the current cost of providing these services. The proposed actions support the County of San Diego's Strategic Initiative of

Sustainability to align the County's available resources with services to maintain fiscal stability and long-term solvency.

FISCAL IMPACT

County Fire

There is no fiscal impact in the current fiscal year. If approved, this request will result in an estimated increase in revenue of \$0.2 million in County Fire, and \$0.4 million in CSA 17 in Fiscal Year 2026-27. Costs and revenue for this request will be included in the Fiscal Year 2026-28 CAO Recommended Operational Plan for County Fire and CSA 17. The funding source are fees paid by agencies or individuals for services.

A waiver of Board of Supervisor Policy B-29: *Fees, Grants, Revenue Contracts - Department Responsibility for Cost Recovery* is requested because the proposed fees will not cover all of the operating costs for services in CSA 17. The unrecovered cost, estimated at \$1.9 million, will be funded with existing CSA 17 property tax revenue. There is no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years.

Medical Examiner

There is no fiscal impact in the current fiscal year. If approved, revenue generated by the revised fees is estimated to decrease by \$1,140 due to decreases in four fees, partially offset by increases in two fees. Costs and revenue for this request will be included in the Fiscal Year 2026-28 CAO Recommended Operational Plan for the Medical Examiner. There is no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years.

BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT

The proposed Fire Marshal fees and rates for County Fire will have an impact on the business community within the San Diego County Fire Protection District and the Deer Springs Fire Protection District.

ACTION:

ON MOTION of Supervisor Desmond, seconded by Supervisor Montgomery Steppe, the Board of Supervisors took action as recommended, on Consent, adopting Ordinance No. 10994 (N.S), entitled: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ARTICLE XX OF THE SAN DIEGO COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE ORDINANCE CODE, RELATING TO SAN DIEGO COUNTY FIRE, SAN DIEGO COUNTY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES, AND COUNTY SERVICE AREA 17 CHARGES AND FEES; and, Ordinance No. 10995 (N.S), entitled: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE SAN DIEGO COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE CODE ARTICLE XX SECTION 364.6, RELATING TO MEDICAL EXAMINER FEES AND CHARGES.

AYES: Aguirre, Anderson, Montgomery Steppe

NOES: Desmond

ABSENT: Lawson-Remer

State of California)
County of San Diego)

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of the Original entered in the Minutes of the Board of Supervisors.

ANDREW POTTER
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors



Signed
by Andrew Potter