

Environmental Health Fees

1. What is the Purpose of Public Health Permit/License Fees?

The Department of Public Health, Environmental Health Division (DPH-EH) is a regulatory agency responsible for performing mandated services including, but not limited to, inspections and investigations related to food, housing, public swimming pools, drinking water, water pollution, solid waste, land use, and vector management.

2. How are Public Health Permit/License Fees Established?

Fees are designed to recover the actual costs associated with the services provided by DPH-EH. Permit/license fees are based on the work required for each permit/license category and include direct costs associated with providing each service activity and the indirect support costs.

3. What is the Reason for the 15% Fee Increase?

The last adjustment made to public health permit/license was in 2011 and as such the current fees are insufficient to recover the cost of the services being provided by DPH-EH.

4. Why Doesn't the DPH-EH Cut Costs Instead of Raising Fees?

DPH-EH has implemented a new inspection and data management system and the reorganization of programs to increase efficiencies. However, there are operational costs including cost of living adjustments, and increases to employee benefits and indirect costs that are beyond the control of DPH-EH.

5. What is the Due Date for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2018-2019 Public Health Permit/License Fees?

The FY 2018-2019 public health permit/license fees are due by June 29, 2018. If the proposed fee increase is approved by the Board, a supplemental billing statement for that portion of the fee representing the 15% increase will be mailed to the permit/license holders. The supplemental fee will be due by October 1, 2018.

6. Do Public Health Permit/License Fees Increase Every Year?

The last public health permit/license fee adjustment was in 2011. DPH-EH is considering more frequent, smaller fee adjustments to minimize the impact on permit/license holders.

7. Why Did I Get a Notice About a Fee Increase for My Rental Property?

Apartment buildings with five (5) or more units are licensed and inspected by DPH-EH. The license fee is assessed by the Los Angeles County Treasurer Tax Collector as part of the property tax. The fee increase referenced in the notification will only affect the public health license fee portion of the property tax bill.

8. Are There Any Other Changes in the Ordinance Amendment?

In addition to the fee adjustment, DPH-EH is also modifying fees concerning soft serve, alternate water projects, swimming pool renovations, and x-ray machines to more accurately reflect the cost of services provided.

For questions or to leave a comment, please contact DPH-EH at (626) 430- 5457 or by email at permitfees@ph.lacounty.gov.

