



**JORDAN Z. MARKS**  
ASSESSOR/RECORDER/COUNTY CLERK  
COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

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**TO:** ALL LEAD AGENCIES AND INTERESTED PERSONS

**FROM:** Val Handfield, Chief Deputy Recorder/County Clerk

**DATE:** November 15, 2023

**SUBJECT:** DEPARTMENT OF FISH & GAME – FILING FEES INCREASE

This letter is to notify you of an adjustment in the environmental filing fees for proposed projects requiring a Negative Declaration (ND) or Environmental Impact Report (EIR) under CEQA.

Fish and Game Code (FGC) Section 711.4 requires the Department of Fish and Game (Department) to collect a filing fee to defray the costs of managing and protecting public trust resources for activities related to environmental review pursuant to CEQA. The environmental filing fees pay for important Department activities, including but not limited to consulting and coordinating with other public agencies, reviewing environmental documents, recommending avoidance and mitigation measures to eliminate or reduce project impacts to fish and wildlife, developing mitigation monitoring requirements and carrying out other activities to protect public trust resources under CEQA.

Pursuant to FGC Section 713, the filing fee is adjusted annually based on changes to the Implicit Price Deflator for State and Local Government Purchases of Goods and Services as published by the US Department of Commerce. The filing fees for calendar year 2023 are shown in the table below and are available on the Department's website at: <https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/CEQA/Fees>

While the filing fees have changed for 2024, the process for payment of filing fees has not changed. The fee is due at the time a Notice of Determination (NOD) is filed. Local lead agencies must pay the fee to the appropriate County Clerk when filing an NOD locally (FGC Section 711.4). County Clerks should not accept nor post an NOD from a local lead agency, unless it is accompanied by one of the following:

1. The correct Department filing fee payment (see table).
2. An Environmental Filing Fee Cash Receipt (FG 753.5a) or Department-approved equivalent showing previous payment of the filing fee for the same document, or

3. A No Effect Determination signed by a department official which documents that the project will have no effect on fish and wildlife.

A lead agency typically files its NOD before responsible agencies file their project NODs, payment will normally be required at the time of the lead agency's filing. Responsible agencies may submit a copy of an official receipt showing the name of the project and the date and amount of payment. If a receipt showing prior payment of the fee is not provided, the fee must be paid at the time a responsible agency files its NOD. If a required filing fee is not paid for a project, the project will not be operative, vested, or final and any local government permits issued for the project will not be valid (FGC Section 711.4 (c) (3)).

CEQA DOCUMENT	FEES EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2023	FEES EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2024
Negative Declaration (ND)	\$2,764.00	\$2,916.75
Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND)	\$2,764.00	\$2,916.75
Environmental Impact Report (EIR)	\$3,839.25	\$4,051.25
Environmental Document pursuant to a Certified Regulatory Program (CRP)*	\$1,305.25	\$1,377.25
County Clerk Processing Fee	\$50.00	\$50.00

\* CRPs include certain state agency regulatory programs as defined in section 21080.5 of the Public Resources Code and section 15251 of the CEQA Guidelines. Beginning July 1, 2013, CEQA/CRP Filing Fees will no longer apply to the filing of Notices of Decision or Determination for Forest Practice Rules and Timber Harvest Plans (Pub. Resources Code, § 4629.6, added by Stats. 2012, ch. 289, § 3).

**PLEASE NOTE: Notices that require the \$50.00 filing fees are Notices of Exemptions and Notices of Determinations. All other notices such as Notices of Availability, Notices of Intent, Public Notices of Proposed Negative Declaration, Notices of Public Hearing, or Notices of Approval do not require the \$50.00 filing fee.**

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact our office at: 619-237-0502.