

PROPOSED CHANGES TO PUBLIC HEALTH FEES

RECYCLED AND ALTERNATE WATER SYSTEMS

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH



The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, Environmental Health Division (EH), is proposing changes to the Los Angeles County Code, Title 8 – Consumer Protection, Business, and Wage Regulations; Division 1 – Public Health Licenses. These changes impact permit, plan check, and service fees that are collected under the authority of State and County Codes to carry out duties that protect public health and safety.

Overview of Program

The program is responsible for verifying that alternate water systems (projects that use non-traditional water sources in place of potable water) are properly designed and constructed in accordance with the California Plumbing Code, California Building Code, and applicable County and State regulations. EH reviews plans, conducts inspections, verifies cross connection controls, and ensures that public health protections are in place. These systems are designed to conserve potable water, improve sustainability, and ensure safe use of alternative water supplies in residential, commercial, and industrial settings.

Alternate water sources may include recycled or reclaimed water, rainwater capture and treatment systems, graywater treatment systems, stormwater capture and treatment systems. This supports water conservation initiatives while ensuring that alternative water systems do not pose a risk to public health or contaminate potable water supplies.

Why are the fees changing now?

Fees were last increased in 2018. While fees have remained the same, operational costs have increased annually due to negotiated employee salaries and benefits, along with inflation. From FY 19/20 through FY 25/26, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) increased by about 25%, and cost-of-living increases approved for County workers totaled 20.5%. Yet fees have remained at 2018 levels despite these cost increases.

A comprehensive fee study was conducted along with an evaluation of current operational costs and the fee levels required to cover those costs. The study reviewed direct and indirect costs associated with program administration, inspection, oversight and enforcement. The fee analysis structure was validated by the LA County Auditor-Controller. The last comprehensive fee study for EH programs was conducted in 2011.

What are the fee changes?

A summary of the proposed fees is listed below. If approved by the Board of Supervisors, fees will go into effect starting December 15, 2026. Existing permitted businesses will receive a supplemental invoice for any increases in annual health permit fees for Fiscal Year 26/27, and existing businesses where annual permit fee decreased will receive a credit during the FY27/28 annual health permit billing.

To minimize the impact of future increases, starting in FY 27/28, fees will be adjusted annually based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI), with no fee exceeding the reasonable cost of providing services.

SUMMARY OF ALTERNATE WATER SYSTEM FEES

PLAN CHECK FEES	Current Fee	Proposed New Fee
Recycled Water New Submittal: The review of plans for recycled water piping within a building at the time of initial construction	\$1,791	\$2,555
Recycled Water Existing Site: The review of plans for the addition of recycled water piping to an existing building	\$2,776	\$4,191
Rainwater For Non-Residential Outdoor: The review of plans for the installation of a system to capture, store and treat rainwater for use as spray irrigation at a non-residential property (municipal only)	\$2,449	\$2,546
Rainwater For Non-Residential Indoor: The review of plans for the installation of a system to capture, store, and treat rainwater for toilet flushing and other approved indoor uses (municipal only)	\$2,776	\$3,591
Graywater Single Family Residential Irrigation: The review of plans for a system to capture gray water (from sinks, showers, bathtubs, or washing machines) that can be reused for spray irrigation at a single-family home.	\$1,960	\$2,668
Treated Graywater Non-Residential Indoor: The review of plans for a system to capture, store, and treat gray water for toilet flushing at a location other than a residence (municipal only)	\$2,205	\$3,848
Stormwater Non-Residential Indoor: The review of plans for a system to capture, store, and treat water from the municipal storm drain for use in a non-residential building for toilet flushing and other approved uses.	\$3,511	\$4,793
Stormwater Non-Residential Outdoor: The review of plans for a system to capture, store, and treat water from the municipal storm drain for use at a non-residential building for spray irrigation and other approved uses.	\$1,470	\$2,151
Shut Down Test - Single Family Residential: A test to verify the complete separation of an alternate water system from the potable water system.	\$2,368	\$802
Shut Down Test - Commercial	\$2,368	\$3,286

Visit our website to learn more about [alternate water systems](#).

How to provide feedback

Questions and comments can be submitted to:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/EHfees> or scan the QR code.

