

ORDINANCE NUMBER O- 19184 (NEW SERIES)

ADOPTED ON JUN 03 2003

AN ORDINANCE OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SAN
DIEGO ADOPTING AND REVISING SELECTED
DEVELOPMENT USER FEES.

WHEREAS, the Development Services Department is responsible for managing the land development review process from concept to completion in the City of San Diego; and

WHEREAS, the Development Services Department Enterprise Fund [DSDEF] was established in 1985, funds the development project review and inspection services, and is supported solely from fees paid by applicants (fee-for-service); and

WHEREAS, in order to maintain the fiscal soundness of the DSDEF, fee changes are proposed based on the results of a fee study conducted by the Department's fee consultant, Maximus, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, the Development Services Department workload, as represented by value of construction, has increased by 7.5 percent; and

WHEREAS, overall department expenses have increased by 8.5 percent, while labor costs have increased by 16.3 percent; and

WHEREAS, the fee changes are proposed to meet established levels of service, to provide for full cost recoverability, and to provide sufficient resources to improve the quality of the mandated regulatory review process; and

WHEREAS, the proposed fee changes include fees that provide for optional and

enhanced services that may be selected by Development Services Department customers; and

WHEREAS, the proposed fees would provide for future information technology costs to improve department efficiency and enhance responsiveness to customers; and

WHEREAS, the proposed fees would support 78 additional budgeted positions to improve current service levels and provide for the base, enhanced, and optional services levels as described in City Managers Report No. 03-040; and

WHEREAS, the proposed fee changes would include future fee increases of 6.2 percent on May 2, 2005, and 4.9 percent on May 2, 2006, to match the personnel expense increases that will result from the approved fiscal year 2003 labor contract; and

WHEREAS, the proposed fee changes include the transfer of fire plan check and inspection staff from the general fund departments into the enterprise fund department; and

WHEREAS, the proposed fee changes reflect the estimated reasonable cost of providing the service for which the fees are charged; and

WHEREAS, building permit fees are being changed to a square footage model using hourly charges and estimated staff time spent on the project for review and inspection services; and

WHEREAS, 14 flat fees are being changed to deposit accounts to provide for full cost recovery because of the cost variability due to project complexity, public involvement, environmental review, and the public hearing process; and

WHEREAS, the proposed fee changes consolidate fee types, eliminate 57 unnecessary fee categories, increase initial and subsequent deposit accounts, and increase hourly charges by 11% to reflect actual costs and avoid project review delays; and

WHEREAS, on March 19, 2003, the Committee on Land Use and Housing voted 3-1 to recommend approval of the proposed fee changes with conditions; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT ORDAINED, by the Council of the City of San Diego, as follows:

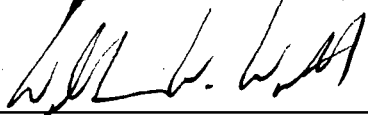
Section 1. That the new and revised Development Services Department fees listed in Attachment 1 of the Manager's Report No. 03-100 a copy of which is on file in the office of the City Clerk as Document No. OO-19184, is approved.

Section 2. That a full reading of this ordinance is dispensed with prior to its final passage, a written or printed copy having been available to the City Council and the public a day prior to its final passage.

Section 3. That this ordinance shall take effect and be in force on the thirtieth day from and after its passage.

Section 4. That the new and revised Development Services Department fees listed in Attachment 1 of the Manager's Report No. 03-100 shall be operational no later than the sixtieth day after the passage of this ordinance.

APPROVED: CASEY GWINN, City Attorney

By 
William W. Witt
Deputy City Attorney

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04/29/03
Orig.Dept.: DSD
O-2003-151