

PROPOSED CHANGES TO PUBLIC HEALTH FEES

COMMUNITY EVENTS/TEMPORARY FOOD FACILITIES/CERTIFIED FARMER'S MARKET

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

EH is responsible for enforcing the California Retail Food Code, a California state law codified in the California Health and Safety Code beginning at §113700. The primary purpose of this law is to establish minimum standards to safeguard public health and to ensure that consumers receive food that is safe, unadulterated, and honestly presented. This includes food that is provided as part of a Community Event as defined in state law. This fact sheet outlines those fees that are applicable to the permitting of temporary food facilities (TFF) that operate as part of an approved community event (such as festivals, county fair, and more) or in conjunction with a Certified Farmer's Market.

A **Community Event Organizer** is required to obtain a permit when a community event has at least 2 TFFs or 3 or more Mobile Food Facilities (MFF) offering food to the public. Inspections focus on food safety practices and determining compliance with health and safety code requirements. EH has determined that larger events require additional time to review and approve. As a result, the fees include a change to create tiers based on the number of participating food vendors. This will keep costs low for smaller events and recover costs associated with larger events.

A **Certified Farmer's Market** is a location approved by the Los Angeles County Agricultural Commissioner, where agricultural products are sold by producers or certified producers directly to consumers. Temporary Food Facilities may be permitted to operate adjacent to a Certified Farmer's Market as a separate Community Event.

A **Temporary Food Facility** is a non-permanent food facility that is approved to operate as part of an approved community event. It is commonly referred to as a food booth and must meet requirements as outlined in the California Retail Food Code.

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, the new fees will go into effect 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 PROGRAM FEES

PERMIT TYPES	Current Fee	Proposed New Fee
CERTIFIED FARMER'S MARKET (1-20 CERTIFIED PRODUCERS): A farmer's market with up to 20 farmers/growers	\$215	\$346
CERTIFIED FARMER'S MARKET (21+ CERTIFIED PRODUCERS): A farmer's market with more than 20 farmers/growers	\$323	\$614
LEAGUE AND BOOSTER SNACK BAR: A snack bar at school and youth sporting event locations that is approved to provide non-perishable and perishable food products	NEW	\$337
SWAP MEET PREPACKAGED FOOD STAND A temporary food facility that operates at a Swap Meet, and can only vend prepackaged non-perishable food and whole, uncut produce	\$182	\$191

PERMIT TYPES	Current Fee	Proposed New Fee
TEMPORARY FOOD FACILITY ANNUAL SITE-SPECIFIC LIMITED BEVERAGE SERVICE: Can only dispense beverages for immediate service at a site-specific community event approved to operate throughout the year	NEW	\$343

TEMPORARY FOOD FACILITY ANNUAL SITE-SPECIFIC UNPACKAGED FOOD: Can prepare, hold and serve perishable food at a site-specific community event approved to operate throughout the year	\$507	\$578
TEMPORARY FOOD FACILITY ANNUAL SITE-SPECIFIC PREPACKAGED FOOD: Can provide only prepackaged food at a site-specific community event approved to operate throughout the year	\$164	\$270

SERVICE FEES	Current Fee	Proposed New Fee
COMMUNITY EVENT - TEMPORARY FOOD FACILITY LIMITED BEVERAGE SERVICE: Can only dispense beverages for immediate service	NEW	\$238
COMMUNITY EVENT - TEMPORARY FOOD FACILITY PREPACKAGED: Can only sell prepackaged food items on a temporary basis at an approved event	\$82	\$102
COMMUNITY EVENT - TEMPORARY FOOD FACILITY UNPACKAGED FOOD: Can prepare, hold and serve perishable food on a temporary basis at an approved event	\$184	\$311
COMMUNITY EVENT ORGANIZER (2-10 FOOD FACILITIES): Responsible for organizing the event and obtaining approval. Provides support for temporary food facilities at approved community events, with 2 to 10 food vendors	\$358	\$411
COMMUNITY EVENT ORGANIZER (11-25 FOOD FACILITIES): Responsible for organizing the event and obtaining approval. Provides support for temporary food facilities at approved community events, with 11 to 25 food vendors	\$358	\$539
COMMUNITY EVENT ORGANIZER (26-50 FOOD FACILITIES): Responsible for organizing the event and obtaining approval. Provides support for temporary food facilities at approved community events, with 26 to 50 food vendors	\$358	\$710
COMMUNITY EVENT ORGANIZER (51+ FOOD FACILITIES): Responsible for organizing the event and obtaining approval. Provides support for temporary food facilities at approved community events, where there are more than 50 food vendors	\$358	\$1,155
LATE APPLICATION FEE (SUBMITTED LESS THAN 14 DAYS BUT MORE THAN SEVEN (7) DAYS)	\$50 OR 25% OF FEE	NO CHANGE
LATE APPLICATION FEE (SUBMITTED WITHIN SEVEN (7) CALENDAR DAYS OF PROPOSED EVENT)	NEW	\$100 OR 50% OF FEE

FEE COMPARSION BY COUNTY

The proposed fees are consistent with those of comparable jurisdictions when accounting for differences in scale and scope. Given Los Angeles County's large population and extensive inspection and service responsibilities, the proposed fees are appropriately aligned with comparable jurisdictions.

PERMIT FEES	LOS ANGELES PROPOSED NEW FEE	PASADENA	LONG BEACH	ORANGE	VENTURA	SAN DIEGO	RIVERSIDE	SAN BERNARDINO
CERTIFIED FARMER'S MARKET (1-20) VENDORS	\$346	\$342	\$629	\$466	\$1,469	\$479 - \$792	\$574	\$675
CERTIFIED FARMER'S MARKET (21 +) VENDORS	\$614	\$493	\$795 - \$891	\$466	\$1,469	\$479 - \$792	\$574	\$675
TFF AT SINGLE LOC ANNUAL PREPACKAGED	\$270	\$180	\$277	\$326	\$285 - \$537	\$360	\$199	\$429
TFF PREPACKAGED	\$102	\$99	\$84	\$144	\$85 - \$159	\$148	\$50	\$169
TFF UNPACKAGED FOOD	\$311	\$235	\$159	\$213	\$85 - \$159	\$251	\$100	\$237
TFF SINGLE LOC ANNUAL UNPACKAGED	\$578	\$634	\$411	\$627	\$285 - \$537	\$685	\$498	\$582
COMMUNITY EVENT ORGANIZER 2-10 BOOTHS	\$411	\$301	\$205	\$359	\$353 - \$769	\$376	\$149	\$393 - \$675

Visit our website to learn more about [Community Events](#) and [Certified Farmer's Markets](#).

How to provide feedback

Questions and comments can be submitted to: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/EHfees> or scan the QR code.

