

**MEMORANDUM
PLACER COUNTY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Environmental Health**

TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors

FROM: Richard J. Burton, M.D., M.P.H.
Placer County Health Officer and Director of Health & Human Services
Jill Paht, Director of Environmental Health

DATE: April 29, 2008

SUBJECT: Public Hearing to consider Environmental Health Fee Adjustments

ACTION REQUESTED:

It is respectfully requested that your Board:

- a. Conduct a public hearing to consider revising the permit, annual facility monitoring and inspection fees, as well as one-time construction plan check and inspection fees;
- b. Adopt a revised Environmental Health fee model implementing full fee recovery over a three year period for Land Development and other services provided by the Health and Human Services Department, Environmental Health Division;
- c. Direct Staff to return with Resolutions containing the revised fee model; and
- d. Direct Staff to return with an Ordinance deleting and replacing Chapter 2, Section 2.116.100 of the Placer County Code regarding fees for Environmental Health.

BACKGROUND:

On February 26, 2008, the Department brought the attached item to the Board of Supervisors requesting an increase in Environmental Health fees associated with Environmental Health services delivered to permitted facilities and associated with land use development.

At the February 26, 2008 public hearing the Board of Supervisors continued the hearing to April 29, 2008 and directed the Department to continue to work with the community, develop operational changes that maximize efficiency, develop more alternatives for implementation, identify opportunities for incentivizing compliance, and to charge non-compliant facilities for re-inspections when needed.

Since February 26, 2008, the Department has:

1. Confirmed that the Division has implemented over fifteen specific program efficiencies and service improvements identified in two comprehensive external program and fiscal audits conducted in 2005 and 2006. Both audits recommended the Division update the current fee schedule.
2. Documented that the use of technologies such as field laptops have allowed eight staff to be able to inspect 1,800 facilities where they previously had been able to inspect 1,200 facilities.
3. Reduced six staff positions in the Division's proposed Fiscal Year 2008-09 Budget and will only conduct one inspection per year to document compliance as part of the permitting process.
4. Proposed funding two Environmental Health Technicians and one Administrative Clerk position with County General Fund because of the community-wide benefit and contribution to overall public health and safety provided by these employees.
5. Proposed that food facilities achieving 100% compliance will not be charged any fee increase for Fiscal Year 2008-09 and then be charged 50% of proposed fee increases, representing 6% of the food facilities permitted.
6. Proposed that food facilities in compliance with all the "Major" criteria and no more than two "Minor" violations will be charged 75% of the proposed fee increases, representing 12% of the food facilities permitted

7. Conducted seven community stakeholder meetings where the stakeholders were able to evaluate the methodology and basis for 100% cost recovery. Community stakeholders supported a 100% cost recovery fee structure implemented over a 5-year period of time.

The Department has been very grateful for the participation and recommendations of the Food Safety Working Groups and looks forward to their continuing participation in achieving maximum compliance and operational efficiencies.

The Department is bringing forward three alternatives to phasing in fees that will result in 100% cost recovery for permitting activities. The alternatives represent maximally efficient operations, recognition of business excellence, and ongoing County General Funding dedicated to community benefit services. All alternatives include the following characteristics.

- ✓ Service Modifications
 - All include minimal inspections per facility
 - All include re-inspection fees for non-compliant facilities
 - All include reduced staffing from Fiscal Year 2007-08 level
 - All include community-wide services to be funded by County General Fund
- ✓ Incentives motivating increased compliance
 - All include financial incentives for facilities with no violations, propose they be exempted from any fee increase in 2008-2009 and are then charged 50% of the proposed fee increases
 - All include financial incentives for facilities with no "major" violations and no more than 2 "Minor" violations, propose they are charged 75% of the proposed fee increases
- ✓ Fiscal Components
 - All include County General Fund
 - All include achieving 100% cost recovery for permitting activities

The fee specifics of the alternative models are described below:

**April 29, 2008
Annual Fee Phase-In Models
Example - Permit Fee = \$500**

(Models Include 3% Annual Consumer Price Index Adjustment)

Fee Model	CY 2007 Annual Fee	CY 2008 Annual Fee	CY 2009 Annual Fee	CY 2010 Annual Fee	CY 2011 Annual Fee	CY 2012 Annual Fee
Current Fee Model	\$500	\$508	\$523	\$538	\$555	\$571
Option 1 12 Months 50/100	\$500	\$688	\$877*	\$903	\$930	\$958
Staff Recommendation 36 Months 33.3/33.3/33.3	\$500	\$633	\$773	\$903*	\$930	\$958
Option 3 60 Months 10/15/25/25/25	\$500	\$547	\$622	\$738	\$853	\$958*

* Full Cost Recovery Achieved Through Fees

The Department recommends the Board of Supervisors adopt the Staff Recommendation. The Staff Recommendation represents an incremental implementation of fee increases over a three-year period while also maintaining County General Fund contribution for community-wide services and financial incentives rewarding compliance. This recommendation also limits the General Fund subsidy to \$4,048,000, which is 43% less than Option 3. The following chart demonstrates the General Fund subsidy associated with each of the fee models.

**Annual General Fund Required Subsidy
(This Chart Transitions to Budget Year Funding)**

Fee Model	FY 2007-08	FY 2008-09	FY 2009-10	FY 2010-11	FY 2011-12	FY 2012-13	Cumulative General Fund Subsidy
Current Fee Model	\$1,995,000	\$2,054,000	\$2,116,000	\$2,179,000	\$2,245,000	\$2,312,000	\$12,901,000
Option 1 12 Months 50/100	\$1,995,000	\$1,027,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$3,022,000
Staff Recommendation 36 Months 33.3/33.3/33.3	\$1,995,000	\$1,376,000	\$678,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$4,049,000
Option 3 60 Months 10/15/25/25/25	\$1,995,000	\$1,849,000	\$1,586,000	\$1,087,000	\$558,000	\$0	\$7,075,000

* Note: All models include in excess of \$230,000 per year General Fund contribution to cover staff costs for activities that provide community-wide benefits.

Upon Board adoption of a fee adjustment model, Resolutions will be developed and presented to your Board under consent agenda at a future meeting for implementation of the Board's direction.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is approximately \$2,054,000 in County General Fund subsidy in the Environmental Health Fiscal Year 2008-09 Proposed Budget. Any fee increases authorized would reduce the amount of County General Fund subsidy required to deliver these mandated services.

AGENDA ITEM
DATE: <u>4/29/08</u>
Env. Health Fees
TIME: <u>10:00am</u>

RECEIVED

FEB 26 2008

COUNTY OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF PUBLIC AFFAIRSDATE 5/19/08

- Board of Supervisors - F
- County Executive Office
- County Council
- Administrative Assistant
- HHS

Dear Mr. Rockholm

My name is Martha Querada and I am a small business owner. I am writing to you because of the proposed fee increase for the Environmental Health Department. I strongly feel that the increase of over 100% is too much. I am a small business owner and only operate 52 days out of the year. The new rate increase would mean I would have to tack on new prices on my merchandise and I cannot ask of this because the way the economy is at the moment it is definitely not the right time.

I know that the increase will take place. But please let it be installed over a period of time (maybe four or five years).

I enjoy my business and would hate to have to close because of a huge rate increase. Please take this into consideration.

Thank you very much for your time

Martha Querada

My business is at Denios in Roseville 60



February 20, 2008

Robert M. Weygandt
Placer County Supervisor, District 2
175 Fulweiler Avenue
Auburn, CA 95603

RECEIVED

FEB 20 2008

CLERK OF THE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

RE: PLACER COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH
PROPOSED FEE INCREASE

Dear Supervisor Weygandt and Members of the Placer County Board of Supervisors:

At our most recent Government Affairs Committee meeting for Lincoln Area Chamber of Commerce, Dr. Burton of the Placer County Health and Human Services Department, as well as Tim James, Manager, Local Government Relations and California Grocers Association discussed the Proposed Food Facilities Fee Increase scheduled to be heard by the Board of Supervisors on February 26, 2008 at 9:40 a.m.

In both, reading their January 15, 2008 Memo addressed to Jim Gandley the HHS Assistant Director, and listening to their comments we would like to give our recommendations:

- Due to the fact that fees had not been reviewed for over 15 years, and from Dr. Burton's comments, that they have been analyzed and calculated the actual cost to get a certain job completed (down to the hours worked on each project to completion), it sounds like the review of the Environmental Health Department services was thorough.
- Since there have been no increases, with the exception of CPI, we obviously understand that there is a need to make some changes, but would encourage that the fee increases be tiered over a period of time, and not all at once.
- We also support the idea of incentives to food facilities that have no violations and agree that a perfect record of compliance should be rewarded. Their proposal for these facilities to maintain the current fees for one year is a positive step towards retaining and supporting businesses in Lincoln
- We also like that the Environmental Health Department will continue to work with the newly formed food advisory groups to develop other program improvements, and to market safe food handling practices and the facilities that use them.

Best regards,

Cindy Murphy, Executive Manager for TRI Commercial
Chair, Lincoln Area Chamber of Commerce
Government Affairs Committee

RECEIVED

FEB 20 2008

CLERK OF THE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

February 20, 2008

Hon. Jim Holmes, Chair
Placer County Board of Supervisors
175 Fulwider
Auburn, CA 95603

Re: Proposed Environmental Health Fee Increase

Dear Supervisor Holmes:

I am writing on behalf of the board of directors of the Rocklin Area Chamber of Commerce and the members of the chamber's Government Affairs Committee to provide members' input concerning the proposed increase to the county's environmental health fees.

First of all, we would like to express our collective appreciation to county staff, including Jill Pahl, Environmental Health Director, for the proactive and forthright manner she has represented the county in these discussions. This is just the kind of partnership the community should expect and receive from its public servants.

Secondly, we wish to recognize that protecting the public health is one of the county's most important functions. Inspecting food safety and food facilities is an essential role of the county and key to its public health mission.

That being said, we wish to express some concern regarding the proposal before you:

While we understand the county's intention to capture revenue to cover the cost of services, we urge the county to exercise restraint and prudence when pursuing this strategy of "cost recovery." Such aggressive pursuit of revenue from the public or from businesses may benefit the county's general fund in the short term but may harm the taxpayers and the local economy in the long run.

We recognize the fact that the fee in question has not been raised for 15 years and that the proposed fee will be comparable to neighboring counties. However, we urge the county and the board to consider both sides of the ledger - costs as well as revenue - when determining fees, including labor rules and hiring practices that may limit the county's flexibility as an employer.

We also encourage the board to consider the amendments proposed by the California Grocers' Association and others to ease the burden of compliance and provide flexibility to both the regulator and the regulated business:

- Phase in the cost increase over two years to allow businesses time to absorb costs into already impacted budgets.
- Allow an annual inspection once a business has received two positive inspections.
- Offer high end service to new businesses.
- Offer web posting of results.
- Encourage standardization among inspectors.

These amendments, when taken as a whole, will position Placer County as a responsible regulator, protecting the public health while providing flexibility, consistency and accountability to business owners that subscribe to good business practices.

Thank you in advance for your thoughtful consideration of our views.

Sincerely,



David N. Butler
Chair, Rocklin Chamber of Commerce Government Affairs Committee

Members, Placer County Board of Supervisors
Jill Pahl, Director, Environmental Health Division
Tim James, California Grocers' Assn.
Wendy Gerig, Roseville Chamber of Commerce
Bobbi Park, Lincoln Chamber of Commerce



RECEIVED

FEB 19 2008

CLERK OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

WELL DRILLING COMPANY

February 14, 2008

Jim Holmes, District 3 Supervisor
Placer County Board of Supervisors
175 Fulweiler Avenue
Auburn, CA 95603

AGENDA ITEM	
DATE:	2-26-08
TIME:	9:40 AM

Re: Proposed fee increases by Placer County Environmental Health

Dear Jim,

Unfortunately I am going to be out of the country when Placer County Environment Health presents its fee increase proposal before the Placer County Board of Supervisors on February 26, 2008. You have probably seen a copy of this. It is stated that the standard domestic well permit will go from \$413 to \$669. The permit for deepening a well will go from \$185 to \$372 and the permit for doing any sort of repair on a well will go from \$185 to \$298.

Actually the well drillers are getting off easier than other groups like the grocers and restaurateurs who are experiencing over 100 percent increases. Placer County Environmental Health has told us that the reason for this is that the Board of Supervisors has ordered the Department to replace with fees \$2.3 million that it gets each year from the General Fund.

There are a couple of points that need to be made here. First, we are in an economic crisis both nationally and locally. Placer County depends heavily on the real estate and construction industries for both jobs and tax base. To further suppress these industries is to hurt the people that are hurting most, and the people most likely to get us out of economic stagnation.

It has been stated that the businesses slapped with these increased fees will just pass the costs onto their customers. If this were true the increased fees would constitute a tax which should receive the same sort of legislative due process that other tax increases receive. However, I'm not sure that that is going to be what happens. A restaurateur whose inspection fees and license fees from the County double can't just increase his/her

1660 OLD AIRPORT ROAD • AUBURN, CA 95602
 FAX (530) 823-2377
 AUBURN (530) 823-0354
 PLACERVILLE (530) 622-2320
 1-800-995-WELL
 GRASS VALLEY (530) 268-2117

DATE 2-26-08
 Board of Supervisors - 5
 County Executive Office
 County Counsel
 Mike Boyle
 Planning
 Environmental Health

63

food prices accordingly. If he or she does that, potential customers would just decide to eat at home. Similarly for well drillers, people would decide not to drill and hook up to public water instead, or not to build at all. (The cost of entitlements is rapidly outpacing people's ability to pay for new homes.) So, there are powerful substitution possibilities which prevent the passing along of these increased fees.

Second, and probably most important is the absence of any real analysis or prioritization on the part of Placer County Environmental Health as to what programs really need to be maintained and staffed to the extent they are now. All Placer County Environmental Health has done in this fee increase proposal is draw a line under what is necessary to maintain their current budget, plus inflation and various other goodies. For people like you and me, who have been in business and who have seen hard times, we don't get the luxury of just raising our prices when the economy goes down and revenues fall. We have to cut our costs. It is not at all clear to me that this is what has happened at Environmental Health.

What needs to happen is a serious look at the programs that Environmental Health staffs, how efficiently they staff them and whether we really need all of these people and/or equipment. I've been working with Placer County Environmental Health for twenty-eight years. I've seen it grow from a handful of inspectors to a bloated and commensurately arrogant bureaucracy. The excuse always is that "the State has mandated programs which the County must staff and fund."

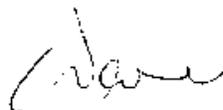
Well maybe and maybe not. Let me give an example. In 1990 the State passed legislation that among other things required every county in the State to inspect the installation of the annular seal on every new well. In 1990 our permit fees more than doubled to accommodate the staff required to do this. (In 1990 well permit fees jumped to \$341 from \$152 in 1989.) Every year thereafter there have been substantial fee increases well in excess of inflation until we got to the point where we are today. However, one thing has changed and that is Environmental Health hardly ever inspects an annular seal. That's right, in spite of "the State mandate" that seals be inspected for which substantial fees are collected, the annular seals are almost never witnessed. In light of this I haven't seen any Environmental Health officials being censured, demoted or in any other way disciplined by the State or any other entity for not fulfilling this "State mandate." Placer County Environmental Health has tacitly recognized that the

County's current well drillers do a pretty good job and have applied their staff other places.

The point here is that there are thousands of State mandates out there and not enough people to watch that they get fulfilled. Many of these "mandates" are just plain stupid. The practical reality is that the County in this situation can and does exercise the ability to pick and choose what mandates are the most important and how it will staff them. In this light The Board needs to order an independent management review of the Environmental Health Department to figure out what parts of its mission are most important, and how it can limit resources to addressing these. To saddle businesses with increased costs, and the people of Placer County, with a crypto-tax increase, which these fee increases represent, is to fail our management responsibilities and to allow this bureaucratic tumor to grow.

I hope you will take a serious look at these proposed increases and hopefully suggest such a study. Thank you.

Very truly yours,



Dave Fulton

P.S. Placer County Environmental Health has proposed staggering the fee increases so that half goes into effect July 1 and half Jan 1, 2009. This hardly helps.

John A. Panelli
450 Gladyscon Rd. #42
Colfax, CA 95713

STANDARD FORM
FEB 14 2008
CITY OF COLFAX

February 7, 2008

DATE 2/14/08
 Board of Supervisors - 5
 County Executive Office
 County Counsel
 Miles Boyle
 ~~Planning~~ **HHS**

Rocky Rockholm
Placer County Board of Supervisors, District 1
175 Fulweiler Ave.
Auburn, CA 95603

Re: Environment Health Division
Fee Structure Revision

AGENDA ITEM
DATE: <u>2/14/08</u>
Env. Health Fees
TIME: <u>9:40am</u>

Dear Sir,

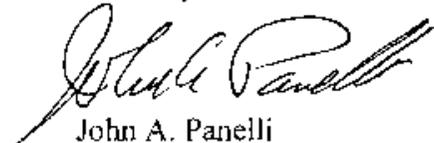
I strongly recommend no increase this year in light of the economic conditions, especially bad on small business sole proprietors.

That being said; let us continue to study the fee structure proposal for the balance of this year, and if economics change, consider implementation of a new proposal next year.

If it is necessary to implement a fee now, consider the fee to be divided and adjusted over the next four or five years with the CPI factored in.

On behalf of all small business, this is not the time to raise fees, but it is the time to reduce government and hold the line. Small Business is having to reduce staff and tighten its belt.

Sincerely,


John A. Panelli
Giovanni's/Shady Glen Inn

Diane Howe
Coffee and Collectibles
2641 Central Avenue
Roseville, Ca. 95747

February 7, 2008

Supervisor Rocky Rockholm
District 5
175 Fulweiler Avenue
Auburn, Ca. 95603

Ref: Proposed Environmental Health Fee Increase

Dear Supervisor Rockholm:

I am writing to express my concern related to the proposed increase of Health Permit fees by the Environmental Health Department to be presented to the Board of Supervisors on Feb. 26, 2008 for approval.

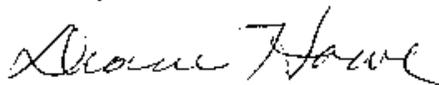
As a small business owner I find the currently proposed increase of over 100% to be detrimental to business and unaffordable; therefore I am opposed to the suggested increases. The justification for such an increase (which would need to pass on to customers) would be hard to explain in the current economical environment.

If a fee increase of this large magnitude is to happen, I would respectfully request considering a phasing approach over a four to five year period of time. At a four year phasing I would be paying the County 25% more per year which still is a rate that can not be asked of customers.

It is my understanding that the Environmental Health Department is working with a group of business owners towards developing a sound financial incentive plan that would reward businesses for good inspections over time. Being a good operator and requiring little of County inspection time I am in favor of this direction in working together.

Thank you for your thorough consideration of this issue.

Sincerely,



Diane Howe

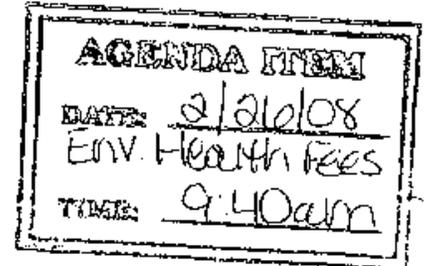
RECEIVED

FEB 11 2008

CLERK OF SUPERVISORS

DATE 2/14/08

- Board of Supervisors - 5
- County Executive Office
- County Counsel
- Mike Boyle
- Planning HHS



Diane Howe-Coffee and Collectibles
2641 Central Avenue
Roseville, Ca. 95747

January 7, 2008

County of Placer
Department of Health and Human Services
Environmental Health Division
3091 County Center Dr., Suite 180
Auburn, Ca. 95603

Ref: revision to the Permit Terms and Pending Fee Revisions

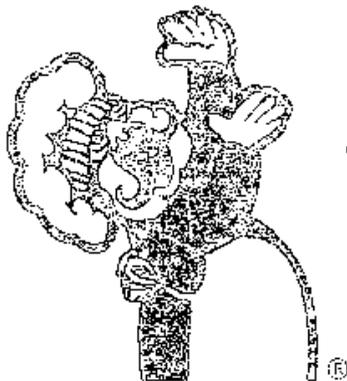
Dear Dr. Burton/ Jill Pahl, R.E.H.S.

I am writing concerning the proposed fee revisions of various environmental health facilities. I operate a booth at Denio's Auction with approximately 400 sq. ft. with no food prep—just distribution of coffee, tea, spices and herbs. At this facility I have paid health permit fees over the past 15 years which increased yearly (by COLA) to the current \$210.00 which I paid for 2007. I realize that increases are necessary but based on the amount of time spent yearly to do inspections at my individual location I am paying over \$800.00 an hour.

It is my understanding that the proposed fee increases would be 126% for my particular business. I feel that this is excessive at minimum. This amount of increase will be detrimental to businesses in Placer County overall—either driving businesses elsewhere, putting them out of business completely or certainly not encouraging them to begin business in our County.

I would suggest that the County needs to look at efficiency methods of balancing Department budgets as well as creating more equitable categories in this fee area. Recently the Transportation Commission made the decision not to place a sales tax increase on the ballot for our County because they recognized the negative impact that ¼% would have in this downward spiraling economy. I believe that increases the magnitude suggested would definitely present a negative impact. As a citizen in this County, paying taxes, I was under the assumption that the General Fund was to be used to “protect and provide for” me as a citizen. The increases suggested could, in fact, reduce General Fund revenues if businesses depart from Placer County.

Please consider reviewing other methods of budget balancing as well as more equitable categories and phasing of increases over workable periods of time (3-5 years minimum.). Our current economy has many businesses as well as governmental agencies struggling. I am very aware of this as I sit on a local school board and regardless of our needs as we would see them, our increases in revenues are based on COLA (cost of living adjustment) each year and we have no ability to “collect” fees from our students. We continually



**"We Toss 'em,
They're Awesome!"
PIZZA FACTORY®**

**24340 Main St. P.O. Box 1464
Foresthill, CA 95631
530-367-3245 fax 530-367-3338**

RECEIVED
FEB 20 2008
PLACER COUNTY
COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE

February 20, 2008

Jill Pahl, Director
Placer County Environmental Health Division
3091 County Center Drive, #180
Auburn, CA 95603

RECEIVED
DATE: 2/20/08
Environmental Health Fees
TIME: 9:40am

RE: PROPOSED INSPECTION FEE REVISIONS

DATE 2/22/08
 Board of Supervisors - 5
 County Executive Office
 County Counsel
 Mike Boyle
 HHS et al

Dear Director Pahl:

As a business owner I am very concerned with how your department intends to increase inspection fees for restaurants and other businesses in Placer County; in some cases by 85% (Auburn Journal 2/14/08). I understand the Board of Supervisors has asked all departments to cut their budgets by 10% across the board.

We all know that the economy has been in a downturn, people do not have the extra cash to eat out as much as we had a year ago. The result is that restaurants and other businesses are already under an increasing burden of diminishing revenue. Basically it seems that since the Supervisors want you to cut your budget, what you are actually doing is increasing your budget by trying to replace your lost revenue with inappropriate fee increases. These fee increases will ultimately affect the local economy as a whole; thereby reducing tax revenue in the long run which will of course become a future budget deficit problem for Placer County.

Just as individual businesses and households need to do some belt tightening during economic downturns, so do the various departments of our local government.

With increased fuel costs, delivery expenses, employee related expenses, higher credit card rates, etc. combined with less business, our profit margins are shrinking day by day. To add this increase in fees at this time, will ultimately drive some out of business. You are quoted in the Auburn Journal (2/14/08) stating "Despite the criticism, the fee structure will be forwarded as initially proposed." Although the next line quotes you as saying "I understand and empathize," it is clear that you have already made up your mind regardless of the evidence that shows that this is a bad decision.

Please reconsider the new fee structure and do all you can to trim your department just as we have to tighten our belts.

Thank you,



Rose Perez
Owner

Cc: PLACER COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

RECEIVED

FEB 22 2008

PLACER COUNTY

2/22/08
 County Administrator
 County Counsel
 County Clerk
 Administrative Assistant
 HHS



DATE: 2/22/08
 SUBJECT: Environmental Health Fees
 FROM: g.40am

February 22, 2008

Supervisor Jim Holmes, Board Chair
 Placer County
 175 Fulweiler Avenue
 Auburn, CA 94603

RE: February 26, 2008, Agenda #4: Health & Human Services/Environmental Health - OPPOSE

Dear Supervisor Holmes:

The California Restaurant Association (CRA), on behalf of the interests of over 22,000 member foodservice establishments in California, strongly OPPOSES the fee increases proposed by the Placer County Environmental Health Department. Implementing such a drastic increase over a short period of time is unreasonable and unduly burdensome and we oppose this measure.

Many restaurants simply cannot afford an increase of this magnitude. In some cases, the increase is 100% to 200% more than the current fee. This is beyond the scope of what is considered reasonable and would be overwhelmingly burdensome, especially for small mom & pop restaurants.

Based on the nature of our business, we are a vulnerable industry that is tough to survive in already. On average, restaurants make less than a nickel for every dollar in sales and with the recent increase in the state's minimum wage, another increase in cost makes it much more difficult to survive in an already difficult industry.

While we understand the goals of the County to reduce costs, we respectfully ask the Board for a reasonable and responsible approach.

For these reasons, we strongly oppose the fee increases proposed by the Placer County Environmental Health Department and urge your "NO" vote.

Sincerely,

Johnnie Foster Downs
 Legislative Director

cc: Members, Board of Supervisors

PREPARE TO BE INSPIRED.

1011 10th Street Sacramento, CA 95814 T: 800.765.4842 F: 916.447.6182 www.cra-rest.org



NELSON BOOKKEEPING SERVICES
LAURA NELSON
6775 TRAILHEAD CT.
FORESTHILL, CA 95631
PHONE: 530-852-0761 FAX: 530-367-3717
LANBOOKKEEPING@CEBRIDGE.NET

February 15, 2008

Jill Pahl, Director
 Placer County Environmental Health Division
 3091 County Center Drive, #180
 Auburn, CA 95603

POWERED
 BY
 THE
 UNITED STATES
 POSTAL SERVICE

AGENCY DESK
DATE: 2/26/08
Environmental Health Fees
TIME: 9:40am

- DATE 2/22/08
- Board of Supervisors - E
 - County Executive Office
 - County Counsel
 - Mike Boyle
 - HHS email

RE: PROPOSED INSPECTION FEE REVISIONS

Dear Director Pahl:

As a business owner I am very concerned with how your department intends to increase inspection fees for restaurants and other businesses in Placer County; in some cases by 85% (Auburn Journal 2/14/08). I understand the Board of Supervisors has asked all departments to cut their budgets by 10% across the board.

We all know that the economy has been in a downturn, people do not have the extra cash to eat out as much as we had a year ago. The result is that restaurants and other businesses are already under an increasing burden of diminishing revenue. Basically it seems that since the Supervisors want you to cut your budget, what you are actually doing is increasing your budget by trying to replace your lost revenue with inappropriate fee increases. These fee increases will ultimately affect the local economy as a whole; thereby reducing tax revenue in the long run which will of course become a future budget deficit problem for Placer County.

Just as individual businesses and households need to do some belt tightening during economic downturns, so do the various departments of our local government.

With increased fuel costs, delivery expenses, employee related expenses, higher credit card rates, etc. combined with less business, our profit margins are shrinking day by day.

To add this increase in fees at this time, will ultimately drive some out of business. You are quoted in the Auburn Journal (2/14/08) stating "Despite the criticism, the fee structure will be forwarded as initially proposed." Although the next line quotes you as saying "I understand and empathize," it is clear that you have already made up your mind regardless of the evidence that shows that this is a bad decision.

Please reconsider the new fee structure and do all you can to trim your department just as we have to tighten our belts.

Thank you,

Laura Nelson ALSO TREASURER OF FORESTHILL DIVIDE CHAMBER

Cc: PLACER COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

RECEIVED

FEB 22 2008

February 20, 2008

Hon. Jim Holmes, Chair
Placer County Board of Supervisors
175 Fulweiler
Auburn, CA 95603

OFFICE OF THE
CLERK OF SUPERVISORS

Re: Proposed Environmental Health Fee Increase

Dear Supervisor Holmes:

I am writing on behalf of the board of directors of the Rocklin Area Chamber of Commerce and the members of the chamber's Government Affairs Committee to provide members' input concerning the proposed increase to the county's environmental health fees.

First of all, we would like to express our collective appreciation to county staff, including Jill Pahl, Environmental Health Director, for the proactive and forthright manner she has represented the county in these discussions. This is just the kind of partnership the community should expect and receive from its public servants.

Secondly, we wish to recognize that protecting the public health is one of the county's most important functions. Inspecting food safety and food facilities is an essential role of the county and key to its public health mission.

That being said, we wish to express some concern regarding the proposal before you:

While we understand the county's intention to capture revenue to cover the cost of services, we urge the county to exercise restraint and prudence when pursuing this strategy of "cost recovery." Such aggressive pursuit of revenue from the public or from businesses may benefit the county's general fund in the short term but may harm the taxpayers and the local economy in the long run.

We recognize the fact that the fee in question has not been raised for 15 years and that the proposed fee will be comparable to neighboring counties. However, we urge the county and the board to consider both sides of the ledger - costs as well as revenue - when determining fees, including labor rules and hiring practices that may limit the county's flexibility as an employer.

We also encourage the board to consider the amendments proposed by the California Grocers' Association and others to ease the burden of compliance and provide flexibility to both the regulator and the regulated business:

- Phase in the cost increase over two years to allow businesses time to absorb costs into already impacted budgets.
- Allow an annual inspection once a business has received two positive inspections.
- Offer high end service to new businesses.
- Offer web posting of results.
- Encourage standardization among inspectors.

These amendments, when taken as a whole, will position Placer County as a responsible regulator, protecting the public health while providing flexibility, consistency and accountability to business owners that subscribe to good business practices.

Thank you in advance for your thoughtful consideration of our views.

Sincerely,



David N. Butler
Chair, Rocklin Chamber of Commerce Government Affairs Committee

Members: Placer County Board of Supervisors
Jill Pahl, Director, Environmental Health Division
Tim James, California Grocers' Assn.
Wendy Gerig, Roseville Chamber of Commerce
Bobbi Park, Lincoln Chamber of Commerce

ROCKLIN AREA
Chamber of Commerce

3700 Rocklin Rd., Rocklin, CA 95677 • Phone (916) 624-2549 • Fax (916) 624-5746
Email: info@rocklinchamber.com • www.rocklinchamber.com

13

February 15, 2008

RECEIVED

FEB 22 2008

Jill Pahl, Director
Placer County Environmental Health Division
3091 County Center Drive, #180
Auburn, CA 95603

CLERK
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

AGENDA ITEM
DATE: 2-26-08
#4
TIME: 9:40am

RE: PROPOSED INSPECTION FEE REVISIONS

Dear Director Pahl:

We have been reading about how your department intends to increase inspection fees for restaurants and other businesses in Placer County; in some cases by 85% (Auburn Journal 2/14/08). Bruce Kranz informed us of an increase that your department was requesting. He also stated that the Board of Supervisors had asked all departments to cut their budgets by 10% across the board.

We all know that the economy has been in a downturn, people do not have the extra cash to eat out as much as we had a year ago. The result is that restaurants and other businesses are already under an increasing burden of diminishing revenue. Basically it seems that since the Supervisors want you to cut your budget, what you are actually doing is increasing your budget by trying to replace your lost revenue with inappropriate fee increases. We do not recall any news story about ANY business in Placer County that has been a serious health risk to the public. For you to increase your inspection fees and frequency of inspections is blatant budget padding!!!! You should be ashamed of yourself and you should have the moxy to CUT THE DEADWOOD IN YOUR DEPARTMENT!!!! This includes personnel as well as paperwork.

We also understand that you have introduced a new electronic record keeping system (lap top computers) which has increased the inspection time. Would it not seem reasonable that "improving" the technology of your department would then streamline your department and make it MORE efficient and therefore LESS costly??? In fact like all government bureaucracies it is obvious that you are doing all you can to protect your department by becoming less efficient and more redundant in your operations.

If you tried this in the private sector, you would be run out of business!!!!!! Since OUR TAXES PAY YOUR SALARIES, WE DEMAND THAT YOU CUT YOUR BUDGET BY 10% AS INSTRUCTED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS. We hire them to manage you!!!!!!

Sincerely,
Roy & Tamra West
ROY & TAMRA WEST
P.O. BOX 292, AUBURN, CA 95604

Cc: PLACER COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Supervisor Rocky Rockholm

DATE 2-26-08

- Board of Supervisors - 5
- County Executive Office
- County Counsel
- Administrative Assistant
- Environmental