

The Sacramento County Environmental Management Department (EMD) now accepts electronic payments (credit cards & electronic checks) **online**.

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7-1-2021 Fee Letter to Businesses

A message from the Director, Marie Woodin

Dear Business Owner:

This past year has been a challenging one with hardships due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We are aware of the economic hardships that have impacted businesses. The Environmental Management Department (EMD) did not raise fees during 2019-2020. Our fee schedule was due to expire at the end of fiscal year 2020, but it was delayed to the end of fiscal year 2021 with no fee increase. As per ordinance, EMD must perform a fee study every five years to ensure fees are appropriate for each program. A fee study was completed for the Department in years 2019 and 2020. The fee study analysis ensures that the fees are appropriate for each program. A new fee schedule was developed from the fee study analysis. We conducted extensive outreach workshops to our businesses, public, and community and business interest groups to allow for public comment on the proposed fee schedule for fiscal years 2021-2026. The new fee schedule does not raise fees for the retail food, body art and storm water programs. Fees in several of the programs are being phased in over three to five years. The Board of Supervisors approved the new fee schedule and it was adopted on May 18, 2021. The fee schedule can be viewed at <https://emd.saccounty.net/Pages/EMDFees.aspx>.

EMD is sensitive to the hardships caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and if you are experiencing difficulty in paying your permit fee, please call (916) 875-8481 to arrange for a payment plan. If you need to place your business in temporary status or remove your business from temporary status please call us at (916) 875-8581. In past years, some programs where fines and penalties have been collected and exceeded EMD's costs of enforcement, the penalty money was returned as credits against fees for those businesses that are in compliance and are in those same programs. During this next fiscal year, there will be no credits given since the enforcement penalty money collected in FY 2020-2021 did not exceed EMD's costs of enforcement.

My managers and staff continue to be committed to utilizing the most efficient technology in order to keep program costs down. We are committed to working with you regarding payment of your fees. We are working closely with Sacramento County Economic Development in sharing COVID recovery financial aid information with businesses. Please see their website for more information.

<https://economic.saccounty.net/Pages/CoronavirusFinancialResources.aspx>

Please call, email or visit EMD if you have any questions, constructive comments or suggestions regarding your fees.

Sacramento County Environmental Management Department
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