



CITY OF PALM DESERT

73-510 FRED WARING DRIVE
PALM DESERT, CALIFORNIA 92260-2578
TEL: 760-776-6483
PLANNING@PALMDESERT.GOV

CITY OF PALM DESERT PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE ADOPTION OF USER AND REGULATORY FEES

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT A PUBLIC HEARING WILL BE HELD BEFORE THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PALM DESERT, CALIFORNIA, TO CONSIDER ADOPTING A RESOLUTION REVISING THE USER AND REGULATORY FEES FOR VARIOUS CITY SERVICES

PROJECT LOCATION: Citywide

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The City Council will consider a proposed fee schedule update to revise the user and regulatory fees for various City services. The fees support essential services that ensure safe, organized, and visually cohesive development across the City. Updates to the user and regulatory fees are needed to help recover the costs of providing critical functions for the City of Palm Desert. The last comprehensive update to the fee schedule was completed in 2012.

PUBLIC HEARING: NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City Council of the City of Palm Desert, California, will hold a Public Hearing at its meeting on August 28, 2025. The City Council meeting begins at 4:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber at 73510 Fred Waring Drive, Palm Desert, California. Pursuant to Assembly Bill 2449, this meeting may be conducted as a hybrid meeting allowing public access via teleconference or in person. Options for remote participation will be listed on the Posted Agenda for the meeting at <https://www.palmdesert.gov/connect/city-council>.

COMMENT ON THIS APPLICATION: Those wishing to comment on this application may either appear in person at the public hearing or submit written comments, which must be received by 10:00 a.m. on the day of the hearing. Written comments should be sent to the City of Palm Desert at 73510 Fred Waring Drive, Palm Desert, California 92260, Attention: City Clerk, or emailed to: CouncilMeetingComments@palmdesert.gov.

Any challenge of the proposed project in court may be limited to raising only those issues raised at the public hearing described in this notice or in written correspondence delivered to the City Clerk at or prior to the public hearing. (Government Code Section 65009[b][2]).

Si necesita ayuda con esta notificación por favor llame a la Ciudad de Palm Desert y comuníquese con Damian Olivares (760) 346-0611.

PUBLISH: THE DESERT SUN
AUGUST 15, 2025

ANTHONY MEJIA, MMC, CITY CLERK
CITY OF PALM DESERT, CALIFORNIA



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PUBLISH: THE DESERT SUN
AUGUST 21, 2025

ANTHONY MEJIA, MMC, CITY CLERK
CITY OF PALM DESERT, CALIFORNIA

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Palm Desert User Fee Update



The City of Palm Desert is updating its user and regulatory fees for development and construction services to more accurately reflect the true cost of providing these services. Most of these fees have not been comprehensively reviewed in more than a decade. This update supports fair cost recovery and ensures we can continue delivering high-quality service to our residents and development community.

What It Means

If adopted, the proposed fees—based on a comprehensive study by ClearSource Financial Consulting—will be phased in over three years. These adjustments will bring building, planning, and engineering fees in line with the true cost of services. This ensures developers and applicants pay for the services they directly benefit from, rather than relying on general taxpayer subsidies. The City's objective with this change is to:

- Reflect the actual cost of service delivery
- Ensure fairness and transparency
- Reduce reliance on general taxpayer subsidies
- Align fee responsibility with those who directly benefit from the services

Related Documents

- [Public Hearing Notice](#)
- [User Fee Study Report](#)

How to Provide Feedback

Your input is important. The City will hold a public hearing where community members and stakeholders can provide

[Register](#) To Get Involved!

Who's Listening

Rosie Lua

Interim Director of Development Services
City of Palm Desert



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5 members of your community are following this project



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May 16, 2025

VIA EMAIL

City of Palm Desert User and Regulatory Fee Study – Development Services Executive Summary

Dear Residents and Stakeholders,

We're reaching out to share important updates about the City of Palm Desert's Development Services Fees. These fees support essential services that ensure safe, organized, and visually cohesive development across our community. Services covered include project entitlement reviews, planning and permitting, map reviews, inspections, and building plan checks. The fees help the City recover the costs of providing these critical functions in line with Palm Desert's vision for responsible growth.

The last comprehensive update to these fees was completed in 2012. Since then, the cost of providing services has increased due to inflation and other factors, while the fees have remained relatively unchanged. To address this, the City engaged ClearSource Financial Consulting to conduct a User and Regulatory Cost of Service Study.

This study was undertaken to:

- Ensure fees accurately reflect the cost of services provided;
- Identify appropriate cost recovery rates;
- Evaluate fees compared to neighboring agencies; and
- Establish a structured, transparent process for future fee reviews.

Key Findings:

- Most development-related fees should target full cost recovery to ensure that private projects are not subsidized by general City funds.
- Palm Desert currently charges lower fees than many cities in the region.

May 16, 2025

- Proposed adjustments would align our fees with regional standards, without making Palm Desert an outlier.

Recommendation:

- To minimize the impact on applicants, the City is proposing a phased increase in these fees over a three-year period. While the fees will initially remain below the full cost of service recovery, they are expected to reach full cost recovery by year three.

Next Steps:

- The results of this study, along with the proposed fee adjustments, are scheduled for **presentation to the Palm Desert City Council in July 2025**. This will include public discussions to ensure transparency and allow for community input before any changes are adopted.

The goal of this initiative is to maintain high-quality services while practicing responsible financial stewardship. The data from the study provides a strong foundation for fair and transparent updates to our fee structure.

If you have any questions or need further information, please feel free to contact me at (760) 776-6480 or rlua@palmdesert.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rosie Lua', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Rosie Lua

Director of Development Services

City Listed Stakeholders for City Fees

Marc Troast
Senior Vice President
Building Industry Association of Southern California, Inc.
17192 Murphy Ave., #14445
Irvine, CA 92623
(951) 850-5900
mtroast@biasc.org

Gretchen Gutierrez
CEO
Desert Valleys Builders Association
550 S. Oleander Road
Palm Springs, CA 92264
760-776-7001
gg@thedvba.org

Deborah McGarrey
Public Affairs Manager, SoCalGas
75095 Mayfair Drive
Palm Desert, CA 92211-5102
760-578-5985
DMcgarrey@socalgas.com>

August 13, 2025 – Email to Stakeholders

The City is resending the cost of service study and fee schedule after review by the City Attorney. While no fees have been changed, the updated materials are intended to provide greater clarity and transparency.

The revised study improves upon the previous version by:

- Clearly identifying where specific information is located within the report;
- Clarifying how costs of service are calculated, including the drivers of hourly rates and estimated service times;
- Explaining the basis for proposed fees and the cost of service methodology.

The City is recommending approval of the study with a three-year phased implementation approach. This will allow for a gradual adjustment based on the findings of the study, while providing stakeholders time to prepare.

We appreciate your continued participation and welcome any questions or feedback. The City Council Meeting date is August 28, 2025, hope to see you there.