

DEVELOPER FEES

Level 1 Funding: Residential, Commercial and Industrial Construction

Before taking action to establish, increase or impose developer fees, the Governing Board shall conduct a fee justification study which: (Government Code 66001)

1. Identifies the purpose of the fee and the use to which the fee will be put
2. Determines a reasonable relationship between the fee's use and the type of development project for which the fee is imposed
3. Determines a reasonable relationship between the need for the public facility and the type of development project for which the fee is imposed
4. Determines a reasonable relationship between the amount of the fee and the cost of the public facility or portion of the public facility attributed to the development for which the fee is imposed

Level 1 Funding: Notice and Hearing Requirements

Before levying developer fees or prior to increasing an existing fee, the Board shall schedule a public hearing. The Superintendent or designee shall mail notice of the time and place of the meeting, including a general explanation of the matter to be considered and a statement that the required data are available, at least 14 days prior to the meeting to any interested party who has requested such information. Any written request for mailed notices shall be valid for one year from the date on which it is filed unless a renewal request is filed. Renewal requests for mailed notices shall be filed on or before April 1 of each year. The district may charge a fee reasonably related to the cost of providing these materials. (Government Code 66016)

Information on the anticipated amount of fees, other available funds and funding sources, and the estimated cost of planning, land acquisition and school construction shall be made available to the public at least 10 days before the hearing. (Government Code 66016)

At the hearing, the Board shall adopt a resolution for the levying of the developer fees. (Government Code 66016) The resolution shall set forth:

1. The purpose of the fee and the public improvement(s) that the fee will be used to finance (Government Code 66006)
2. The Board's findings of reasonable relationship which justify the fees pursuant to Government Code 66001

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3. The district's determination of either of the following conditions which allow collection of the fees at the time when building permits are issued: (Government Code 66007)
 - a. That the fees are to reimburse the district for previous expenditures
 - b. That the fees shall be collected for public improvements or facilities for which an account has been established, funds have been appropriated and the district has adopted a proposed construction schedule or plan

Level 2 Funding: Residential Construction

In order to impose residential construction fees within the limits of Government Code 65995.5, the Board shall: (Government Code 65995.5)

1. Make a timely application to the State Allocation Board for new construction funding for which it is eligible
2. Conduct and adopt a school facility needs analysis pursuant to Government Code 65995.6
3. Satisfy at least two of the requirements set forth in Government Code 65995.5(b)(3)(A-D) (Government Code 65995.5)

Level 2 Funding: Notice and Hearing Requirements

At least 45 days prior to completion of the school facility needs analysis, the Board shall notify and provide copies of the analysis to the planning commission or agency of the city or county with land use jurisdiction within the district. Upon request of either party, the Board and city or county shall meet within 15 days following notification. (Government Code 65352.2)

(cf. 7131 - Relations with Local Agencies)

The Board shall adopt the school facility needs analysis by resolution at a public hearing. (Government Code 65995.6)

This analysis may not be adopted until the analysis, in its final form, has been made available to the public for a period of not less than 30 days. Prior to its adoption, the public shall have the opportunity to review and comment on the analysis and the Board shall respond to written comments it receives regarding the analysis. (Government Code 65995.6)

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During the period of public review, the analysis shall be provided to the local agency responsible for land use planning for its review and comment. (Government Code 65995.6)

No less than 30 days prior to the hearing, notice of the time and place of the hearing, including the location and procedure for viewing or requesting a copy of the proposed analysis, shall be published in at least one newspaper of general circulation within the jurisdiction of the district. If there is no paper of general circulation, the notice shall be posted in at least three conspicuous places within the district's jurisdiction not less than 30 days prior to the hearing. (Government Code 65995.6)

In addition, the Superintendent or designee shall mail a copy of the needs analysis not less than 30 days prior to the hearing to any person who has made a written request if the written request was made 45 days prior to the hearing. The district may charge a fee reasonably related to the cost of providing these materials. (Government Code 65995.6)

The school facility needs analysis may be revised at any time. The revision is subject to the same conditions and requirements applicable to the adoption of the analysis. The existing school building capacity shall be recalculated as part of any revision to the needs analysis. (Government Code 65995.6)

The fees authorized by Government Code 65995.6 and Government Code 65995.7 shall be adopted by resolution as part of the adoption or revision of the school facilities needs analysis. The fees shall take effect immediately upon adoption of the resolution and may not be effective for more than one year. (Government Code 65995.6)

Level 3 Funding: Residential Construction

When Level 3 fees are authorized by law and the district qualifies for Level 2 funding pursuant to Government Code 65995.5, the Board may assess a fee on residential construction pursuant to the requirements of Government Code 65995.7.

Level 3 Funding: Notice and Hearing Requirements

Pursuant to Government Code 65995.7, the notice and hearing requirements, resolution requirement, and term of effectiveness for Level 3 funding shall be the same as the requirements for Level 2 funding as specified above.

All Developer Funding Fees: Additional Requirements

The district shall send a copy of any resolution adopting or increasing developer fees to the city and county, accompanied by all relevant supporting documentation and a map indicating the boundaries of the area subject to the fee. (Education Code 17621)

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In cooperation with local governmental agencies issuing building permits, the Superintendent or designee shall establish a means by which all of the following shall be accomplished:

1. The project applicant shall receive a written statement of the amount of the fees and notification that the 90-day approval period during which the applicant may protest has begun. (Government Code 66020)
2. The Superintendent or designee shall receive and retain acknowledgment that the above notification was received.
3. Before a permit is issued and upon the payment of the applicable fee or requirement, the Board shall immediately certify that the fee has been paid or that the district has determined that the fee does not apply to the development project. (Education Code 17620)

Developer fees shall be deposited, invested, accounted for and expended pursuant to Government Code 66006. Developer fees shall be deposited in a separate capital facilities account, except for temporary investments allowed by law, and shall be used only for the purpose for which they were collected. Interest income earned by the capital facilities account shall also be deposited in that account and used only for the purpose for which the fee was originally collected. (Government Code 66006)

For each separate account so established, the Superintendent or designee shall, within 180 days after the last day of each fiscal year, make available to the public the following information for the fiscal year: (Government Code 66006)

1. A brief description of the type of fee in the account or fund
2. The amount of the fee
3. The beginning and ending balance of the account or fund
4. The amount of the fees collected and the interest earned
5. An identification of each public improvement on which fees were expended and the amount of the expenditures on each improvement, including the total percentage of the cost of the public improvement that was funded with fees
6. An identification of an approximate date by which the construction of the public improvement will commence if the district determines that sufficient funds have been collected to complete financing on an incomplete public improvement

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7. A description of each interfund transfer or loan made from the account or fund, including the public improvement on which the transferred or loaned fees will be expended, and, in the case of an interfund loan, the date on which the loan will be repaid, and the rate of interest that the account or fund will receive on the loan
8. The amount of refunds made pursuant to Government Code 66001(e) and any allocations made pursuant to Government Code 66001(f)

The Board shall review the above information at the first regularly scheduled public Board meeting which occurs 15 days after the information is made available to the public. Fifteen-day prior notice of this meeting shall be mailed to any parties filing a written request pursuant to Government Code 66006. (Government Code 66006)

In addition to discharging its public disclosure duties regarding the levying of developer fees, the Board shall, for the fifth fiscal year after the first deposit into the account or fund and every five years thereafter, make all of the following findings with respect to the portion of the account or fund that remains unexpended, whether committed or uncommitted: (Government Code 66001)

1. Identify the purpose to which the fee is to be put
2. Demonstrate a reasonable relationship between the fee and the purpose for which it is charged
3. Identify all sources and amounts of funding anticipated to complete financing in incomplete improvements originally identified
4. Designate the approximate dates on which the funding referred to in item #3 is expected to be deposited into the appropriate account or fund

When sufficient funds have been collected to complete the financing of public improvements but such improvements remain incomplete, the district shall, within 180 days of the date that a determination of sufficient funding was made, either identify an approximate date by which construction will begin or refund the unexpended revenues in accordance with Government Code 66001. (Government Code 66001)

Appeals Process for Protests by Developers

Developers of residential, commercial and industrial projects who claim that the developer fee has been inappropriately levied shall use the following procedures: (Government Code 66020)

1. The developer shall tender any required payment in full or provide satisfactory evidence of arrangements to pay the fee when due or ensure performance of the conditions necessary to meet the requirements of the imposition.

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2. The developer shall serve written notice to the Board. This notice shall include:
 - a. A statement that the required payment is tendered or will be tendered when due, or that any conditions which have been imposed are provided for or satisfied, under protest
 - b. A statement informing the Board of the factual elements of the dispute and the legal theory forming the basis for the protest
3. The protest shall be filed at the time of approval or conditional approval of the development or within 90 days after the date of the imposition of the fees.
4. Within 45 days from filing the request for exemption, the developer shall provide evidence demonstrating that his/her development will have no impact upon the district. Evidence shall include, but not be limited to:
 - a. Evidence showing the estimated number of students that will be generated by the project. Such evidence shall include, but not be limited to, the number of students generated by other similar development, if appropriate, within the district on a first- and fifth-year basis, taking into consideration both primary and secondary generations. Primary generations are the growth of population and students due directly to the construction project. Secondary generations are the growth of population and students occurring because of the population increases in the primary category.
 - b. Evidence that the construction project will continue to be used for its current purpose for five or more years rather than being converted to a use that may generate a higher population increase
 - c. An analysis of the cost of needed district facilities as related to the generation of all revenues including developer fees available to reconstruct and construct facilities on a first- and fifth-year basis
5. If the Superintendent or designee determines it appropriate, he/she may request that the evidence submitted by the developer be reviewed by an independent expert to determine its validity. In addition, he/she may request that additional research and analysis be conducted by the independent expert. This work shall be completed within 45 days after the developer submits his/her evidence. The cost of the analysis shall be paid by the developer and deducted from his/her paid developer fees prior to the Board hearing.

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6. Upon receiving all prepared data, including the independent expert's analysis if requested, the Superintendent or designee shall submit the data, the request for exemption and his/her recommendation to the Board at its next regular meeting.
7. At its meeting, the Board shall conduct a hearing, consider all submitted evidence and recommendations and take action to approve or deny the petition of exemption.
8. The Board reserves the right to modify the amount of the levy if it determines such action is appropriate.

School Facilities Improvement District

Upon determining that a school facilities improvement district is necessary, the Board shall adopt a resolution of intention that states all of the following: (Education Code 15320)

1. The Board's intention to form the proposed school facilities improvement district
2. The purpose for which the proposed district is to be formed, consistent with the requirements of Education Code 15302
3. The estimated cost of the school facilities improvement project
4. That any taxes levied for financing general obligation bonds issued to finance the project shall be levied exclusively upon the lands in the proposed school facilities improvement district
5. That a map showing the exterior boundaries of the proposed district is on file with the Board and available for public inspection, and that these boundaries meet the requirements of Education Code 15301
6. The time and place for a Board hearing on the formation of the proposed district
7. That any interested persons, including all persons owning lands in the district or in the proposed school facilities improvement district, may appear and be heard at the above hearing

Notice of the hearing shall be given by publishing a copy of the resolution of intention in a newspaper of general circulation pursuant to Government Code 6066, starting at least 14 days before the hearing. The resolution shall also be posted in three public places within the proposed school facilities improvement district for at least 14 days before the hearing. (Education Code 15321)

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The Board shall hold the above hearing as specified in its resolution and may, at the hearing, adopt a resolution proposing modifications of its above-stated purposes consistent with Education Code 15302. A resolution proposing modification shall describe the proposed modifications, state any change in the estimated cost of carrying out the purpose, and fix a time and place for a related Board hearing. (Education Code 15322, 15323)

At least 14 days before the above hearing, the Board shall publish the resolution proposing modifications one time in the same newspaper in which the resolution of intention was published. (Education Code 15324)

When hearings are concluded, the Board may, by resolution, order the formation of a school facilities improvement district. The resolution shall state the estimated cost of carrying out described purposes and shall number and designate the improvement district as specified in Education Code 15326. (Education Code 15326)

The Superintendent or designee shall establish procedures consistent with Education Code 15330-15425 governing the financing of bonds, bond elections and the issuance and sale of bonds.

General Obligation Bonds

Whenever the district calls an election regarding the issuance of general obligation bonds to fund a facilities project, all or part of which will require matching funds from the state, the sample ballot shall contain the statement specified in Education Code 15122.5; this statement shall inform voters that the project proposal assumes that the district will receive matching funds from the state and that passage of the bond measure is therefore not a guarantee that the project will be completed. (Education Code 15122.5)