

Environmental Health Division Fees

Costs

The Environmental Health Division is currently staffed by three full time Environmental Health Specialist positions (not including the Health and Code Manager). The primary responsibility is to conduct health inspections of food establishments, daycares and swimming pools. Additional responsibilities include plan review, CO inspections, complaint investigations, public education and the mosquito abatement program. Current approximate costs of this division are:

Staff (salaries & benefits):	\$226,454
Operations:	\$16,310
Vehicles (replacement & fuel):	\$15,000
Total:	\$257,764

Fees

Annual Health Permit fees are collected for food establishments, daycares and semi-public swimming pools. These are the only regular revenues tied to environmental health operations. The current and proposed fee revenues are:

Current annual fee revenue:	\$136,200
Proposed annual fee revenue:	\$178,450

Analysis

Permit fees are collected to offset some of the costs of operating environmental health programs. These programs provide a service, and cost recovery is not an established goal for these fees.

Currently fees cover 52.8% of costs.

Proposed fees would cover 69.2% of costs.

Costs not covered by these fees, are covered through the general fund via tax revenues.

The fundamental choice is: how much of these costs will be covered by fees, and how much will be covered by tax revenues. The proposed increase in fees is one method by which the City can diversify revenue sources and minimize the tax burden.