

Building Department Fees...you need a plan

Bryan Spain - Building Official - City of Solvang
Jeff Janes - Building Official - Building Official / Interwest
Consulting Group



- According to State of California (State) law, building permit fees cannot exceed the reasonable estimated cost of providing service.
- So, some of the questions we would ask about your building department are
- Are regular cost of service studies conducted? If so, how often?
- Is the fee structure based on a cost revenue allocation method?
- Does it account for end-of-fiscal-year works-in-progress?
- Could your city or county building permit fees be able to withstand public and political scrutiny?



Today's Panel:

Nicole Kissam - Director NBS Financial Consulting Group

William Kelley - Building Official County of Marin

Will Crew - Building Official Interwest Consulting Group - Regional Manager



Building Department Fees...you need a plan

Nicole Kissam - Director

NBS Financial Consulting Group

NBS Presentation Topics

User Fee Principles and Guidance

Key Issues Framing a Fee Study

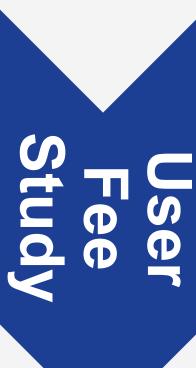
Basic Costing Methodology

Policy Setting Considerations

Best Management Practices



User Fee Study



Defines full cost recovery potential of individually-based services



User Fee Study Guidance

Proposition 26

Article XIIC § 1(e)(3) Inspections and Regulatory the local government's reasonable costs. Permits are exempt ...however are still limited to

CA Government Code § 66014(a)

the service for which the fee is charged" estimated reasonable cost of providing ...tees may not exceed the



User Fee Study

YES Cost recovery opportunities

YES elected governing body Implemented by City Council/

fees, utility rates, etc. Taxes, fines, development impact

Z O



Benefits of Realigning User Fees

Reduce or clarify subsidies

previously eliminated services Revenue for new, current, and

Fund the department efficiently

Cost recovery policy and procedure



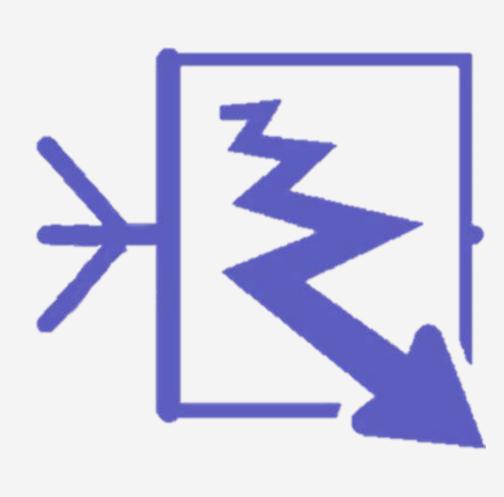
Basic Fee Setting Approach

Understand full cost of providing services accordingly municipal fees Set



21st Century Building Department

- More constraints, requirements & costs
- Decline in new construction
- Increase in remodels & improvements permits
- Customer influence on unpermitted construction
- Service levels subject to policy & funding





Elements of Fee Analysis

- Fee structure design
- Data requirements

 Total cost of services
- Fee vs. non-fee costs

Considerations.

Important

- Fully burdened cost / hour
- Level of service provided
- Cost vs price for services



Fee Structure Design

Flat Fees

Variable Fees based on project characteristics – valuation or other approach?

Fees based on actual time tracked (with deposits managed as needed)



Defining Total Costs

DIRECT

- Salaries and benefits
- Services and supplies

NDIRECT

 Program, division, departmental, agencywide

SUPPORT

 Review required from internal departments for approval

SYSTEMS and MAINTENANCE

 On-going and projected technology costs and maintenance, imaging costs, etc.



Annual Time Analysis

Direct Case Work

Intake and Processing

Plan Review Initial and Iterations

Inspections Initial and Re-insp.

Permit Issuance

Project Close Out

Other Services

Public Information and Assistance

Code Enforcement

Support / Overhead

Training

Divisional Administration

Departmental Administration

Agency Wide Administration



FBHR – Cost Per Hour Calculation

Direct Case Work

Indirect Services

Support / Overhead

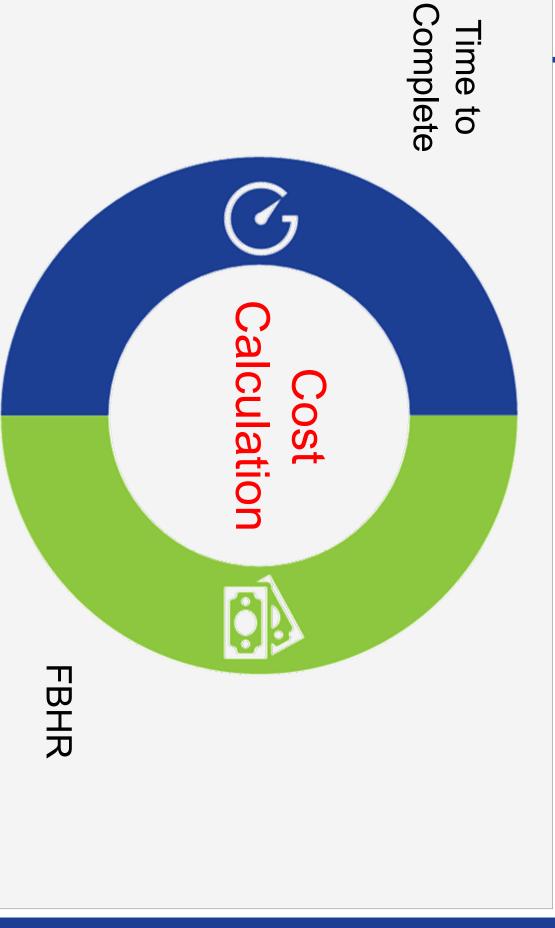
/available working hours \$ per hour

Hourly Rate Outcomes

- "Billable" rate by employee class and/or unique division
- Composite rate by type of service

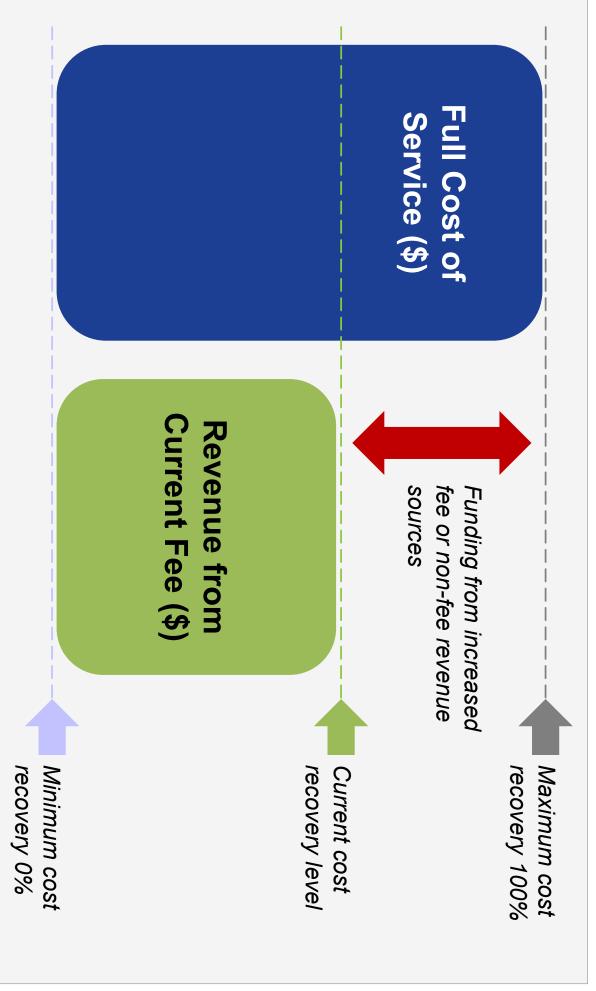


Cost per Fee Item





COST vs. PRICE



Why Not 100% Cost Recovery?



21st Century Building Department – BMP's

Building department long term stability business model built for allocation

Plan

Analyze

- Demand for service
- Resource use and
- and cost recovery Fully burdened cost

cost recovery service priorities and based on local Sustainable and reasonable balance

Policy

Maintain

3 to 5 years Comprehensive fee study every





Building Department Fees...you need a plan

William Kelley - Building Official, County of Marin

FEES

REVENUE



Fee = Time X Rate

Time = Fee / Rate

SERVICE LEVEL

Rate = Fee / Time

BUDGET

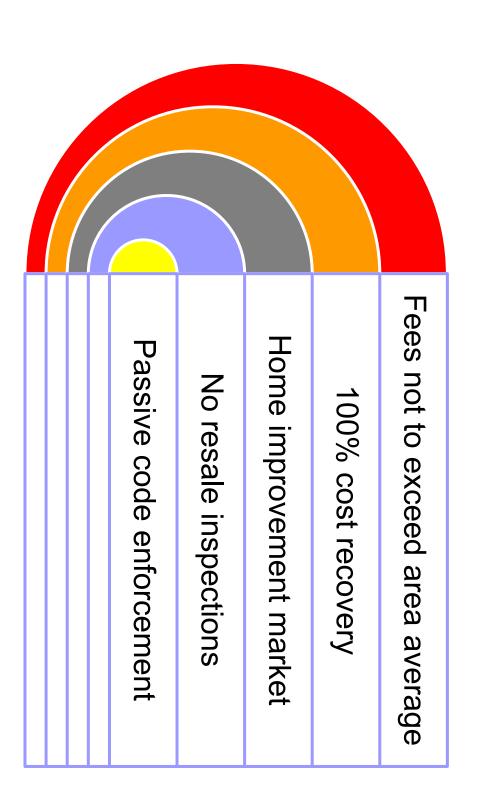
STAFF & STAFF WILLIZATION

The Marin Model -lessons learned

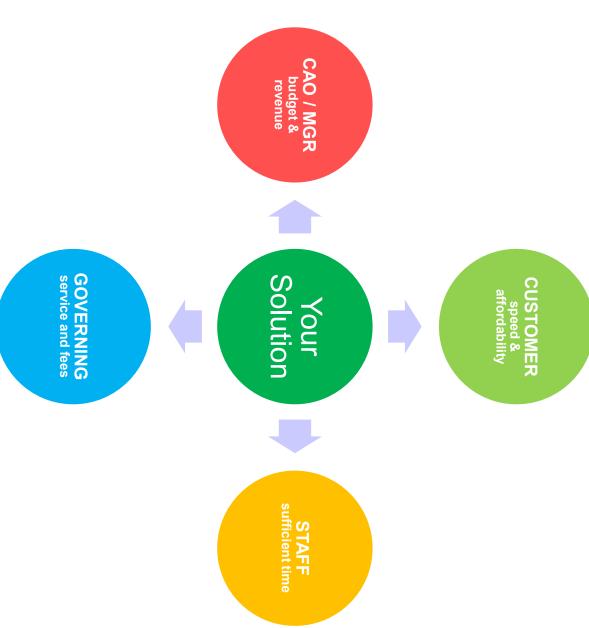
#1 Know your business



#2 Understand your limits



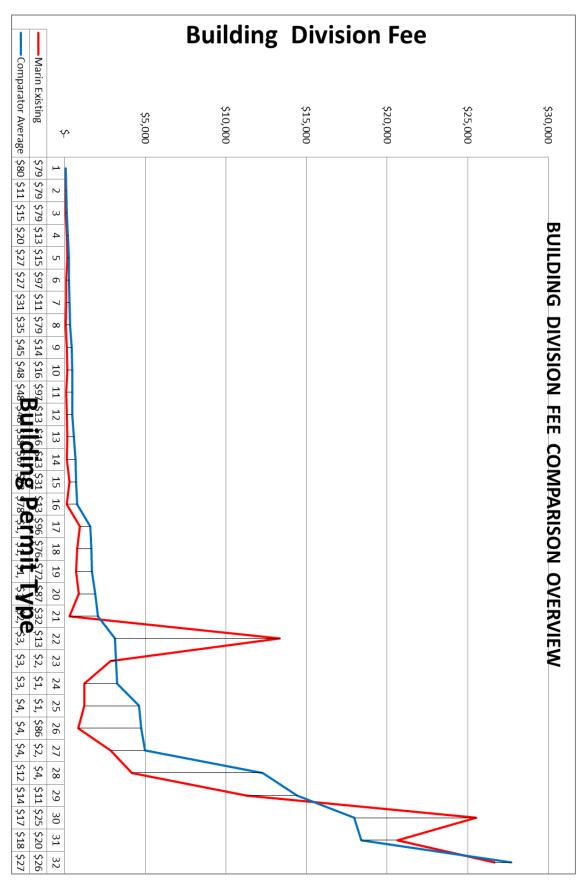
#3 Understand your stakeholders



The Marin Model -real world example

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100.0%	57.7%	25.5%	2.0%	14.7%	0.0%	12.7%	9.8%	10.5%	1.9%	14.7%	8.1%	2.2%	1.8%	0.1%	0.0%	0.9%	0.0%	12.1%	8.4%	1.0%	0.0%	0.7%	0.1%	0.2%	6.7%	1.3%		0.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.3%	2.6%	2.4%	0.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.2%	Frequency	Projected %	FY 17-18	

#2 Compare Existing Fees



#3 Quantify Available Staff Resources that will Perform the Work

6,413	annual billable hours =	1350	Inspection FTE @	4.75	85% - 59%	1,222	1,760	Inspection FTE:	
3,694	annual billable hours =	985	Plan Review FTE @	3.75	84% - 64%	1,322	1,748	Plan Review FTE:	
4,160	annual billable hours =	1280	Engr Review FTE @	3.25	84% - 64%	1,322	1,748	Engr Review FTE:	
3,931	annual billable hours =	925	Permit Tech FTE @	4.25	86% - 65%	1,348	1,779	Permit Tech FTE:	
						LOW	HGH	2008 fee study billable hour ranges:	

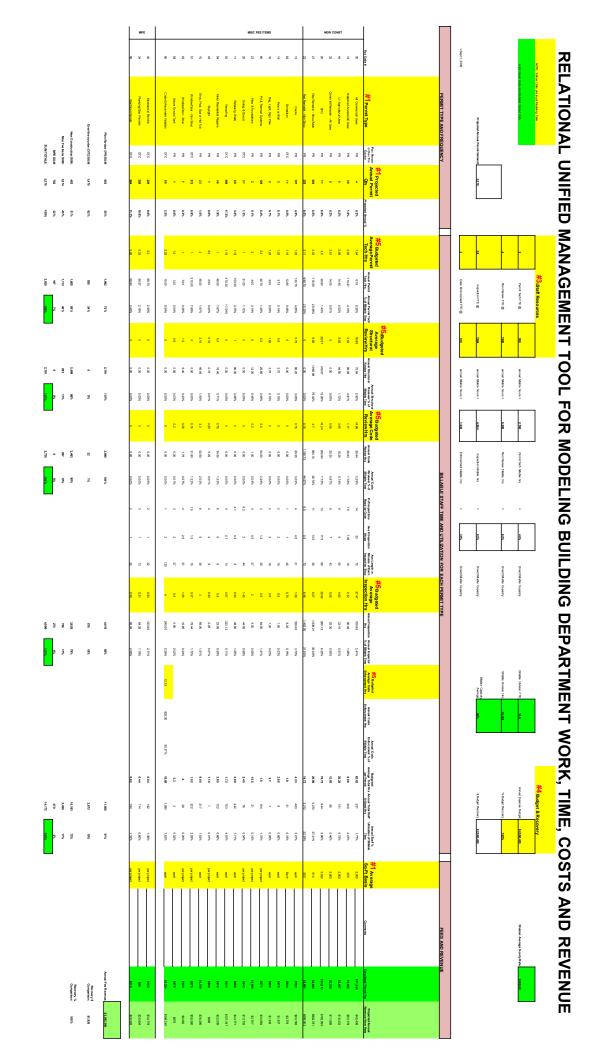
#4 Quantify Annual Budget and Recovery Targets

\$4,672,082	FY 17-18 Recovery \$: \$4,672,082	14%		
100%	FY 17-18 Recovery %:	\$206.31	anticipated cost:	FY 17-18 Hourly Rate to recover unanticipated cost:
\$465,036	FY 17-18 Unanticipated Cost:		\$75.98	FY 17-18 Cost/Rate Differential: \$75.98
\$4,672,082	FY 17-18 Expense Budget: \$4,672,082	\$25.55	ated Hourly Cost:	FY 17-18 Unanticipated Hourly Cost:
\$180.76	FY 09-10 Hourly Rate:	42%	\$256.74	FY 17-18 Hourly Cost: \$256.74

71%	Recovery % Comparison:	100%	Recovery % Comparison:
-\$1,377,254	Recovery \$ Comparison:	\$7,738	Recovery \$ Comparison:
\$3,294,828	Total Projected Fee Revenue:	\$4,679,820	Total Projected Workload Cost:

#5 Quantify Initial Time Budgets for Each Staff Member and Each Permit Type

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					0.26	0.23	0.3	0.25	1.2	4	1	2	0.5	_	1.15	1 1	2	0.3	1.25	1.25	1.15	1.25	3.11	3.53	3.6	2.81	2.89	2.93	#5 Budgeted Average Permit Tech
2,930	1,113	1,605	938	1,992	68.64	59.57	68.70	15.00	1.20	7.00	212.00	46.00	0.50	46.00	470.35	31.00	4.00	38.70	2.50	3.75	12.65	133.75	699.75	716.59	39.60	14.05	14.45	114.27	Annual Permit Tech Hrs
106%	40%	58%	34%	72%	2.49%	2.16%	2.49%	0.54%	0.04%	0.25%	7.68%	1.67%	0.02%	1.67%	17.04%	1.12%	0.14%	1.40%	0.09%	0.14%	0.46%	4.85%	25.35%	25.96%	1.43%	0.51%	0.52%	4.14%	Annual Permit Tech % of Billable Time
					0	0	0	0	0.9	1.2	0	2.15	0.15	0.4	0 -	. 0	6	0.2	1.85	0.9	0	0.75	0	9.66	28.97	0	8.92	2.54	#5 Budgeted Average Structural Review Hrs
2,791	292	2,499	0	2,791	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.90	8.40	0.00	49.45	0.15	18.40	0.00	0.00	12.00	25.80	3.70	2.70	0.00	80.25	0.00	1,960.98	318.67	0.00	44.60	99.06	Annual Structura Review Hr
107%	2 17%	96%	0%	107%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.03%	0.32%	0.00%	1.90%	0.01%	0.71%	0.00%	0.00%	0.46%	0.99%	0.14%	0.10%	0.00%	3.09%	0.00%	75.42%	12.26%	0.00%	1.72%	3.81%	Annual Structural Reviewer of Billable Time
					0	0	0	o	0.2	0.25	0.15	2.3	0.25	0.75	0 0		0.5	0.5	0	0	0	0.75	5.15	4.7	18.24	5.06	3.85	1.17	#5 Budgeted % Average Cute Review
2,730	267	2,463	32	2,698	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.20	1.75	31.80	52.90	0.25	34.50	0.00	0.00	1.00	64.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	80.25	1,158.75	954.10	200.64	25.30	19.25	45.63	Annual Code Review
105%	10%	95%	1%	104%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.01%	0.07%	1.22%	2.03%	0.01%	1.33%	0.00%	0.00%	0.04%	2.48%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	3.09%	44.57%	36.70%	7.72%	0.97%	0.74%	1.76%	Annual # of Reviewer % Inspections of Billiable Read by Time E Code
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					0.36	0.21	0.54	4	0.9	1.55	0.37	ω	0.25	0.5	0.57	1.45	2	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.75	1.58	6.46	8.07	25.92	5.06	4.62	2.32	#5 Budgeted Average Inspection Hrs
4,896	758	3,626	878	4,018	95.04	54.39	123.66	240.00	0.90	10.85	78.44	69.00	0.25	23.00	233.13	44.95	4.00	64.50	1.20	1.50	8.25	169.06	1,453.50	1,638.21	285.12	25.30	23.10	90.48	Annual Inspection
107%	17%	79%	19%	88%	2.08%	1.19%	2.71%	5.26%	0.02%	0.24%	1.72%	1.51%	0.01%	0.50%	5.11%	0.98%	0.09%	1.41%	0.03%	0.03%	0.18%	3.70%	31.85%	35.89%	6.25%	0.55%	0.51%	1.98%	Annual Inspector % of Billable Time
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					0.62	0.44	0.84	18.00	3.2	4	1.52	9.45	1.15	2.65	1.72	2.45	10.5	1.5	3.7	2.65	1.9	4.33	14.72	25.96	76.73	12.93	20.28	8.96	de Budgeted nnt Average le per Permi
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Understanding each existing/proposed fee

Ex: Residential Deck Permit (Fee Code 13) – Flat rate

Fee (governs) = \$783 [\$783 / \$180.80/hr = 4.33 Hours

Permit Tech = 1.25 hrs < Structural Review = .75 hrs Code Review = .75 hrs

Annual Projected Revenue = \$783 x 107 = \$83,781

Inspection = 1.58 hrs

Recognizing the Controlling Variable:

Time – Fees – Budget – Revenue

Building Staff Favor 'Time' Governing Boards Favor 'Fees' Administrators Favor 'Budget & Revenue'

Balancing Staff Time with Fees and Revenue

RELATIONAL UNIFIED MANAGEMENT TOOL FOR MODELING BUILDING DEPARTMENT WORK, TIME, COSTS AND REVENUE

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Rebalancing to the Controlling Variable <



Building Department Fees...you need a plan

Will Crew - Building Official, Interwest Consulting Group

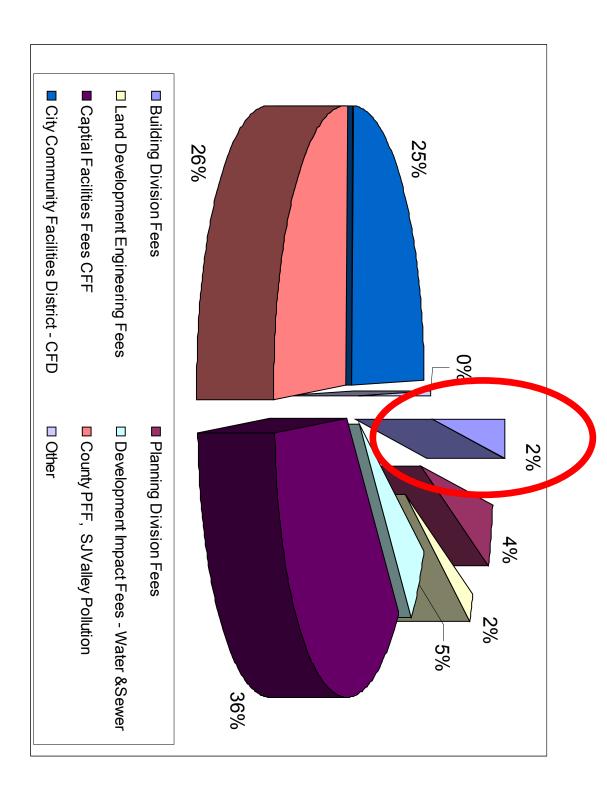
The City of Modesto - Effects of the Great Recession

- 2007-2008 drastic decline in permit revenue
- Costs exceeded revenue by nearly 1 million dollars
- Valuation based fees with no clear nexus
- Fees out of balance
- Large Commercial fees exceeded costs of the service
- Small residential fees failed to cover costs of service
- Unhealthy reliance of SFD fees

The City of Modesto - Effects of the Great Recession

- Upper management call for drastic staffing cuts (some needed)
- Unpopular time to raise fees
- Constant clambering regarding fees too high
- Comprehensive Fees Task Force Created (Council Committee)
- Balanced cross section of community representatives
- B/A
- Contractors/Developers
- Former State Representative
- Local Architect
- Council Members
- Community and Economic Development Director Chair

Development User Fees vs. Improvement Fees





- Building Fees: Higher the cost of construction, higher the fee.
- \$15k = \$379 + MPE's per sqft
- May not always relate to cost of service \$ 1mil = \$ 7,609 + MPE's per sqft
- Government Code 66014 (a), "fees shall not exceed the estimated reasonable cost of providing service for which fee is charged"
- Attorney General concluded valuation tables are not reasonable.



Cost Based Solution

- Directly related to service provided
- □ Time studies performed
- Staffing and overhead analysis performed
- □ Includes direct and indirect costs
- Leveled fees and provided transparency
- Increases fees for smaller permit categories
- Some permit categories fee decreases
- Provides flexibility

Matrix Study

	\$281,712.00				TOTAL SUBSIDY NEEDED
35%	\$47,397.00	\$702.00	\$519.00	259	Residential Remodel
151%	\$20,988.00	\$529.00	\$211.00	66	Res. Patio
204%	\$15,824.00	\$1,026.00	\$338.00	23	Residential Garage/Carport
205%	\$47,170.00	\$265.00	\$87.00	265	Service Changes
208%	\$76,075.00	\$265.00	\$86.00	425	HVAC Changeouts
45%	\$52,546.00	\$278.00	\$192.00	611	Res. Reroof
227%	\$21,712.00	\$265.00	\$81.00	118	Water Heaters
% Increase (for full cost recovery)	Subsidy (Annual)	Full Cost Recovery per Unit	Current Fee Per Unit	Average Volume / Year	



decrease	D	E - PV Systems - Commercial
same or lower	П	E - PV Systems - Residential
increase	П	Minor MPE Single / COMBO
		MPE SIMPLE STAND ALONE PERMITS
Increase	П	Re-roof - Residential
Increase	П	Minor Residential Improvements: Such as Deck,Patio Cover, Carport, Awning, Balcony, Deck, covered Porch, Enclosed Patio
increase	F	Residential Garage
Increase	F	Residential Remodel
		MINOR REMODELS / IMPROVEMENTS
same or lower	F	TI (<3,000 s.f.)
Increase	F	Residential Tract - Production Home
same or lower	F**	Residential Custom Home / Duplex (5,000 s.f or less)
decrease	D*	Commercial w/o interior impr.
		NEW CONSTRUCTION AND TENANT IMPROVEMENTS

*Deposit Fee
**Fixed Fee

Proposed Plan to Council

Small Project Permit Fees City of Modesto Building Safety Division

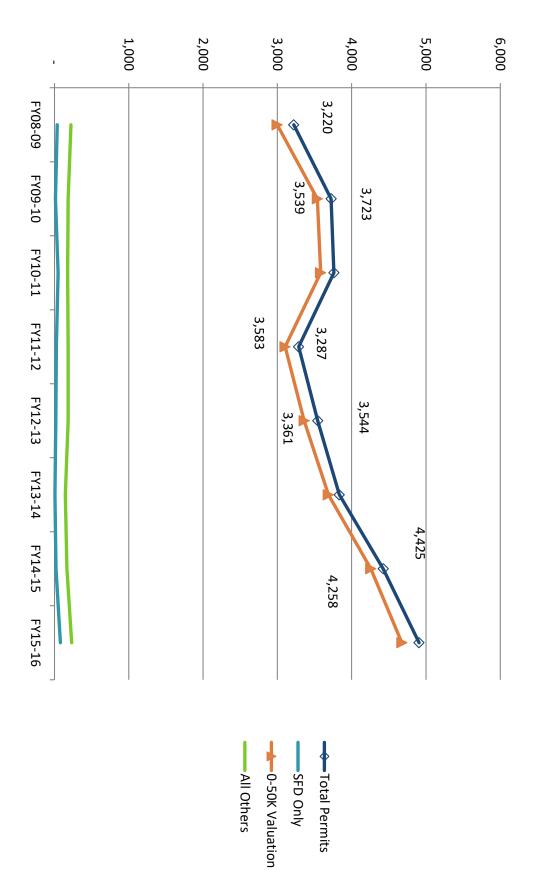
Table M-1(Based on Matrix Consulting Group User Fee Study)

Permit Category	Avg Volume Current Fee / Year Per Unit	Current Fee Per Unit	Full Cost Recovery per Unit	Rcmd Fee Per Unit	Avg Val of Project*	Rcmd Fee% of Val	Current Fee % of Val	Subsidy (Annual)	% Increase (for recmd fee)	% Increase (for full cost recovery)
					0					
Water Heaters	118	\$81.00	\$265.00	\$110.00	\$790.33	14%	10%	\$18,290.00	36%	227%
Res. Reroof	611	\$192.00	\$278.00	\$278.00	\$8,069.97	3%	2%	\$0.00	45%	45%
HVAC Changeouts	425	\$86.00	\$265.00	\$190.00	\$8,809,81	2%	1%	\$31,875.00	121%	208%
Service Changes	265	\$87.00	\$265.00	\$190.00	\$2,542.87	7%	3%	\$19,875.00	118%	205%
Residential Garage/Carport	23	\$338.00	\$1,026.00	\$750.00	\$16,802.43	4%	2%	\$6,348.00	122%	204%
Res. Patio	66	\$211.00	\$529.00	\$390.00	\$5,460.26	7%	4%	\$9,174.00	85%	151%
Residential Remodel	259	\$519.00	\$702.00	\$702.00	\$26,051.77	3%	2%	\$0.00	35%	35%

6% of budget	6%	\$85,562.00	TOTAL SUBSIDY NEEDED w/ RECOMMENDED FEE
56% of budget deficit	56%	\$196,150.00	ANNUAL REVENUE INCREASE WRECOMMENDED FEE
81% of budget deficit	81%	\$281,712.00	SUBSIDY W/O FEE INCREASE - SMALL PROJECT PERMITS ONLY
		\$349,198.00	BUDGET DEFICIT
		\$1,098,714.00	ANNUAL REVENUE
		\$1,447,912.00	TOTAL ANNUAL COST

^{*}sample data from Jan 2008 to December 2009

Results



Permit Revenue vs Expense





Revenue

-- Expense

Difference



QUESTIONS?



THANK YOU!!!