



State of California – Natural Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
Director's Office
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GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor
CHARLTON H. BONHAM, Director



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November 2, 2022

Dear Sir or Madam:

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT FILING FEES FOR 2023

This letter is to notify you of an adjustment in the environmental filing fees for proposed projects requiring a Negative Declaration or Environmental Impact Report under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

Fish and Game Code section 711.4 requires the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) collect a filing fee to defray the costs of managing and protecting public trust resources for activities related to environmental review pursuant to CEQA. Environmental document filing fees pay for CDFW activities, including but not limited to consulting and coordinating with other public agencies, reviewing environmental documents, recommending avoidance and mitigation measures to eliminate or reduce project impacts to fish and wildlife, developing mitigation monitoring requirements, and carrying out other activities to protect public trust resources under CEQA.

CDFW adjusts the filing fees annually based on changes to the Implicit Price Deflator for State and Local Government Purchases of Goods and Services as published by the U.S. Department of Commerce (Fish & G. Code, § 713). The filing fees for calendar year 2023 are identified in the enclosed table and are posted on CDFW's website at:

<https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Environmental-Review/CEQA/Fees>.

Procedures for paying environmental document filing fees remain the same. A filing fee is due at the time a Notice of Determination (NOD) is filed. Local lead agencies must pay the fee to the appropriate County Clerk when filing a NOD locally (Fish & G. Code, § 711.4). County Clerks should not accept nor post a NOD from a local lead agency unless accompanied by one of the following:

1. Correct CDFW environmental document filing fee payment (see enclosed table),

2. Environmental Filing Fee Cash Receipt (Form DFW 753.5a) or CDFW-approved equivalent showing previous payment of the filing fee for the same document, or
3. No Effect Determination signed by a CDFW official which documents that the project will have no effect on fish and wildlife.

Payment will normally be required at the time of a lead agency's NOD filing. A lead agency typically files its NOD before responsible agencies file their NODs. Responsible agencies should submit a copy of an official receipt showing the name of the project, the date, and the amount of payment. If a receipt showing prior payment of the fee is not provided, the fee must be paid at the time a responsible agency files its NOD. If a required filing fee is not paid for a project, the project will not be operative, vested, or final and any local government permits issued for the project will not be valid (Fish & G. Code, § 711.4, subd. (c)(3)).

Beginning January 1, 2023, County Clerks should use the electronic 2023 Environmental Filing Fee Cash Receipt located on CDFW's website at: <https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Environmental-Review/CEQA/Fees/County-Clerks>.

CDFW appreciates your cooperation with collection of these fees, which fund protection of fish and wildlife resources in California. If you have questions regarding this letter, or whether a project is subject to a fee, please contact the CDFW Habitat Conservation Planning Branch at CEQA@wildlife.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Charlton H. Bonham
Director

Enclosure



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE CEQA ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT FILING FEE TABLE

Document Type	2022 Fee	2023 Increase	2023 Fee
Negative Declaration (ND)	\$2,548.00	\$216.00	\$2,764.00
Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND)	\$2,548.00	\$216.00	\$2,764.00
Environmental Impact Report (EIR)	\$3,539.25	\$300.00	\$3,839.25
Substitute Document pursuant to a Certified Regulatory Program (CRP)	\$1,203.25	\$102.00	\$1,305.25