



**TULARE COUNTY
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY**

Timothy W. Lutz, MBA
Agency Director

Nilsa Gonzalez • Public Health Branch Deputy Director • Environmental Health Director

Date: January 15, 2020

To: Facility Owner

From: Department of Public Health

Re: Health Permit Fee Increase and Decreases

Every year the Environmental Health Department reviews their fee for services in order to effectively meet the needs of the clients served. This letter is to notify you as a facility owner that the Department of Public Health-Environmental Health Division will be requesting adjustments in the cost of the health permit fees. This may result in an increase or decrease to the current fee schedule.

The department is mandated by state and federal law to perform inspections and provide other services to protect public health. The cost of doing those inspections and services is primarily funded by health permit fees. While the department strives to be efficient and cost conscious as possible, the current fee rates do not sufficiently cover program costs.

The department has performed an analysis to determine fees based on an equitable distribution of costs based on the type of business and the risk factors of menu items and cooking processes (As determined by the FDA). These fees will be presented to the Board of Supervisors in April. The adjustments, if approved, shall be effective July 1, 2020. This presentation will be part of a Public Hearing and you are welcome and encouraged to attend in order to further understand the process or provide comment. The Board date has not been officially set, but you will receive information regarding the date when it has been confirmed.

You are invited to attend one of three outreach meetings and hear about the adjustments, give valuable input and be part of the process. Outreach meetings for operators/owners are as follows:

- Tulare City Chamber, 2/25/20, 5:30-6:30 pm
- Dinuba City Chamber, 2/27/20, 4:30-5:30 pm
- Porterville City Chamber, 3/2/20, 5:30-6:30 pm

The facilities, businesses and the department have a common goal of keeping the citizens of Tulare County safe and healthy. Fee adjustments are one part of maintaining that arrangement and making sure the safe environment we have built continues to thrive.

For specific questions regarding your business permit type and possible impact, please call the Tulare County Environmental Health Department at (559) 624-7400 and ask to speak to the Retail Food Inspection Program Supervisor. Check out our website for general information tularecountyeh.org

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Nilsa Gonzalez".

Nilsa Gonzalez

Deputy Director, Tulare County Public Health - Environmental Health Division

Tulare County Health & Human Services Agency