



CITY OF BRAWLEY

User and Regulatory Fee Study

December 2, 2025 | City Council Meeting

FEE UPDATE PROCESS AND OUTREACH

- November 18, 2025 City Council Meeting
 - Fee Study Presentation
- Following November 18, 2025 Meeting
 - Notice of Public Hearing Published in Newspaper
 - Social Media Posting
 - Webpage Created with Fee Study Info and Online Comment Form
- December 2, 2025
 - Public Hearing to Consider Resolution Adopting Updated Fees

TYPES OF FEES EXAMINED

- This update DOES NOT examine taxes, assessments, utility rates, or development impact fees

- **Building Fees** - construction permit processing, plan check, and inspection
- **Engineering and Public Works Fees** - engineering review of development-related grading and public improvements; review of temporary encroachments in the City right-of-way
- **Planning Fees** – Zoning and entitlement review and use permitting
- **Fire Fees** – Review of construction and operations for compliance with Fire Code
- **Non-Development Related Fees** - administrative fees, film permit fees, police fees, animal control fees, etc.

MUNICIPAL FEES

- Why do Cities Review Fees and Charge Fees for Services?

- Legal requirements
- Encourage direct recovery of costs incurred to serve private interests/benefit or respond to individual actions
- Provide opportunity for relief to General Fund or other Funds where costs are incurred
- Enable continuity of service levels by improving cost recovery levels

COST RECOVERY POLICY FRAMEWORK

Cost recovery policy reflects **local values** regarding the presumed beneficiaries for each program area, ranging from **community benefit to individual benefit**

Exclusively individual benefit

Considerable individual benefit

Balanced individual and community benefit

Considerable community benefit

Mostly community benefit

Entirely community-wide benefit

Cost Recovery Targeted

GUIDING PRINCIPLES AND CONSIDERATIONS

- Compliance with law (CA Constitution and Government Code)
- Alignment with Measure J supported initiatives such as:
 - Maintaining Essential Services (Public Safety)
 - Promoting Economic Development (Downtown Revitalization)
- Recommended fees include a “Preferred Use”, incentivized rate, for projects that support downtown and economic development efforts

DEVELOPMENT RELATED FEES

- Recalibrate fees to improve cost recovery
- Restructure fees to enhance correlation between services provided and fees collected.
- Less than full cost recovery is targeted for preferred use projects
- Use multi-year phase-in approach to enhance cost recovery for land development engineering projects

DEVELOPMENT RELATED FEES

- Fees are regulatory
- High level of direct benefit resulting from construction activities including enjoyment of property enhancements and increased property values
- Avoid having other Brawley residents and businesses subsidize private construction activities for non-preferred use activities

DEVELOPMENT RELATED FEES

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DISCOUNTED FEES

- Discounted fees recommended for:
 - Preferred Use Projects
 - Review of appeals to Planning Commission or City Council
 - Permit for Residential HVAC Change-Out: 50% cost recovery (i.e., 50% City subsidy)
 - Permit for Residential Water Heater Change-Out: 50% cost recovery (i.e., 50% City subsidy)

ADMINISTRATIVE / NON-DEVELOPMENT FEES

- Finance / Clerk Administrative Fees
 - Fees adjusted to align to the City's cost of service and/or amounts authorized by the State of California
- Library Fees
 - No changes to library fees/rates. Library costs will continue to be primarily tax funded services.
- Airport Fees
 - No changes to airport fees/rates. Rental/lease rates for airport City property are handled separately under current lease agreements.

ADMINISTRATIVE / NON-DEVELOPMENT FEES

- Film Permit Fees

- Add film permit fees that can be consistently applied based on production scale and time on location.

- Recreation Fees

- Minor adjustment to fees for the use of City facilities and program participation. Parks and recreation costs will continue to be primarily tax-funded services.

- Police Fees

- Adjust fees for specialized police services to enhance cost recovery while complying with State limits for certain fees.

REGIONAL FEE COMPARISON

- Similar fees are collected by communities throughout the region and the State. The proposed fee amounts do not exceed the City's cost of service and are in-range of amounts charged by other regional jurisdictions.

FEE ADJUSTMENTS IN BETWEEN STUDIES

- In future years, fees are proposed to be adjusted annually by the change in regional cost inflation

FISCAL IMPACT

Anticipated Fiscal Impact will be dependent on levels of preferred use and all other development activity within the City.

Consultant recommends fee implementation and revenue monitoring before adjusting FY 25/26 and future revenue projections.

NEXT STEPS

Public Hearing
and Determine Whether to Adopt Resolution

Questions or Feedback

