May 24, 2016

Marin County Board of Supervisors
3501 Civic Center Drive
San Rafael, CA 94903

SUBJECT: First Reading to Amend Chapter 7.80 for the Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA) of the Marin County Code and Increase Related Fees.

Dear Board Members:

RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended that your Board:

1. Conduct the first reading of ordinance by title only and schedule a merit hearing on June 7, 2016 at 10:30 a.m. to amend Chapter 7.80 of the Certified Unified Program Agency of the Marin County Code to increase related fees.

2. Instruct your Clerk to publicize the hearing in a local publication on May 24 and May 31, 2016.

SUMMARY: The Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA) consolidates state environmental regulations for hazardous material and waste facilities and includes administration, permitting, inspection, and enforcement. The Marin CUPA includes the following regulated programs: Underground Storage Tank, Hazardous Materials Business Plan and California Accidental Release Prevention, Hazardous Waste Generator and Hazardous Waste Treatment, and Aboveground Storage of Petroleum Products.

As part of state requirements, local agency CUPAs are required to review fees periodically to ensure permit fees keep pace with program costs. Labor costs in the County have risen over the past two years. In 2012, 2013 and 2014, the majority of employees in the County did not receive a Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) adjustment, as property tax growth stood still and the State budget struggled. In order to keep pace with the Consumer Price Index in the Bay Area, the majority of employees in the County received a 3% Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) in 2015 and are scheduled to receive another such increase in July 2016. Therefore the cost of providing these services has increased proportionally. It is requested that these fees be increased approximately 3% in FY 16/17 and 3% in FY 17/18 so that the fees more closely reflect the actual cost of CUPA program inspections. The FY 16/17 increase will be effective July 1, 2016.
FISCAL IMPACT: There are currently about 800 business and farms regulated under these programs, and this proposed fee amendment will increase revenue by an estimated $23,650.

REVIEWED BY:  
[X] Department of Finance  [X] N/A  
[X] County Counsel  [ ] N/A  
[ ] Human Resources  [X] N/A

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Echols  
Assistant Director

c: Julia Barnes