



CITY OF MARTINEZ

**CITY COUNCIL AGENDA
September 3, 2014**

TO: Mayor and City Council
FROM: Michael Chandler, Senior Management Analyst
SUBJECT: Amend User Fee Schedule – Greywater Plumbing Permits
DATE: August 25, 2014

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt a resolution to amend the Schedule of Fees for City Services.

BACKGROUND:

The City Council has on numerous occasions adopted fee discounts on various permits to encourage environmentally-friendly installations. These discounts include 50% off the cost of permits for furnace or fireplace conversions from wood-burning to gas, and for plumbing permits for solar water system fixtures and electrical permits for solar photovoltaic installations.

The City and the entire state are in the midst of a significant drought. The City Council adopted a voluntary drought program on May 7, 2014, to request customers reduce their overall water consumption by 15% from their baseline historical use. The City Council also directed staff to provide additional outreach and education on water conservation to residents. In response, staff coordinated and hosted two free public workshops this summer, Water Conservation 101: Every Drop Counts in July, and Water Conservation 102: Greywater and Rain Barrel Systems in August. Both classes were well attended and received excellent ratings from the participants. Additionally, the classes were televised and are in the process of editing for rebroadcast on the City Channel.

Greywater systems are an effective means of diverting indoor water for outdoor irrigation purposes. This water comes from bathroom sinks, showers, tubs and washing machines. When properly installed and used, greywater systems benefit outdoor plants and garden, save money on the water bill, and divert pollutants from the water system that serve as beneficial fertilizer to plants.

The only greywater system installation that does not require a permit (in accordance with the 2009 State Greywater Code) is one sourced from a washing machine system that does not alter the existing plumbing and follows specific guidelines. This “laundry to landscape” system must:

- have an easy way to direct flow back to the sewer/septic (like a 3-way valve which must be labeled);
- send the water to irrigate landscape plantings;
- keep the water on the same property it is produced;
- have a maintenance manual; and
- discharge greywater under a 2" cover of mulch, plastic shield, or stones.

All other greywater systems require the applicant/installer to pull a permit from the City to ensure the greywater system adheres to applicable Building Code regulations and maintains proper health and safety considerations. This permit is listed as “Other Plumbing and Gas” within the Building Fee Schedule at a present rate of \$125/hour. In order to encourage more installations of greywater systems which require issuing a permit, a flat rate fee of \$35 is recommended. This flat rate is roughly equivalent to the current administrative cost of issuing the permit and will offer a meaningful incentive for residents wishing to properly install a greywater system on their property.

The proposed discount will sunset on July 1, 2016 unless otherwise extended or modified by Council action.

FISCAL IMPACT:

No appreciable fiscal impact is anticipated for providing the greywater permit discount.

ACTION:

Motion to adopt a resolution amending the City’s Schedule of Fees for City Services.

Attachments:

Resolution

Building Fee Schedule (page 6)

APPROVED BY:



Interim City Manager

RESOLUTION NO. xxx-14

AMENDING THE SCHEDULE OF FEES FOR CITY SERVICES FOR
GREYWATER PLUMBING PERMITS

WHEREAS, providing discounts for environmentally-friendly improvements and installations is consistent with the City's practices; and

WHEREAS, the State of California is currently in a period of prolonged drought; and

WHEREAS, the City Council adopted a voluntary 15 percent water reduction program on May 7, 2014 to encourage water conservation and discourage wasteful water practices; and

WHEREAS, the City hosted two free special workshops in July and August on water conservation, one of which provided extensive information on greywater systems as an effective means of diverting useful indoor water for outdoor irrigation uses; and

WHEREAS, for those greywater systems requiring permits, the "Other Plumbing and Gas" permit within the Building Fee Schedule applies, at a rate of \$125/hour; and

WHEREAS, the inspection service associated with this permit is essential to ensure that the greywater system adheres to applicable Building Code regulations and maintains proper health and safety considerations;

WHEREAS, as a means of providing a meaningful incentive for implementing greywater systems, a flat rate of \$35 (equivalent to the current cost of issuing the permit) is recommended for this type of inspection permit; and

WHEREAS, this discount for greywater systems will sunset on July 1, 2016, unless otherwise extended or modified by action of the City Council.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Martinez adopts the proposed fee amendments as set forth in the attached and incorporated page from the Building Fee Schedule, amending page 6 of the City's Schedule of Fees for City Services.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution shall become effective on September 3, 2014.

* * * * *

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution duly adopted by the City Council of the City of Martinez at a Regular Meeting of said Council held on the 3rd day of September, 2014, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

RICHARD G. HERNANDEZ, CITY CLERK
CITY OF MARTINEZ

BUILDING FEE SCHEDULE

Fees effective July 1, 2009

Service	Fee Schedule
Ejector Pump, (each)	\$186
Backflow Preventer	\$172
Roof Drain - Rainwater System, each	\$392
Water Heater (First Heater)	\$114
Water Heater (Each Additional Heater)	\$28
Water Pipe Repair / Replacement, each	\$128
Water Service, each	\$172
Drain-Vent Repair / Alterations, each	\$144
Solar Water System Fixtures (solar panels, tanks, water treatment equipment), each (50% discount listed)	\$256 (\$128)
Other Plumbing and Gas Inspections per hour; (Greywater System Permit Fee discounted at a flat rate of \$35).	\$125 (\$35)
Water System (first 5 outlets)	\$172
Water System (each add'l outlet)	\$19
ELECTRICAL PERMIT FEES	
Stand Alone Electrical Plan Check (hourly rate)	\$125
New Multi-Family: Single Phase Service (per 100 amps)	\$172
New Multi-Family: Three Phase Service (per 100 amps)	\$202
All Other Types of Construction: 15 to 20 amp - First 10 circuits (each)	\$172
All Other Types of Construction: 15 to 20 amp - (each add'l 10 circuits)	\$58
All Other Types of Construction: 25 to 40 amp circuits - First 10 circuits (each)	\$171
All Other Types of Construction: 50 to 175 amp - first 10 circuits	\$200
All Other Types of Construction: 200 amp and larger circuits (each)	\$230
Power Pole / Temporary Service (each)	\$172
Sign Circuit (each)	\$114
Swimming Pool/Spa (each)	\$172
Solar Photovoltaic (per kW; 50% discount listed)	\$172 (\$86)
Other Electrical Inspections (per hour)	\$129

Notes: Plumbing permits for Solar Water System Fixtures and electrical permits for Solar Photovoltaic are subject to 50% discounts on the fees in effect and will sunset on July 15, 2015. **Greywater system "Other Plumbing and Gas" permits will be charged flat rate \$35 and sunset July 1, 2016.** The discounted fees are listed in parentheses above.