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Sam Klemek
Interim Deputy Fire Chief
Fire Marshal
Salinas City Fire Dept.
65 W. Alisal Street
Salinas, CA 93901

February 28, 2018

Re: Fee Study – Fire Inspection Fees

Dear Chief Klemek,

I have concluded the above referenced study comparing various fire jurisdictions and the types of fees and fee structure adopted by ordinance for each Fire Prevention Bureau/Division shown in the study.

As you are aware, the intent of this study was to determine methods of funding that may be determined appropriate to support an “all occupancy fire inspection program.”

I have provided a comparison of 5 jurisdictions (see attached). I researched several other fire departments, but all were similar to the comparison study. The two methods I would consider are the “square footage” fee-based concept. The other is the “fee by occupancy classification concept”.

My recommended choice of the two examples is the square footage-based fee schedule. I prefer this method because I believe it is the most simplistic of all the examples. The square footage-based schedule can be utilized for all occupancies and when an inspection is performed in a large building, the fee would not have to be broken down by occupancy type, just square footage. I would follow the San Diego Fire-Rescue Dept. fee schedule. I feel the fees are reasonable and reflect appropriately the hourly wage and administration costs. You would just have to determine what a reinspection fee should cost. I recommend the reinspection with corrections completed should be charged ½ of the original fee. Inspections without completed corrections should be charged the entire original inspection fee.

In closing, should you have any further questions or direction, please feel free to contact me at the mobile number below.

Thank you,

Rick Rodewald

Fire Services Specialist

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