PUBLIC REQUEST TO ADDRESS
THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

Correspondence Received

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

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HOLLY J. MITCHELL
LINDSEY P. HORVATH
JANICE HAHN
KATHRYN BARGER

			The following individuals submitted comments on agenda item:	
Agenda #	**Relate To**	**Position**	**Name**	**Comments**
Public Comment		**Favor**	Adriana Quinones	Dear Chair Solis and Members of the Board of Supervisors: I support Item #14 and thank Supervisor Hilda Solis for bringing forward this motion. I urge the Board to strengthen it by explicitly including large-scale Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS), either through an amendment or a companion motion with clear deadlines. As a Hacienda Heights resident and an elected trustee of the Hacienda La Puente Unified School District, I am concerned about protecting residents, students, school employees, and first responders. I submit these comments in my individual capacity. Our communities deserve enforceable protections addressing the location and operation of large-scale data centers and BESS facilities. Residents need more than studies and assurances. We need clear rules, meaningful public participation, and accountability. Please direct County departments to address the following priorities: 1. INCLUDE LARGE-SCALE BESS. Develop specific definitions, siting standards, and enforceable safeguards for large-scale battery storage facilities, including those associated with data centers. Evaluate prohibitions near homes, schools, childcare facilities, parks, and other sensitive locations, supported by appropriate technical analysis and applicable law. 2. REQUIRE SITE-SPECIFIC SAFETY ANALYSIS. Require independent evaluation of fire hazards, thermal runaway, potential explosions, hazardous releases, contaminated runoff, and impacts on nearby residents and schools. Evaluate cumulative impacts when battery storage, data centers, and other industrial facilities are concentrated in the same area. Developers should fund these reviews, with public agencies selecting and overseeing the reviewers. 3. ESTABLISH EMERGENCY RESPONSE REQUIREMENTS. Require publicly accessible emergency plans developed with fire officials, public health agencies, school districts, and neighboring jurisdictions. Plans should address evacuation and shelter-in-place decisions, accessible and multilingual alerts, responder training, equipment, and coordination with school emergency procedures. Identify who will pay for these needs so the costs do not fall on residents or school districts. 4. PROTECT RESIDENTS FROM CONTINUOUS NOISE AND OTHER IMPACTS. Adopt enforceable standards addressing continuous and low-frequency noise from cooling systems, equipment, and other operations. Evaluate backup-generator emissions, water demand, electrical infrastructure needs,

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and potential utility cost impacts. Require monitoring, accessible complaint procedures, and timely enforcement.

5. ADDRESS PROJECTS ACROSS CITY BOUNDARIES.

I recognize that the County's zoning authority applies to unincorporated areas and does not directly control projects within incorporated cities such as the City of Industry. However, pollution, noise, traffic, and emergency impacts can cross jurisdictional boundaries.

Please direct County Counsel and relevant departments to identify all available lawful measures to protect neighboring unincorporated communities, coordinate with incorporated cities and responsible agencies, and advocate for stronger regional and state protections. Residents should not be left without meaningful safeguards simply because a facility is located across a city boundary.

6. PROVIDE TIMELY, MEANINGFUL PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

Engage residents and school districts early, before key decisions are made. Provide multilingual notices, accessible meetings, clear explanations of proposed projects, and public access to technical reports. County responses should explain how community concerns influence the final recommendations.

7. SET DEADLINES AND EXPLAIN INTERIM PROTECTIONS.

Establish specific dates for departmental reports, proposed ordinances, environmental review, and consideration of any legally available interim measures or moratorium. Clearly explain which protections are already in effect, which projects they cover, and how they will be enforced.

Please also clarify what protections may lawfully apply to facilities already approved or under construction, and what inspection, monitoring, and emergency planning requirements can be enforced now.

I understand that this motion begins a process and does not itself enact the final zoning prohibition. That makes timely follow-through essential. Please ensure the process results in enforceable protections and regular public updates.

Our children deserve safe schools, and our residents deserve safe neighborhoods. Public health and safety must guide decisions about where these facilities belong.

Please support Item #14, explicitly address large-scale BESS, and ensure that communities near projects across jurisdictional boundaries are included in the County's protection efforts.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Adriana Quiñones
Hacienda Heights resident
Trustee, Hacienda La Puente Unified School District

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	Submitted in my individual capacity
Porter E Case	Subscribe to Sambucha
Timothy Coneal	Trillionaire society dot org, Voice to Skull inside my thoughts: President Obama is requesting this report: Yes. As an investment idea for Trillionairesociety.org, a broad stock-market index fund is the sound one. It is the cheapest liquid holding with a long record of profit. The minimum is the price of one share, often under $100. A real organizational amount is a few thousand to a few million, only if that cash is already the organization's. It sits inside markets worth tens of trillions, and the organization's slice stays tiny. That is the point. It does not have to be turned into an asset story, a justice program, or a $1.5 trillion claim. Keep it separate from the justice work. The fund is invested money in an account titled to the organization. Court-debt relief, reentry costs, disaster grants, and legal-aid checks come from a program account. One can exist without the other. The practical version is a total U.S. market fund or an S&P 500 fund, fee well under 0.10 percent a year, bought through a brokerage account in the organization's name, with a written note on who can trade. It can fall. Profit means the long record of owning the market, not a gain next year. This is not investment advice. The idea is sound. The account and the authority to use it still have to be the organization's before any money moves.
WE t Community	?? FOLLOW EVERY DOLLAR INSIDE LOS ANGELES DEPENDENCY COURT—NO MORE SECRECY, SELF-INVESTIGATION, OR BLANK CHECKS ?? THIS PUBLIC DEMAND IS ADDRESSED TO: The President and Congress; the United States Department of Health and Human Services; the Administration for Children and Families; the California Governor and Legislature; the California Attorney General; the Judicial Council of California; the Chief Justice; the Commission on Judicial Performance; the State Bar of California; Los Angeles Superior Court leadership; every dependency judge and commissioner; the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors; the County Chief Executive Office; Auditor-Controller; Office of Inspector General; DCFS; County Counsel; Los Angeles Dependency Lawyers, Inc.; Children's Law Center; panel attorneys; appellate attorneys; foster-care agencies; group homes; STRTPs; nonprofit organizations; therapists; evaluators; visitation monitors; testing companies; transportation providers; consultants; contractors; subcontractors; and every person or organization receiving public money through the child-welfare and dependency-court systems.

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WE THE PEOPLE WANT A COMPLETE ACCOUNTING.

Dependency court is not merely a courtroom. It is an enormous publicly funded network involving investigators, social workers, supervisors, government lawyers, court-appointed lawyers, judicial officers, court employees, experts, therapists, placement agencies, foster homes, group homes, residential programs, monitors, consultants, contractors, and administrators.

EVERY PART OF THE SYSTEM GETS FUNDED WHILE THE FAMILY IS TOLD THERE IS NO MONEY TO HELP THEM STAY TOGETHER.

Los Angeles County's April 2026 recommended budget was $48.8 billion. By June, the adopted budget was approximately $50.3 billion. The September supplemental budget increased the total to $54.2 billion—approximately $3.9 billion more than the June amount. The April proposal also included 115,885 budgeted County positions.

DCFS alone had a 2025–26 final adopted gross appropriation of approximately $2.202 billion, including approximately $1.629 billion in revenue, a $565.223 million net County cost, and 9,897 budgeted positions. Those are the County's own published figures.

The County's April budget materials also identified $51.2 million for assistance-caseload changes involving DCFS and a required increase in the County's IHSS share of cost. The same materials proposed $186.4 million in additional salary and employee-benefit funding and $40.1 million to protect DPSS positions and preserve federal CalFresh funding.

We are not saying employees should work without pay. We are asking the question government keeps avoiding:

HOW MUCH OF THESE BILLIONS PRODUCES DIRECT, MEASURABLE SAFETY AND STABILITY FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES?

When a dependency petition is filed, money begins flowing throughout the system:

- DCFS investigates the family and writes the reports.
- Supervisors approve recommendations.
- Los Angeles County Counsel advises DCFS and argues the Department's position.
- Los Angeles Dependency Lawyers, Inc. represents many parents.
- Children's Law Center represents children.
- Panel attorneys and appellate attorneys may receive appointments.
- Social-work investigators, peer partners, experts, therapists, drug-testing companies, monitors, transportation providers, foster agencies, group homes, and residential programs become involved.
- Judges, commissioners, clerks, interpreters, security officers, court

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administrators, and technology systems are publicly funded.
- Foster parents, relative caregivers, agencies, group homes, STRTPs, and institutions may receive money after children are removed.
- More public money is spent when families appeal, file writs, request records, challenge services, or seek relief from harmful orders.

Everybody can bill, invoice, report, recommend, monitor, transport, supervise, litigate, place, and administer.

But when a family asks for rent, a safer home, utilities, food, childcare, transportation, furniture, respite care, tutoring, trauma treatment, disability accommodations, domestic-violence relocation, or intensive in-home support, suddenly there is no money.

THAT IS THE FUNDING MODEL WE ARE CHALLENGING.

COUNTY COUNSEL AND THE HIDDEN LEGAL ADVICE BEHIND DCFS RECOMMENDATIONS

DCFS's own policy confirms that County Counsel represents DCFS and advises social workers about dependency cases.

That policy also states that communications involving County Counsel's legal advice are confidential and must not be included in a court report—even when the social worker relied on that advice when developing a recommendation. Parents can therefore face a recommendation affecting custody while being unable to examine part of the legal consultation behind it.

County Counsel is not the family's attorney.

County Counsel is not a neutral evaluator.

County Counsel represents and protects the government agency.

Families must be told this clearly.

We demand disclosure of how much public money is spent:

- Advising DCFS before petitions are filed
- Preparing and litigating dependency petitions
- Defending disputed reports and recommendations
- Responding to writs and appeals
- Defending the County against misconduct claims
- Seeking confidentiality over records
- Negotiating settlements
- Defending employees instead of correcting proven errors

We want to know how much money is spent defending agency conduct compared with preventing the conduct and correcting harm.

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PUBLICLY FUNDED DEPENDENCY LAWYERS

Court-appointed dependency counsel receives substantial public funding.

The Judicial Council has stated that approximately $186.7 million is appropriated annually statewide for court-appointed dependency counsel. A 2026–27 proposal sought $3.8 million in additional General Fund support, including an expansion of court administration and access to as much as $66 million in federal matching funds.

Since 2019, federal Title IV-E foster-care funds may be claimed for qualifying legal representation provided to eligible children and their parents.

LET THAT SINK IN:

FEDERAL FOSTER-CARE MONEY CAN HELP FUND LAWYERS OPERATING INSIDE DEPENDENCY PROCEEDINGS.

That does not prove that an individual lawyer is paid to remove a particular child. It does require complete transparency about funding, incentives, independence, caseloads, billing, performance, contract compliance, and outcomes.

LOS ANGELES DEPENDENCY LAWYERS, INC. MUST ANSWER FOR ITS CONTRACT

Los Angeles Dependency Lawyers, Inc. is publicly funded to represent parents. This is not charity or a favor. It is a legal-services obligation.

LADL has publicly described its mission as providing parents with a fair and reasonable opportunity to retain or regain custody of their children. LADL has represented itself as providing consistent representation, training, supervision, investigators, social-work assistance, appellate support, and other resources.

In a 2021 California Supreme Court filing, LADL stated that approximately 180 LADL attorneys were serving more than 20,000 parents at that time. That works out to more than 100 parent clients per attorney if divided evenly, although actual caseloads may differ. That historical statement alone demands serious examination of whether attorneys had enough time to communicate, investigate, prepare, and litigate every case competently.

Historical Judicial Council records also show multimillion-dollar payments connected to LADL. One 2012 contract-amendment report listed $13,346,900, followed by another $500,000 amendment. A separate historical expenditure report listed approximately $7,051,985.86 in payments to LADL. These are historical—not current—amounts. That is precisely why the complete current contract, amendments, invoices, funding sources, and performance records

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		must be released. Parents have a legal right to competent counsel. California's court rules say competent dependency counsel must have the necessary
Oppose	Adrianne Garza	Increased Fee increase for School Cafeteria inspections.
	Alexis Wahl	October 5, 2026 Dear Board of Supervisors, Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District (NLMUSD) alongside the eighty (80) Los Angeles County school districts are aware that a vote is scheduled on the LA County Board of Supervisors meeting on November 10, 2026 for the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, Environmental Health Division (LACDPHEH) proposed amendments to public health fees that will affect the budgets of school food authorities (SFAs) significantly. For NLMUSD, the increase will be over 400%. In addition, this does not guarantee that two health (2) inspections will be conducted for compliance for USDA. SFAs currently have a service agreement that is a fee-for-service with LACDPH for two (2) inspections per site cafeteria annually, each inspection costing $197.00. Each school cafeteria receives a Certificate of Inspection to operate. LACDPHEH plans on moving schools away from a fee-for-service agreement to implementing public health permits. The proposed new permits will cost each school site between $706 - $1,142 depending on how the cafeteria is categorized as low, moderate, or high risk based on the method of food preparation and service, for example, fast scratch cooking vs heat & serve. Most importantly, the proposed fee increase would divert funding equivalent to approximately 4,500 student lunches annually, reducing the resources available to provide nutritious meals to the students who depend on school meal programs. For NLMUSD Nutrition Services health inspection costs are projected to increase from $11,426 to approximately $33,118 placing a significant burden on a program designed to support student nutrition and food security. SFAs serving USDA meal programs, such as the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), School Breakfast Program, Afterschool Snack Program, and/or Supper Program are a safety net for our students. They are reimbursement programs where the rates increased between 2.32%-4.14% at the highest between 2018-2025. For example, USDA lunch reimbursement in 2018-19 was $3.31, and for 2025-26 it is $4.76. The increases are pennies at a time. Unlike commercial food establishments, school nutrition programs are not-for-profit operations and have no authority to increase USDA reimbursement rates or pass increased costs on to students and families. Any

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significant increase in regulatory fees ultimately reduces resources available to feed children.

We request the Board of Supervisors for the following:
? Postpone the vote for the LACDPHEH proposed changes to fees charged to schools.
? Include SFAs for the discussion for the increase of fees that make sense for school cafeterias.
? Establish a separate fee category for SFAs participating in the USDA Child Nutrition Programs.
? Implement the fee increase in stages over a course of five (5) years.
? To help us better understand the cost of the proposed permits, we are requesting a copy of the analysis conducted for it.

Below is our reasoning for the request:
? SFAs have zero authority to increase USDA reimbursement rates.
? School cafeterias, per USDA regulations, must have a HACCP Plan at every site; Per CalCode only smoking and curing facilities, facilities with live tanks of molluscan shellfish, and slaughter facilities are required to have a HACCP plan.
? School cafeteria staff receiving training annually on food safety, a USDA requirement.
? School cafeterias are not opened year round.
? School cafeterias have limited operating hours.
? SFAs serving federal meal programs are a safety net to our students, a vulnerable population that are not old enough to cast a vote.
? Increased fees are hitting us on multiple directions
? Proposed fees come on the heels of increased Plan Check fees.
? Proposed fees also affect our vendor partners, such as milk delivery trucks, that will indirectly affect SFAs
? If SFAs cannot cover our obligations, the school district's General Fund will need to make us whole.
? Redirecting General Fund resources to regulatory expenses reduces funding available for academic programs and student services.
? The proposed permit fees will take money from the mouths of our students and their academic success.

We are also concerned that the proposed fee structure appears to substantially increase costs without clear evidence that school nutrition programs present a commensurate increase in public health risk. Given the extensive food safety requirements already imposed on school meal programs, we respectfully request transparency regarding the methodology and analysis used to justify the proposed permit classifications and fee levels.

Los Angeles County has long prioritized child health, educational success, food security, and equity. The proposed fee increases risk undermining these shared goals by redirecting limited resources away from student meals and into administrative costs.

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	We recognize that fee adjustments may be necessary. However, an increase exceeding 400% places an extraordinary burden on federally funded nutrition programs whose sole purpose is to feed children. We respectfully request a collaborative approach that recognizes SFAs as unique public-service operations and develops a fee structure that supports both public health objectives and student well-being. Thank you for your time, consideration, and commitment to the students and families of Los Angeles County. We look forward to working together to find a balanced solution that protects public health while preserving resources for student nutrition and academic success.
Brenda Zarate	Dear Board of Supervisors, Claremont Unified School District alongside the eighty (80) Los Angeles County school districts are aware that a vote is scheduled on the LA County Board of Supervisors meeting on November 10, 2026 for the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, Environmental Health Division (LACDPHEH) proposed amendments to public health fees that will affect the budgets of school food authorities (SFAs) significantly. For Claremont USD, the increase will be over 400%. In addition, this does not guarantee that two health (2) inspections will be conducted for compliance for USDA. SFAs currently have a service agreement that is a fee-for-service with LACDPH for two (2) inspections per site cafeteria annually, each inspection costing $197.00. Each school cafeteria receives a Certificate of Inspection to operate. LACDPHEH plans on moving schools away from a fee-for-service agreement to implementing public health permits.The proposed new permits will cost each school site between $706 - $1,142 depending on how the cafeteria is categorized as low, moderate, or high risk based on the method of food preparation and service, for example, fast scratch cooking vs heat & serve. Most importantly, the proposed fee increase would divert funding equivalent to approximately 2,5000 student lunches annually, reducing the resources available to provide nutritious meals to the students who depend on school meal programs. SFAs serving USDA meal programs, such as the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), School Breakfast Program, Afterschool Snack Program, and/or Supper Program are a safety net for our students. They are reimbursement programs where the rates increased between 2.32%-4.14% at the highest between 2018-2025. For example, USDA lunch reimbursement in 2018-19 was $3.31, and for 2025-26 it is $4.76. The increases are pennies at a time.Unlike commercial food establishments, school nutrition programs are

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not-for-profit operations and have no authority to increase USDA reimbursement rates or pass increased costs on to students and families. Any significant increase in regulatory fees ultimately reduces resources available to feed children.

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School cafeterias are not opened year round
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Celeste Calubaquib	
Gloria Smothermon	
Jennifer Kim	Please see attached
Jenny Lee	
Josephine Liao	Strongly oppose the data center and any battery storage unit in the city of industry, hacienda heights and surrounding areas. Regardless of size, any unit close to residential areas and schools should be under strict environmental regulation and review. We should follow in the footsteps of Monterey Park and several other cities who have completely banned data centers in order to protect our city and our neighborhood.
Lani Izumi	
Linda Scaletta	LACDPHEH Proposed Public Health Permit Fee implementation for School Cafeterias where the impact is 300%-500% increase for the eighty (80) LA County school districts. Please postpone the vote on 11/10/26 and work with school districts on a path for fee increases that make sense for school cafeterias. See attached for Glendale Unified School District's letter.
Lizett Olivares	See attached letter.
Mervin Kiedpool	October 5, 2026 Dear Board of Supervisors, Hacienda La Puente Unified School District (HLPUSD) alongside the eighty (80) Los Angeles County school districts are aware that a vote is scheduled on the LA County Board of Supervisors meeting on November 10, 2026 for the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, Environmental Health Division (LACDPHEH) proposed amendments to public health fees that will affect the budgets of school food authorities (SFAs) significantly. For

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Most importantly, the proposed fee increase would divert funding equivalent to approximately 4,500 student lunches annually, reducing the resources available to provide nutritious meals to the students who depend on school meal programs. For HLPUSD Nutrition Services health inspection costs are projected to increase from $11,426 to approximately $33,118 placing a significant burden on a program designed to support student nutrition and food security.

SFAs serving USDA meal programs, such as the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), School Breakfast Program, Afterschool Snack Program, and/or Supper Program are a safety net for our students. They are reimbursement programs where the rates increased between 2.32%-4.14% at the highest between 2018-2025. For example, USDA lunch reimbursement in 2018-19 was $3.31, and for 2025-26 it is $4.76. The increases are pennies at a time.Unlike commercial food establishments, school nutrition programs are not-for-profit operations and have no authority to increase USDA reimbursement rates or pass increased costs on to students and families. Any significant increase in regulatory fees ultimately reduces resources available to feed children.

We request the Board of Supervisors for the following:
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	of molluscan shellfish, and slaughter facilities are required to have a HACCP plan School cafeteria staff receiving training annually on food safety, a USDA requirement School cafeterias are not opened year round School cafeterias have limited operating hours SFAs serving federal meal programs are a safety net to our students, a vulnerable population that are not old enough to to cast a vote Increased fees are hitting us on multiple directions Proposed fees come on the heels of increased Plan Check fees. Proposed fees also affect our vendor partners, such as milk delivery trucks, that will indirectly affect SFAs If SFAs cannot cover our obligations, the school district's General Fund will need to make us whole Redirecting General Fund resources to regulatory expenses reduces funding available for academic programs and student services The proposed permit fees will take money from the mouths of our students and their academic success We are also concerned that the proposed fee structure appears to substantially increase costs without clear evidence that school nutrition programs present a commensurate increase in public health risk. Given the extensive food safety requirements already imposed on school meal programs, we respectfully request transparency regarding the methodology and analysis used to justify the proposed permit classifications and fee levels. Los Angeles County has long prioritized child health, educational success, food security, and equity. The proposed fee increases risk undermining these shared goals by redirecting limited resources away from student meals and into administrative costs. We recognize that fee adjustments may be necessary. However, an increase exceeding 400% places an extraordinary burden on federally funded nutrition programs whose sole purpose is to feed children. We respectfully request a collaborative approach that recognizes SFAs as unique public-service operations and develops a fee structure that supports both public health objectives and student well-being. Thank you for your time, consideration, and commitment to the students and families of Los Angeles County. We look forward to working together to find a balanced solution that protects public health while preserving resources for student nutrition and academic success.
Michael Hyde	attached letter
Stella Ndahura	Inspection Fee Increase for school districts. We request that the board not proceed with the vote until they hear from school nutrition program leadership who are not opposed to the fees but have valid concerns about the significant

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			increase and the budgetary impact on the important work we do, which is feeding students.
		Veronica Caballero	
		Yadi -	I oppose ALPR. In September, at least two Flock cameras came down (reasons unknown) near the east entrance of NASA JPL at the intersection of Windsor & Ventura. This weekend, tens of thousands of visitors from across the country will attend JPL open house and their movements were to be tracked by ALPR. We can't confirm whether the Flock cameras were vandalized and/or removed, but we're thrilled that Dena now has two fewer ALPRs. Even with the removal of the two cameras, other ALPR are still tracking the movement of thousands of JPL employees. Joshua Michael's Jet Propulsion Laboratory National Security Exposure Assessment details the very real risks created by the use of ALPR technology to track JPL employees and visitors. I ask you remove the rest of the cameras installed in Altadena, as more than 70% of residents surveyed stated clearly that they do not support government warrantless mass surveillance. This system cannot be reformed (I thank you for your attempt last year), and LASD is not being transparent about the use of ALPR. There's no accountability and no trust. It is your responsibility to ensure both privacy and public safety. Surveillance is not safety.
	Other	A Ortiz	I am a Los Angeles County employee, and I want to raise concerns about the financial impact of the move to the Gas Company Tower on County employees. The proposed relocation creates a new expense for many employees who had no role in choosing where their worksite would be located. Some employees may be paying up to $200 per month for parking. That is approximately $2,400 every year. That is a significant amount of money for an individual employee, particularly at a time when the cost of living in Los Angeles continues to put pressure on household budgets. Employees are paying more for housing, groceries, transportation, utilities, childcare, and other necessities. Many are also trying to save for emergencies, retirement, or a home. For an organization as large as Los Angeles County, $200 a month per employee may seem relatively small. For an individual employee, it can be the difference between being able to save that month or having to spend those savings on simply getting to work. What makes this especially difficult is that employees did not choose the Civic Center as their workplace. We were assigned there. We also did not choose to relocate to the Gas Company Tower. The County made that decision. I understand that workplace relocations involve costs. What I am asking is why such a substantial portion of those costs should be transferred directly to employees.

PUBLIC REQUEST TO ADDRESS
THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

HILDA L. SOLIS
HOLLY J. MITCHELL
LINDSEY P. HORVATH
JANICE HAHN
KATHRYN BARGER

Correspondence Received

	Employees assigned to other County facilities do not necessarily face the same parking costs. The difference is based largely on where the County assigns someone to work, rather than on a choice made by the employee. I am asking the County to consider subsidized or reasonably priced parking, better use of existing County parking resources, or another transportation benefit for employees who are required to work at the Gas Company Tower. County employees should not have to absorb thousands of dollars in additional annual expenses simply because their assigned worksite is changing. Thank you.
Brian Volz	We want to postpone the fee increase of LADPH for school Health Inspections till we have a chance to talk about a much more feasible option that schools can absorp much easier than the proposed rate.
Daryl Hickey	Requesting a delay in next months vote to increase health inspections for school district in order for more discussion to take place as to a more slow and methodical increase vs. trying to increase fees all at once.
DWayne L Dionne	
KARLA TORRES	
Lissette Rooney	This public comment is in regards to upcoming proposed amendments that will be brought forward by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, Environmental Health Division. The proposed amendments impact school food authorities at public school districts. I ask that the Board consider identifying potential funding sources to offset the cost of the valuable services provided by LACDPH Environmental Health Division and potentially delay implementation of said fees. Thank you for your time.
MARISOL Cortez	
Munira Bengali	School District Health permit cost should be subsidized or remain at current pricing or incremental increase by 10% each year.
Nicole Sewalson	
Sofia Vidal	My name is Sofia Vidal and I am Eaton fire survivor trying to rebuild. My general comment is a Building and safety issue regarding compromised retaining walls and adjacent Adu's. After 8 months I finally received approval to start construction, only to learn that my neighbor started to build an ADU 4 ft away from my property line on a compromised Retaining wall 10-12 ft high. He erroneously received approval to build such because his design team failed to indicate that it was a retaining wall. Retaining walls and ADU's are becoming an everyday issue in Altadena and require more detailed attention from Building and Safety prior to issuing approval, most scenarios are resulting in litigation which is an obstacle in completing construction. Altadena

				is a foothill community with disparate high elevations and ADU's and retaining walls are becoming a serious problem.
			Soniya Perl	
			Terri Rowitz	
			Zoe Muntaner	In 2924 I brought to the attention of Supervisor Lindsay Horvath negligence from the LA County Sheriff's Civil Manage Bureau. Under the FOUA I requested documents through their portal and by email in December 22,2023. I wrote a letter to Sergant Nicholas Castellanos in January 9, 2024. I spoke directly with Sheriff Luna in Santa Monica at a local event and followed up with his staff, yet they have not answered my concerns. Instead they are part of the way Marty Kaplan and her attorney Avraham Sinai, Esq. exploited their internal access the County staff to steal my property and remove me from my apartment. I've addressed the BIS before at the Chamber. I have made complaints and brought this to the attention of Sargeant Ronnie P. Borges, on November 26,2024, yet I've been systematically ignored. Staff has not been hold accountable. After listening To Item 42 of today's agenda, I understand the problem with the LACSD CTR ss to the civil burrow as well. Please open an investigation. Thank you.
		Item Total	**33**	
Grand Total			**33**	

October 5, 2026

Dear Board of Supervisors,

Covina-Valley Unified School District alongside the eighty (80) Los Angeles County school districts are aware that a vote is scheduled on the LA County Board of Supervisors meeting on November 10, 2026 for the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, Environmental Health Division (LACDPHEH) proposed amendments to public health fees that will affect the budgets of school food authorities (SFAs) significantly. For Covina-Valley Unified School District, the increase will be over 400%. In addition, this **does not guarantee** that two health (2) inspections will be conducted for compliance for USDA.

SFAs currently have a service agreement that is a fee-for-service with LACDPH for two (2) inspections per site cafeteria annually, each inspection costing $197.00. Each school cafeteria receives a Certificate of Inspection to operate.

LACDPHEH plans on moving schools away from a fee-for-service agreement to implementing public health permits.The proposed new permits will cost each school site between $706 - $1,142 depending on how the cafeteria is categorized as low, moderate, or high risk based on the method of food preparation and service, for example, fast scratch cooking vs heat & serve.

Most importantly, the proposed fee increase would divert funding equivalent to approximately 8,700 student lunches annually, reducing the resources available to provide nutritious meals to the students who depend on school meal programs. For Covina-Valley Unified School District Nutrition Services, health inspection costs are projected to increase from $6,698 to $19,414 placing a significant burden on a program designed to support student nutrition and food security.

SFAs serving USDA meal programs, such as the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), School Breakfast Program, Afterschool Snack Program, and/or Supper Program are a **safety net** for our students. They are reimbursement programs where the rates increased between 2.32%-4.14% at the highest between 2018-2025. For example, USDA lunch reimbursement in 2018-19 was $3.31, and for 2025-26 it is $4.76. The increases are **pennies** at a time.Unlike commercial food establishments, school nutrition programs are not-for-profit operations and have no authority to increase USDA reimbursement rates or pass increased costs on to students and families. Any significant increase in regulatory fees ultimately reduces resources available to feed children.

We request the Board of Supervisors for the following:

- Postpone the vote for the LACDPHEH proposed changes to fees charged to schools
- Include SFAs for the discussion for the increase of fees that make sense for school cafeterias

- Establish a separate fee category for SFAs participating in the USDA Child Nutrition Programs
- Implement the fee increase in stages over a course of five (5) years
- To help us better understand the cost of the proposed permits, we are requesting a copy of the analysis conducted for it.

Below is our reasoning for the request:

- SFAs have zero authority to increase USDA reimbursement rates
- School cafeterias, per USDA regulations, must have a HACCP Plan at every site; Per CalCode **only** smoking and curing facilities, facilities with live tanks of molluscan shellfish, and slaughter facilities are required to have a HACCP plan
- School cafeteria staff receiving training annually on food safety, a USDA requirement
- School cafeterias are not opened year round
- School cafeterias have limited operating hours
- SFAs serving federal meal programs are a **safety net** to our students, a vulnerable population that are not old enough to to cast a vote
- Increased fees are hitting us on multiple directions
    - Proposed fees come on the heels of increased Plan Check fees.
    - Proposed fees also affect our vendor partners, such as milk delivery trucks, that will indirectly affect SFAs
- If SFAs cannot cover our obligations, the school district's General Fund will need to make us whole
    - Redirecting General Fund resources to regulatory expenses reduces funding available for academic programs and student services
- The proposed permit fees will take money from the mouths of our students and their academic success

We are also concerned that the proposed fee structure appears to substantially increase costs without clear evidence that school nutrition programs present a commensurate increase in public health risk. Given the extensive food safety requirements already imposed on school meal programs, we respectfully request transparency regarding the methodology and analysis used to justify the proposed permit classifications and fee levels.

Los Angeles County has long prioritized child health, educational success, food security, and equity. The proposed fee increases risk undermining these shared goals by redirecting limited resources away from student meals and into administrative costs.

We recognize that fee adjustments may be necessary. However, an increase exceeding 400% places an extraordinary burden on federally funded nutrition programs whose sole purpose is to feed children. We respectfully request a collaborative approach that recognizes SFAs as unique public-service operations and develops a fee structure that supports both public health objectives and student well-being.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and commitment to the students and families of Los Angeles County. We look forward to working together to find a balanced solution that protects public health while preserving resources for student nutrition and academic success.

Sincerely,

Lizett Olivares

Lizett Olivares, Director of Nutrition Services

October 5, 2026

Dear Board of Supervisors,

Duarte Unified School District (DUSD) alongside the eighty (80) Los Angeles County school districts are aware that a vote is scheduled on the LA County Board of Supervisors meeting on November 10, 2026, for the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, Environmental Health Division (LACDPHEH) proposed amendments to public health fees that will affect the budgets of school food authorities (SFAs) significantly. For DUSD, the increase will be over 500%. In addition, this **does not guarantee** that two health (2) inspections will be conducted for compliance with USDA.

SFAs currently have a service agreement that is a fee-for-service with LACDPH for two (2) inspections per site cafeteria annually, each inspection costing $197.00. Each school cafeteria receives a Certificate of Inspection to operate.

LACDPHEH plans on moving schools away from a fee-for-service agreement to implementing public health permits. The proposed new permits will cost each school site between $706 - $1,142 depending on how the cafeteria is categorized as low, moderate, or high risk based on the method of food preparation and service, for example, fast scratch cooking vs heat & serve.

Most importantly, the proposed fee increase would divert funding equivalent to approximately 2,700 student lunches annually, reducing the resources available to provide nutritious meals to the students who depend on school meal programs. For DUSD Nutrition Services health inspection costs are projected to increase from $2,364 to approximately $13,700 placing a significant burden on a program designed to support student nutrition and food security.

SFAs serving USDA meal programs, such as the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), School Breakfast Program, Afterschool Snack Program, and/or Supper Program are a **safety net** for our students. They are reimbursement programs where the rates increased between 2.32%-4.14% at the highest between 2018-2025. For example, USDA lunch reimbursement in 2018-19 was $3.31, and for 2025-26 it is $4.76. The increases are **pennies** at a time. Unlike commercial food establishments, school nutrition programs are not-for-profit operations and have no authority to increase USDA reimbursement rates or pass increased costs on to students and families. Any significant increase in regulatory fees ultimately reduces resources available to feed children.

We request the Board of Supervisors for the following:

- Postpone the vote for the LACDPHEH proposed changes to fees charged to schools
- Include SFAs for the discussion for the increase of fees that make sense for school cafeterias
- Establish a separate fee category for SFAs participating in the USDA Child Nutrition Programs
- Implement the fee increase in stages over a course of five (5) years
- To help us better understand the cost of the proposed permits, we are requesting a copy of the analysis conducted for it.

Below is our reasoning for the request:

- SFAs have zero authority to increase USDA reimbursement rates
- School cafeterias, according to USDA regulations, must have a HACCP Plan at every site; Per Cal Code **only** smoking and curing facilities, facilities with live tanks of molluscan shellfish, and slaughter facilities are required to have a HACCP plan
- School cafeteria staff receiving training annually on food safety, a USDA requirement
- School cafeterias are not open year round
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We are also concerned that the proposed fee structure appears to substantially increase costs without clear evidence that school nutrition programs present a commensurate increase in public health risk. Given the extensive food safety requirements already imposed on school meal programs, we respectfully request transparency regarding the methodology and analysis used to justify the proposed permit classifications and fee levels.

Los Angeles County has long prioritized child health, educational success, food security, and equity. The proposed fee increases risk undermining these shared goals by redirecting limited resources away from student meals and into administrative costs.

We recognize that fee adjustments may be necessary. However, an increase exceeding 500% places an extraordinary burden on federally funded nutrition programs whose sole purpose is to feed children. We respectfully request a collaborative approach that recognizes SFAs as unique public-service operations and develops a fee structure that supports both public health objectives and student well-being.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and commitment to the students and families of Los Angeles County. We look forward to working together to find a balanced solution that protects public health while preserving resources for student nutrition and academic success.

October 5, 2026

Dear Board of Supervisors,

Covina-Valley Unified School District alongside the eighty (80) Los Angeles County school districts are aware that a vote is scheduled on the LA County Board of Supervisors meeting on November 10, 2026 for the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, Environmental Health Division (LACDPHEH) proposed amendments to public health fees that will affect the budgets of school food authorities (SFAs) significantly. For Covina-Valley Unified School District, the increase will be over 400%. In addition, this **does not guarantee** that two health (2) inspections will be conducted for compliance for USDA.

SFAs currently have a service agreement that is a fee-for-service with LACDPH for two (2) inspections per site cafeteria annually, each inspection costing $197.00. Each school cafeteria receives a Certificate of Inspection to operate.

LACDPHEH plans on moving schools away from a fee-for-service agreement to implementing public health permits.The proposed new permits will cost each school site between $706 - $1,142 depending on how the cafeteria is categorized as low, moderate, or high risk based on the method of food preparation and service, for example, fast scratch cooking vs heat & serve.

Most importantly, the proposed fee increase would divert funding equivalent to approximately 8,700 student lunches annually, reducing the resources available to provide nutritious meals to the students who depend on school meal programs. For Covina-Valley Unified School District Nutrition Services, health inspection costs are projected to increase from $6,698 to $19,414 placing a significant burden on a program designed to support student nutrition and food security.

SFAs serving USDA meal programs, such as the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), School Breakfast Program, Afterschool Snack Program, and/or Supper Program are a **safety net** for our students. They are reimbursement programs where the rates increased between 2.32%-4.14% at the highest between 2018-2025. For example, USDA lunch reimbursement in 2018-19 was $3.31, and for 2025-26 it is $4.76. The increases are **pennies** at a time.Unlike commercial food establishments, school nutrition programs are not-for-profit operations and have no authority to increase USDA reimbursement rates or pass increased costs on to students and families. Any significant increase in regulatory fees ultimately reduces resources available to feed children.

We request the Board of Supervisors for the following:

- Postpone the vote for the LACDPHEH proposed changes to fees charged to schools
- Include SFAs for the discussion for the increase of fees that make sense for school cafeterias

- Establish a separate fee category for SFAs participating in the USDA Child Nutrition Programs
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Below is our reasoning for the request:

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We are also concerned that the proposed fee structure appears to substantially increase costs without clear evidence that school nutrition programs present a commensurate increase in public health risk. Given the extensive food safety requirements already imposed on school meal programs, we respectfully request transparency regarding the methodology and analysis used to justify the proposed permit classifications and fee levels.

Los Angeles County has long prioritized child health, educational success, food security, and equity. The proposed fee increases risk undermining these shared goals by redirecting limited resources away from student meals and into administrative costs.

We recognize that fee adjustments may be necessary. However, an increase exceeding 400% places an extraordinary burden on federally funded nutrition programs whose sole purpose is to feed children. We respectfully request a collaborative approach that recognizes SFAs as unique public-service operations and develops a fee structure that supports both public health objectives and student well-being.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and commitment to the students and families of Los Angeles County. We look forward to working together to find a balanced solution that protects public health while preserving resources for student nutrition and academic success.

Sincerely,

Lizett Olivares

Lizett Olivares, Director of Nutrition Services

October 5, 2026

Dear Board of Supervisors,

Charter Oak USD, alongside the eighty (80) Los Angeles County school districts are aware that a vote is scheduled on the LA County Board of Supervisors meeting on November 10, 2026 for the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, Environmental Health Division (LACDPHEH) proposed amendments to public health fees that will affect the budgets of school food authorities (SFAs) significantly. For PUSD, the increase will be over 400%. In addition, this **does not guarantee** that two health (2) inspections will be conducted for compliance for USDA.

SFAs currently have a service agreement that is a fee-for-service with LACDPH for two (2) inspections per site cafeteria annually, each inspection costing $197.00. Each school cafeteria receives a Certificate of Inspection to operate.

LACDPHEH plans on moving schools away from a fee-for-service agreement to implementing public health permits.The proposed new permits will cost each school site between $706 - $1,142 depending on how the cafeteria is categorized as low, moderate, or high risk based on the method of food preparation and service, for example, fast scratch cooking vs heat & serve.

Most importantly, the proposed fee increase would divert funding equivalent to approximately 4,500 student lunches annually, reducing the resources available to provide nutritious meals to the students who depend on school meal programs. For PUSD Nutrition Services health inspection costs are projected to increase from $6,698 to approximately $29,580 placing a significant burden on a program designed to support student nutrition and food security.

SFAs serving USDA meal programs, such as the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), School Breakfast Program, Afterschool Snack Program, and/or Supper Program are a **safety net** for our students. They are reimbursement programs where the rates increased between 2.32%-4.14% at the highest between 2018-2025. For example, USDA lunch reimbursement in 2018-19 was $3.31, and for 2025-26 it is $4.76. The increases are **pennies** at a time.Unlike commercial food establishments, school nutrition programs are not-for-profit operations and have no authority to increase USDA reimbursement rates or pass increased costs on to students and families. Any significant increase in regulatory fees ultimately reduces resources available to feed children.

We request the Board of Supervisors for the following:

- Postpone the vote for the LACDPHEH proposed changes to fees charged to schools
- Include SFAs for the discussion for the increase of fees that make sense for school cafeterias
- Establish a separate fee category for SFAs participating in the USDA Child Nutrition Programs

Implement the fee increase in stages over a course of five (5) years
To help us better understand the cost of the proposed permits, we are requesting a copy of the analysis conducted for it.

Below is our reasoning for the request:

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We are also concerned that the proposed fee structure appears to substantially increase costs without clear evidence that school nutrition programs present a commensurate increase in public health risk. Given the extensive food safety requirements already imposed on school meal programs, we respectfully request transparency regarding the methodology and analysis used to justify the proposed permit classifications and fee levels.

Los Angeles County has long prioritized child health, educational success, food security, and equity. The proposed fee increases risk undermining these shared goals by redirecting limited resources away from student meals and into administrative costs.

We recognize that fee adjustments may be necessary. However, an increase exceeding 400% places an extraordinary burden on federally funded nutrition programs whose sole purpose is to feed children. We respectfully request a collaborative approach that recognizes SFAs as unique public-service operations and develops a fee structure that supports both public health objectives and student well-being.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and commitment to the students and families of Los Angeles County. We look forward to working together to find a balanced solution that protects public health while preserving resources for student nutrition and academic success.

October 5, 2026

Dear Board of Supervisors,

Compton Unified School District, alongside the eighty (80) Los Angeles County school districts are aware that a vote is scheduled on the LA County Board of Supervisors meeting on November 10, 2026 for the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, Environmental Health Division (LACDPHEH) proposed amendments to public health fees that will affect the budgets of school food authorities (SFAs) significantly. For PUSD, the increase will be over 400%. In addition, this **does not guarantee** that two health (2) inspections will be conducted for compliance for USDA.

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LACDPHEH plans on moving schools away from a fee-for-service agreement to implementing public health permits.The proposed new permits will cost each school site between $706 - $1,142 depending on how the cafeteria is categorized as low, moderate, or high risk based on the method of food preparation and service, for example, fast scratch cooking vs heat & serve.

Most importantly, the proposed fee increase would divert funding equivalent to approximately 4,500 student lunches annually, reducing the resources available to provide nutritious meals to the students who depend on school meal programs. For PUSD Nutrition Services health inspection costs are projected to increase from $6,698 to approximately $29,580 placing a significant burden on a program designed to support student nutrition and food security.

SFAs serving USDA meal programs, such as the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), School Breakfast Program, Afterschool Snack Program, and/or Supper Program are a **safety net** for our students. They are reimbursement programs where the rates increased between 2.32%-4.14% at the highest between 2018-2025. For example, USDA lunch reimbursement in 2018-19 was $3.31, and for 2025-26 it is $4.76. The increases are **pennies** at a time.Unlike commercial food establishments, school nutrition programs are not-for-profit operations and have no authority to increase USDA reimbursement rates or pass increased costs on to students and families. Any significant increase in regulatory fees ultimately reduces resources available to feed children.

We request the Board of Supervisors for the following:

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- Include SFAs for the discussion for the increase of fees that make sense for school cafeterias

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Los Angeles County has long prioritized child health, educational success, food security, and equity. The proposed fee increases risk undermining these shared goals by redirecting limited resources away from student meals and into administrative costs.

We recognize that fee adjustments may be necessary. However, an increase exceeding 400% places an extraordinary burden on federally funded nutrition programs whose sole purpose is to feed children. We respectfully request a collaborative approach that recognizes SFAs as unique public-service operations and develops a fee structure that supports both public health objectives and student well-being.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and commitment to the students and families of Los Angeles County. We look forward to working together to find a balanced solution that protects public health while preserving resources for student nutrition and academic success.

October 5, 2026

Dear Board of Supervisors,

Little Lake City School District, alongside the eighty (80) Los Angeles County school districts are aware that a vote is scheduled on the LA County Board of Supervisors meeting on November 10, 2026 for the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, Environmental Health Division (LACDPHEH) proposed amendments to public health fees that will affect the budgets of school food authorities (SFAs) significantly. For PUSD, the increase will be over 400%. In addition, this **does not guarantee** that two health (2) inspections will be conducted for compliance for USDA.

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SFAs serving USDA meal programs, such as the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), School Breakfast Program, Afterschool Snack Program, and/or Supper Program are a **safety net** for our students. They are reimbursement programs where the rates increased between 2.32%-4.14% at the highest between 2018-2025. For example, USDA lunch reimbursement in 2018-19 was $3.31, and for 2025-26 it is $4.76. The increases are **pennies** at a time.Unlike commercial food establishments, school nutrition programs are not-for-profit operations and have no authority to increase USDA reimbursement rates or pass increased costs on to students and families. Any significant increase in regulatory fees ultimately reduces resources available to feed children.

We request the Board of Supervisors for the following:

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    - Redirecting General Fund resources to regulatory expenses reduces funding available for academic programs and student services
- The proposed permit fees will take money from the mouths of our students and their academic success

We are also concerned that the proposed fee structure appears to substantially increase costs without clear evidence that school nutrition programs present a commensurate increase in public health risk. Given the extensive food safety requirements already imposed on school meal programs, we respectfully request transparency regarding the methodology and analysis used to justify the proposed permit classifications and fee levels.

Los Angeles County has long prioritized child health, educational success, food security, and equity. The proposed fee increases risk undermining these shared goals by redirecting limited resources away from student meals and into administrative costs.

We recognize that fee adjustments may be necessary. However, an increase exceeding 400% places an extraordinary burden on federally funded nutrition programs whose sole purpose is to feed children. We respectfully request a collaborative approach that recognizes SFAs as unique public-service operations and develops a fee structure that supports both public health objectives and student well-being.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and commitment to the students and families of Los Angeles County. We look forward to working together to find a balanced solution that protects public health while preserving resources for student nutrition and academic success.

October 5, 2026

Dear Board of Supervisors,

West Covina Unified School District, alongside the eighty (80) Los Angeles County school districts are aware that a vote is scheduled on the LA County Board of Supervisors meeting on November 10, 2026 for the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, Environmental Health Division (LACDPHEH) proposed amendments to public health fees that will affect the budgets of school food authorities (SFAs) significantly. For PUSD, the increase will be over 400%. In addition, this **does not guarantee** that two health (2) inspections will be conducted for compliance for USDA.

SFAs currently have a service agreement that is a fee-for-service with LACDPH for two (2) inspections per site cafeteria annually, each inspection costing $197.00. Each school cafeteria receives a Certificate of Inspection to operate.

LACDPHEH plans on moving schools away from a fee-for-service agreement to implementing public health permits.The proposed new permits will cost each school site between $706 - $1,142 depending on how the cafeteria is categorized as low, moderate, or high risk based on the method of food preparation and service, for example, fast scratch cooking vs heat & serve.

Most importantly, the proposed fee increase would divert funding equivalent to approximately 4,500 student lunches annually, reducing the resources available to provide nutritious meals to the students who depend on school meal programs. For WCUSD Nutrition Services health inspection costs are projected to increase from $6,304 to approximately $29,828 placing a significant burden on a program designed to support student nutrition and food security.

SFAs serving USDA meal programs, such as the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), School Breakfast Program, Afterschool Snack Program, and/or Supper Program are a **safety net** for our students. They are reimbursement programs where the rates increased between 2.32%-4.14% at the highest between 2018-2025. For example, USDA lunch reimbursement in 2018-19 was $3.31, and for 2025-26 it is $4.76. The increases are **pennies** at a time.Unlike commercial food establishments, school nutrition programs are not-for-profit operations and have no authority to increase USDA reimbursement rates or pass increased costs on to students and families. Any significant increase in regulatory fees ultimately reduces resources available to feed children.

We request the Board of Supervisors for the following:

- Postpone the vote for the LACDPHEH proposed changes to fees charged to schools
- Include SFAs for the discussion for the increase of fees that make sense for school cafeterias

- Establish a separate fee category for SFAs participating in the USDA Child Nutrition Programs
- Implement the fee increase in stages over a course of five (5) years
- To help us better understand the cost of the proposed permits, we are requesting a copy of the analysis conducted for it.

Below is our reasoning for the request:

- SFAs have zero authority to increase USDA reimbursement rates
- School cafeterias, per USDA regulations, must have a HACCP Plan at every site; Per CalCode **only** smoking and curing facilities, facilities with live tanks of molluscan shellfish, and slaughter facilities are required to have a HACCP plan
- School cafeteria staff receiving training annually on food safety, a USDA requirement
- School cafeterias are not opened year round
- School cafeterias have limited operating hours
- SFAs serving federal meal programs are a **safety net** to our students, a vulnerable population that are not old enough to to cast a vote
- Increased fees are hitting us on multiple directions
    - Proposed fees come on the heels of increased Plan Check fees.
    - Proposed fees also affect our vendor partners, such as milk delivery trucks, that will indirectly affect SFAs
- If SFAs cannot cover our obligations, the school district's General Fund will need to make us whole
    - Redirecting General Fund resources to regulatory expenses reduces funding available for academic programs and student services
- The proposed permit fees will take money from the mouths of our students and their academic success

We are also concerned that the proposed fee structure appears to substantially increase costs without clear evidence that school nutrition programs present a commensurate increase in public health risk. Given the extensive food safety requirements already imposed on school meal programs, we respectfully request transparency regarding the methodology and analysis used to justify the proposed permit classifications and fee levels.

Los Angeles County has long prioritized child health, educational success, food security, and equity. The proposed fee increases risk undermining these shared goals by redirecting limited resources away from student meals and into administrative costs.

We recognize that fee adjustments may be necessary. However, an increase exceeding 400% places an extraordinary burden on federally funded nutrition programs whose sole purpose is to feed children. We respectfully request a collaborative approach that recognizes SFAs as unique public-service operations and develops a fee structure that supports both public health objectives and student well-being.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and commitment to the students and families of Los Angeles County. We look forward to working together to find a balanced solution that protects public health while preserving resources for student nutrition and academic success.

Sincerely,

Veronica Caballero, MBA, RDN

Veronica Caballero, MBA, RDN
Director of Nutrition Services
Office: (626) 939-4600 ext. 1501

October 5, 2026

Dear Board of Supervisors,

Torrance Unified School District, alongside the eighty (80) Los Angeles County school districts are aware that a vote is scheduled on the LA County Board of Supervisors meeting on November 10, 2026 for the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, Environmental Health Division (LACDPHEH) proposed amendments to public health fees that will affect the budgets of school food authorities (SFAs) significantly. For Torrance Unified School District, the increase will be over 400%. In addition, this does not guarantee that two health (2) inspections will be conducted for compliance for USDA.

SFAs currently have a service agreement that is a fee-for-service with LACDPH for two (2) inspections per site cafeteria annually, each inspection costing $197.00. Each school cafeteria receives a Certificate of Inspection to operate.

LACDPHEH plans on moving schools away from a fee-for-service agreement to implementing public health permits. The proposed new permits will cost each school site between $706 - $1,142 depending on how the cafeteria is categorized as low, moderate, or high risk based on the method of food preparation and service, for example, fast scratch cooking vs heat & serve.

Most importantly, the proposed fee increase would divert funding equivalent to approximately 4,500 student lunches annually, reducing the resources available to provide nutritious meals to the students who depend on school meal programs. For Torrance Unified School District Nutrition Services, health inspection costs are projected to increase from $6,698 to approximately $29,580, placing a significant burden on a program designed to support student nutrition and food security.

SFAs serving USDA meal programs, such as the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), School Breakfast Program, Afterschool Snack Program, and/or Supper Program are a safety net for our students. They are reimbursement programs where the rates increased between 2.32%-4.14% at the highest between 2018-2025. For example, USDA lunch reimbursement in 2018-19 was $3.31, and for 2025-26 it is $4.76. The increases are pennies at a time. Unlike commercial food establishments, school nutrition programs are not-for-profit operations and have no authority to increase USDA reimbursement rates or pass increased costs on to students and families. Any significant increase in regulatory fees ultimately reduces resources available to feed children.

We request the Board of Supervisors for the following:

- Postpone the vote for the LACDPHEH proposed changes to fees charged to schools
- Include SFAs for the discussion for the increase of fees that make sense for school cafeterias
- Establish a separate fee category for SFAs participating in the USDA Child Nutrition Programs
- Implement the fee increase in stages over a course of five (5) years

To help us better understand the cost of the proposed permits, we are requesting a copy of the analysis conducted for it.

Below is our reasoning for the request:

- SFAs have zero authority to increase USDA reimbursement rates
- School cafeterias, per USDA regulations, must have a HACCP Plan at every site; Per CalCode only smoking and curing facilities, facilities with live tanks of molluscan shellfish, and slaughter facilities are required to have a HACCP plan
- School cafeteria staff receive training annually on food safety, a USDA requirement
- School cafeterias are not open year-round
- School cafeterias have limited operating hours
- SFAs serving federal meal programs are a safety net to our students, a vulnerable population that are not old enough to cast a vote
- Increased fees are hitting us from multiple directions
- Proposed fees come on the heels of increased Plan Check fees
- Proposed fees also affect our vendor partners, such as milk delivery trucks, that will indirectly affect SFAs
- If SFAs cannot cover our obligations, the school district's General Fund will need to make us whole
- Redirecting General Fund resources to regulatory expenses reduces funding available for academic programs and student services
- The proposed permit fees will take money from the mouths of our students and their academic success

We are also concerned that the proposed fee structure appears to substantially increase costs without clear evidence that school nutrition programs present a commensurate increase in public health risk. Given the extensive food safety requirements already imposed on school meal programs, we respectfully request transparency regarding the methodology and analysis used to justify the proposed permit classifications and fee levels.

Los Angeles County has long prioritized child health, educational success, food security, and equity. The proposed fee increases risk undermining these shared goals by redirecting limited resources away from student meals and into administrative costs.

We recognize that fee adjustments may be necessary. However, an increase exceeding 400% places an extraordinary burden on federally funded nutrition programs whose sole purpose is to feed children. We respectfully request a collaborative approach that recognizes SFAs as unique public-service operations and develops a fee structure that supports both public health objectives and student well-being.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and commitment to the students and families of Los Angeles County. We look forward to working together to find a balanced solution that protects public health while preserving resources for student nutrition and academic success.

Sincerely,

Mike Hyde
Director, Nutrition Services
Torrance Unified School District
2335 Plaza del Amo, Torrance, CA 90501
Office: (310) 972-6351 | hyde.michael@tusd.org | tusd.org

October 5, 2026

Dear Board of Supervisors,

South Whittier School District (SWSD), alongside the eighty (80) Los Angeles County school districts are aware that a vote is scheduled on the LA County Board of Supervisors meeting on November 10, 2026 for the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, Environmental Health Division (LACDPHEH) proposed amendments to public health fees that will affect the budgets of school food authorities (SFAs) significantly. For SWSD, the increase will be over 200%. In addition, this **does not guarantee** that two health (2) inspections will be conducted for compliance for USDA.

SFAs currently have aservice agreement that is a fee-for-service with LACDPH for two (2) inspections per site cafeteria annually, each inspection costing $197.00. Each school cafeteria receives a Certificate of Inspection to operate.

LACDPHEH plans on moving schools away from a fee-for-service agreement to implementing public health permits. The proposed new permits will cost each school site between $706 - $1,142 at minimum depending on how the cafeteria is categorized as low, moderate, or high risk based on the method of food preparation and service, for example, fast scratch cooking vs heat & serve.

Most importantly, the proposed fee increase would divert funding equivalent to approximately 2,100+ student lunches annually, reducing the resources available to provide nutritious meals to the students who depend on school meal programs. For SWSD Nutrition Services health inspection costs are projected to increase from $2,364 to approximately $8,472 placing a significant burden on a program designed to support student nutrition and food security.

SFAs serving USDA meal programs, such as the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), School Breakfast Program, Afterschool Snack Program, and/or Supper Program are a **safety net** for our students. They are reimbursement programs where the rates increased between 2.32%-4.14% at the highest between 2018-2025. For example, USDA lunch reimbursement in 2018-19 was $3.31, and for 2025-26 it is $4.76. The increases are **pennies** at a time unlike commercial food establishments, school nutrition programs are not-for-profit operations and have no authority to increase USDA reimbursement rates or pass increased costs on to students and families. Any significant increase in regulatory fees ultimately reduces resources available to feed children.

We request the Board of Supervisors for the following:

- Postpone the vote for the LACDPHEH proposed changes to fees charged to schools
- Include SFAs for the discussion for the increase of fees that make sense for school cafeterias
- Establish a separate fee category for SFAs participating in the USDA Child Nutrition Programs
- Implement the fee increase in stages over a course of five (5) years
- To help us better understand the cost of the proposed permits, we are requesting a copy of the analysis conducted for it.

Below is our reasoning forthe request:

- SFAs have zero authority to increase USDA reimbursement rates

- School cafeterias, per USDA regulations, must have a HACCP Plan at every site; Per Cal Code, **only** smoking and curing facilities, facilities with live tanks of molluscan shellfish, and slaughter facilities are required to have a HACCP plan
- School cafeteria staff receiving training annually on food safety, a USDA requirement
- School cafeterias are not opened year round
- School cafeterias have limited operating hours
- SFAs serving federal meal programs are a **safety net** to our students, a vulnerable population that are not old enough to cast a vote
- Increased fees are hitting us on multiple directions
    - Proposed fees come on the heels of increased Plan Check fees.
    - Proposed fees also affect our vendor partners, such as milk delivery trucks, that will indirectly affect SFAs
- If SFAs cannot cover our obligations, the school district's General Fund will need to make us whole
    - Redirecting General Fund resources to regulatory expenses reduces funding available for academic programs and student services
- The proposed permit fees will take money from the mouths of our students and their academic success

We are also concerned that the proposed fee structure appears to substantially increase costs without clear evidence that school nutrition programs present a commensurate increase in public health risk. Given the extensive food safety requirements already imposed on school meal programs, we respectfully request transparency regarding the methodology and analysis used to justify the proposed permit classifications and fee levels.

Los Angeles County has long prioritized child health, educational success, food security, and equity. The proposed fee increases risk undermining these shared goals by redirecting limited resources away from student meals and into administrative costs.

We recognize that fee adjustments may be necessary. However, an increase exceeding 200% places an extraordinary burden on federally funded nutrition programs whose sole purpose is to feed children. We respectfully request a collaborative approach that recognizes SFAs as unique public-service operations and develops a fee structure that supports both public health objectives and student well-being.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and commitment to the students and families of Los Angeles County. We look forward to working together to find a balanced solution that protects public health while preserving resources for student nutrition and academic success.

October 5, 2026

Dear Board of Supervisors,

Covina-Valley Unified School District alongside the eighty (80) Los Angeles County school districts are aware that a vote is scheduled on the LA County Board of Supervisors meeting on November 10, 2026 for the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, Environmental Health Division (LACDPHEH) proposed amendments to public health fees that will affect the budgets of school food authorities (SFAs) significantly. For Covina-Valley Unified School District, the increase will be over 400%. In addition, this **does not guarantee** that two health (2) inspections will be conducted for compliance for USDA.

SFAs currently have a service agreement that is a fee-for-service with LACDPH for two (2) inspections per site cafeteria annually, each inspection costing $197.00. Each school cafeteria receives a Certificate of Inspection to operate.

LACDPHEH plans on moving schools away from a fee-for-service agreement to implementing public health permits.The proposed new permits will cost each school site between $706 - $1,142 depending on how the cafeteria is categorized as low, moderate, or high risk based on the method of food preparation and service, for example, fast scratch cooking vs heat & serve.

Most importantly, the proposed fee increase would divert funding equivalent to approximately 8,700 student lunches annually, reducing the resources available to provide nutritious meals to the students who depend on school meal programs. For Covina-Valley Unified School District Nutrition Services, health inspection costs are projected to increase from $6,698 to $19,414 placing a significant burden on a program designed to support student nutrition and food security.

SFAs serving USDA meal programs, such as the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), School Breakfast Program, Afterschool Snack Program, and/or Supper Program are a **safety net** for our students. They are reimbursement programs where the rates increased between 2.32%-4.14% at the highest between 2018-2025. For example, USDA lunch reimbursement in 2018-19 was $3.31, and for 2025-26 it is $4.76. The increases are **pennies** at a time.Unlike commercial food establishments, school nutrition programs are not-for-profit operations and have no authority to increase USDA reimbursement rates or pass increased costs on to students and families. Any significant increase in regulatory fees ultimately reduces resources available to feed children.

We request the Board of Supervisors for the following:

- Postpone the vote for the LACDPHEH proposed changes to fees charged to schools
- Include SFAs for the discussion for the increase of fees that make sense for school cafeterias

- Establish a separate fee category for SFAs participating in the USDA Child Nutrition Programs
- Implement the fee increase in stages over a course of five (5) years
- To help us better understand the cost of the proposed permits, we are requesting a copy of the analysis conducted for it.

Below is our reasoning for the request:

- SFAs have zero authority to increase USDA reimbursement rates
- School cafeterias, per USDA regulations, must have a HACCP Plan at every site; Per CalCode **only** smoking and curing facilities, facilities with live tanks of molluscan shellfish, and slaughter facilities are required to have a HACCP plan
- School cafeteria staff receiving training annually on food safety, a USDA requirement
- School cafeterias are not opened year round
- School cafeterias have limited operating hours
- SFAs serving federal meal programs are a **safety net** to our students, a vulnerable population that are not old enough to to cast a vote
- Increased fees are hitting us on multiple directions
    - Proposed fees come on the heels of increased Plan Check fees.
    - Proposed fees also affect our vendor partners, such as milk delivery trucks, that will indirectly affect SFAs
- If SFAs cannot cover our obligations, the school district's General Fund will need to make us whole
    - Redirecting General Fund resources to regulatory expenses reduces funding available for academic programs and student services
- The proposed permit fees will take money from the mouths of our students and their academic success

We are also concerned that the proposed fee structure appears to substantially increase costs without clear evidence that school nutrition programs present a commensurate increase in public health risk. Given the extensive food safety requirements already imposed on school meal programs, we respectfully request transparency regarding the methodology and analysis used to justify the proposed permit classifications and fee levels.

Los Angeles County has long prioritized child health, educational success, food security, and equity. The proposed fee increases risk undermining these shared goals by redirecting limited resources away from student meals and into administrative costs.

We recognize that fee adjustments may be necessary. However, an increase exceeding 400% places an extraordinary burden on federally funded nutrition programs whose sole purpose is to feed children. We respectfully request a collaborative approach that recognizes SFAs as unique public-service operations and develops a fee structure that supports both public health objectives and student well-being.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and commitment to the students and families of Los Angeles County. We look forward to working together to find a balanced solution that protects public health while preserving resources for student nutrition and academic success.

Sincerely,

Lizett Olivares

Lizett Olivares, Director of Nutrition Services

October 5, 2026

Dear Board of Supervisors,

Alhambra Unified School District alongside the eighty (80) Los Angeles County school districts are aware that a vote is scheduled on the LA County Board of Supervisors meeting on November 10, 2026 for the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, Environmental Health Division (LACDPHEH) proposed amendments to public health fees that will affect the budgets of school food authorities (SFAs) significantly. For AUSD, the increase will be over 389%. In addition, this **does not guarantee** that two health (2) inspections will be conducted for compliance for USDA.

SFAs currently have a service agreement that is a fee-for-service with LACDPH for two (2) inspections per site cafeteria annually, each inspection costing $197.00. Each school cafeteria receives a Certificate of Inspection to operate.

LACDPHEH plans on moving schools away from a fee-for-service agreement to implementing public health permits.The proposed new permits will cost each school site between $706 - $1,142 depending on how the cafeteria is categorized as low, moderate, or high risk based on the method of food preparation and service, for example, fast scratch cooking vs heat & serve.

Most importantly, the proposed fee increase would divert funding equivalent to approximately **7,100** student lunches annually, reducing the resources available to provide nutritious meals to the students who depend on school meal programs. For AUSD Nutrition Services health inspection costs are projected to increase from $6,304 to approximately $24,576 placing a significant burden on a program designed to support student nutrition and food security.

SFAs serving USDA meal programs, such as the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), School Breakfast Program, Afterschool Snack Program, and/or Supper Program are a **safety net** for our students. They are reimbursement programs where the rates increased between 2.32%-4.14% at the highest between 2018-2025. For example, USDA lunch reimbursement in 2018-19 was $3.31, and for 2025-26 it is $4.76. The increases are **pennies** at a time.Unlike commercial food establishments, school nutrition programs are not-for-profit operations and have no authority to increase USDA reimbursement rates or pass increased costs on to students and families. Any significant increase in regulatory fees ultimately reduces resources available to feed children.

We request the Board of Supervisors for the following:

Postpone the vote for the LACDPHEH proposed changes to fees charged to schools
Include SFAs for the discussion for the increase of fees that make sense for school

cafeterias

Establish a separate fee category for SFAs participating in the USDA Child Nutrition Programs

Implement the fee increase in stages over a course of five (5) years

To help us better understand the cost of the proposed permits, we are requesting a copy of the analysis conducted for it.

Below is our reasoning for the request:

SFAs have zero authority to increase USDA reimbursement rates

School cafeterias, per USDA regulations, must have a HACCP Plan at every site; Per CalCode **only** smoking and curing facilities, facilities with live tanks of molluscan shellfish, and slaughter facilities are required to have a HACCP plan

School cafeteria staff receiving training annually on food safety, a USDA requirement

School cafeterias are not opened year round

School cafeterias have limited operating hours

SFAs serving federal meal programs are a **safety net** to our students, a vulnerable population that are not old enough to to cast a vote

Increased fees are hitting us on multiple directions

- Proposed fees come on the heels of increased Plan Check fees.
- Proposed fees also affect our vendor partners, such as milk delivery trucks, that will indirectly affect SFAs

If SFAs cannot cover our obligations, the school district's General Fund will need to make us whole

- Redirecting General Fund resources to regulatory expenses reduces funding available for academic programs and student services

The proposed permit fees will take money from the mouths of our students and their academic success

We are also concerned that the proposed fee structure appears to substantially increase costs without clear evidence that school nutrition programs present a commensurate increase in public health risk. Given the extensive food safety requirements already imposed on school meal programs, we respectfully request transparency regarding the methodology and analysis used to justify the proposed permit classifications and fee levels.

Los Angeles County has long prioritized child health, educational success, food security, and equity. The proposed fee increases risk undermining these shared goals by redirecting limited resources away from student meals and into administrative costs.

We recognize that fee adjustments may be necessary. However, an increase exceeding 389% places an extraordinary burden on federally funded nutrition programs whose sole purpose is to feed children. We respectfully request a collaborative approach that recognizes SFAs as unique public-service operations and develops a fee structure that supports both public health objectives and student well-being.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and commitment to the students and families of Los

Angeles County. We look forward to working together to find a balanced solution that protects public health while preserving resources for student nutrition and academic success.

Sincerely,

Dwayne Dionne
Alhambra Unified School District
1515 W. Mission Road, Alhambra Ca 91803
626-943-6590
dionne_dwayne@ausd.us

October 5, 2026

Dear Board of Supervisors,

Westside Union School District alongside the eighty (80) Los Angeles County school districts are aware that a vote is scheduled on the LA County Board of Supervisors meeting on November 10, 2026 for the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, Environmental Health Division (LACDPHEH) proposed amendments to public health fees that will affect the budgets of school food authorities (SFAs) significantly. For Westside Union School District, the increase will be over 400%. In addition, this **does not guarantee** that two health (2) inspections will be conducted for compliance for USDA.

SFAs currently have a service agreement that is a fee-for-service with LACDPH for two (2) inspections per site cafeteria annually, each inspection costing $197.00. Each school cafeteria receives a Certificate of Inspection to operate.

LACDPHEH plans on moving schools away from a fee-for-service agreement to implementing public health permits.The proposed new permits will cost each school site between $706 - $1,142 depending on how the cafeteria is categorized as low, moderate, or high risk based on the method of food preparation and service, for example, fast scratch cooking vs heat & serve.

Most importantly, the proposed fee increase would divert funding equivalent to approximately 8,700 student lunches annually, reducing the resources available to provide nutritious meals to the students who depend on school meal programs. For Westside Union School District Nutrition Services, health inspection costs are projected to increase from $2,364 to $10,984 placing a significant burden on a program designed to support student nutrition and food security.

SFAs serving USDA meal programs, such as the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), School Breakfast Program, Afterschool Snack Program, and/or Supper Program are a **safety net** for our students. They are reimbursement programs where the rates increased between 2.32%-4.14% at the highest between 2018-2025. For example, USDA lunch reimbursement in 2018-19 was $3.31, and for 2025-26 it is $4.76. The increases are **pennies** at a time.Unlike commercial food establishments, school nutrition programs are not-for-profit operations and have no authority to increase USDA reimbursement rates or

pass increased costs on to students and families. Any significant increase in regulatory fees ultimately reduces resources available to feed children.

We request the Board of Supervisors for the following:

- Postpone the vote for the LACDPHEH proposed changes to fees charged to schools
- Include SFAs for the discussion for the increase of fees that make sense for school cafeterias
- Establish a separate fee category for SFAs participating in the USDA Child Nutrition Programs
- Implement the fee increase in stages over a course of five (5) years
- To help us better understand the cost of the proposed permits, we are requesting a copy of the analysis conducted for it.

Below is our reasoning for the request:

- SFAs have zero authority to increase USDA reimbursement rates
- School cafeterias, per USDA regulations, must have a HACCP Plan at every site; Per CalCode **only** smoking and curing facilities, facilities with live tanks of molluscan shellfish, and slaughter facilities are required to have a HACCP plan
- School cafeteria staff receiving training annually on food safety, a USDA requirement
- School cafeterias are not opened year round
- School cafeterias have limited operating hours
- SFAs serving federal meal programs are a **safety net** to our students, a vulnerable population that are not old enough to to cast a vote
- Increased fees are hitting us on multiple directions
    - Proposed fees come on the heels of increased Plan Check fees.
    - Proposed fees also affect our vendor partners, such as milk delivery trucks, that will indirectly affect SFAs
- If SFAs cannot cover our obligations, the school district's General Fund will need to make us whole
    - Redirecting General Fund resources to regulatory expenses reduces funding available for academic programs and student services

- The proposed permit fees will take money from the mouths of our students and their academic success

We are also concerned that the proposed fee structure appears to substantially increase costs without clear evidence that school nutrition programs present a commensurate increase in public health risk. Given the extensive food safety requirements already imposed on school meal programs, we respectfully request transparency regarding the methodology and analysis used to justify the proposed permit classifications and fee levels.

Los Angeles County has long prioritized child health, educational success, food security, and equity. The proposed fee increases risk undermining these shared goals by redirecting limited resources away from student meals and into administrative costs.

We recognize that fee adjustments may be necessary. However, an increase exceeding 400% places an extraordinary burden on federally funded nutrition programs whose sole purpose is to feed children. We respectfully request a collaborative approach that recognizes SFAs as unique public-service operations and develops a fee structure that supports both public health objectives and student well-being.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and commitment to the students and families of Los Angeles County. We look forward to working together to find a balanced solution that protects public health while preserving resources for student nutrition and academic success.

Sincerely,

Nicole Sewalson

Nicole Sewalson, Director of Child Nutrition

Terri Rowitz

Terri Rowitz, Supervisor Child Nutrition Fiscal

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

EXECUTIVE OFFICE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

VERIFICATION

Name:	**Nicole Sewalson**
Email:	**n.sewalson@westside.k12.ca.us**
Phone:	**(661) 943-1057**
Organization:	**Westside Union School District**
Address:	**41914 50th Street W Quartz Hill CA, 93536**
Uploaded attachments:	• **WUSD Letter 10-5-26 to County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors.pdf, Refers to Agenda Item Public Comment**

Agenda Number	Position	Comments
Public Comment	Other	

⚠ **Please review your submitted information.**
If all your entries are correct, please click on 'Acknowledge'. If you want to make any changes, please click on 'Go Back to Edit'.

Go Back To Edit | Acknowledge

October 5, 2026

Dear Board of Supervisors,

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, Environmental Health Division will bring proposed amendments to public health fees affecting school food authorities at public school districts to the November 10, 2026 Board of Supervisors meeting. This letter is in regards to concerns regarding how these proposed fees could potentially impact local public school food authorities. I also request that the Board consider potential funding sources to help offset the cost of the valuable services that LACDPH Environmental Health Division provides to ensure public safety.

School Food Authorities (SFAs) currently have a service agreement that is a fee-for-service with LACDPH for two (2) inspections per site cafeteria annually, each inspection costing $197.00. Each school cafeteria receives a Certificate of Inspection to operate.

Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, Environmental Health Division has been very forthcoming and has shared that they plan on moving schools away from a fee-for-service agreement to the issuance of public health permits to operate each school cafeteria. The proposed new permits will cost each school site between $706 - $1,142. Cafeterias are categorized as low, moderate, or high risk based on the method of food preparation and service, for example, fast scratch cooking versus reheating previously cooked items.

Our program is designed to support child nutrition and food security. The proposed fee increase would divert thousands of dollars from providing nutritious meals to students who depend on school meal programs. For Lawndale ESD, we're looking at a proposed increase of around $6,732 to continue to serve the students in our district. I appreciate the partnership we have with our LACDPH Environmental Health Division and the support they provide in ensuring that meals served to our students and the broader community are safe throughout the county.

We ask the the Board of Supervisors consider identifying potential funding sources to help offset the cost of the proposed fees. Public school districts are able to offer school meals through reimbursement from the federal and state government. USDA meal programs, such as the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), School Breakfast Program, Afterschool Snack Program, and/or Supper Program are a **safety net** for our students. If the Cafeteria Fund, Fund 13, is not solvent, we must request that the general educational fund for the district offset the cost of our child nutrition programs, taking resources away from educational to

These are reimbursement programs where the rates increased between 2.32% - 4.14% at the highest between 2018 - 2025. For example, USDA lunch reimbursement in 2018 - 19 was $3.31, and for 2025-26 it was $4.76. The increases are pennies at a time. Unlike commercial food establishments, school nutrition programs are not-for-profit operations and have no authority to increase USDA reimbursement rates nor the desire to pass increased costs on to

students and families. Any significant increase in regulatory fees ultimately reduces resources available to feed and educate our children.

We request the Board of Supervisors for the following:

- Postpone the vote for the LACDPH Environmental Health Division's proposed changes to fees charged to schools
- Include SFAs in the discussion for the increase of fees that make sense for school cafeterias and local educational agencies
- Establish a separate fee category for SFAs participating in the USDA Child Nutrition Programs
- Implement the fee increase in stages over a course of five (5) years
- To help us better understand the cost of the proposed permits, we are requesting a copy of the analysis conducted for it.

Below is our reasoning for the request:

- SFAs have zero authority to increase USDA reimbursement rates
- School cafeterias, per USDA regulations, must have a HACCP Plan at every site; Per CalCode **only** smoking and curing facilities, facilities with live tanks of molluscan shellfish, and slaughter facilities are required to have a HACCP plan
- School cafeteria staff receiving training annually on food safety, a USDA requirement
- School cafeterias are not open year round
- School cafeterias have limited operating hours
- SFAs serving federal meal programs are a **safety net** to our students, a vulnerable population that are not old enough to to cast a vote
- Increased fees are impacting our budgets
    - Proposed permit fees come on the heels of increased Plan Check fees.
    - Proposed fees also affect our vendor partners, such as milk delivery trucks, that will indirectly affect SFAs
- If SFAs cannot cover our obligations, the school district's General Fund will need to make us whole
    - Redirecting General Fund resources to regulatory expenses reduces funding available for academic programs and student services
- The proposed permit fees will take money from the mouths of our students and their academic success

We are also concerned that the proposed fee structure appears to substantially increase costs without clear evidence that school nutrition programs present a commensurate increase in public health risk. Given the extensive food safety requirements already imposed on school meal programs, we respectfully request transparency regarding the methodology and analysis used to justify the proposed permit classifications and fee levels.

Los Angeles County has long prioritized child health, educational success, food security, and equity. The proposed fee increases risk undermining these shared goals by redirecting limited resources away from student meals and into administrative costs.

We recognize that fee adjustments may be necessary. However, an increase exceeding 200% places an extraordinary burden on federally funded nutrition programs whose sole purpose is to feed children. We respectfully request a collaborative approach that recognizes SFAs as unique public-service operations and develops a fee structure that supports both public health objectives and student well-being.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and commitment to the students and families of Los Angeles County. We look forward to working together to find a balanced solution that protects public health while preserving resources for student nutrition and academic success.

Regards,

Lissette Rooney
Director, Nutrition & Wellness Services
Lawndale Elementary School District
lissette_rooney@lawndalesd.net
o. 310-973-1300 ext. 50048

GLENDALE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
OFFICE OF NUTRITION & OPERATIONS SERVICES
349A W. Magnolia Avenue, Glendale, CA 91204
Phone: 818-552-2677 | Fax: 818-548-9041
www.gusd.net | @GlendaleUSD

October 5, 2026

Dear LA County Board of Supervisors,

Glendale Unified School District (GUSD) alongside the eighty (80) Los Angeles County school districts are aware that a vote is scheduled on the LA County Board of Supervisors meeting on November 10, 2026 for the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, Environmental Health Division (LACDPHEH) proposed amendments to public health fees that will affect the budgets of school food authorities (SFAs) significantly. For GUSD, the increase will be over 325%. In addition, this **does not guarantee** that two health (2) inspections will be conducted for compliance for USDA.

SFAs currently have a service agreement that is a fee-for-service with LACDPH for two (2) inspections per site cafeteria annually, each inspection costing $197.00. Each school cafeteria receives a Certificate of Inspection to operate.

LACDPHEH plans on moving schools away from a fee-for-service agreement to implementing public health permits.The proposed new permits will cost each school site between $706 - $1,142 depending on how the cafeteria is categorized as low, moderate, or high risk based on the method of food preparation and service, for example, fast scratch cooking vs heat & serve.

Most importantly, the proposed fee increase would divert funding equivalent to approximately 5,800 student lunches annually, reducing the resources available to provide nutritious meals to the students who depend on school meal programs. For GUSD Nutrition Services health inspection costs are projected to increase from $11,820.00 to approximately $39,000 placing a significant burden on a program designed to support student nutrition and food security.

SFAs serving USDA meal programs, such as the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), School Breakfast Program, Afterschool Snack Program, and/or Supper Program are a **safety net** for our students. They are reimbursement programs where the rates increased between 2.32%-4.14% at the highest between 2018-2025. For example, USDA lunch reimbursement in 2018-19 was $3.31, and for 2025-26 it is $4.76. The increases are **pennies** at a time.Unlike commercial food establishments, school nutrition programs are not-for-profit operations and have no authority to increase USDA reimbursement rates or pass increased costs on to students and families. Any significant increase in regulatory fees ultimately reduces resources available to feed children.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

We request the Board of Supervisors for the following:

- Postpone the vote for the LACDPHEH proposed changes to fees charged to schools
- Include SFAs for the discussion for the increase of fees that make sense for school cafeterias
- Establish a separate fee category for SFAs participating in the USDA Child Nutrition Programs
- Implement the fee increase in stages over a course of five (5) years
- To help us better understand the cost of the proposed permits, we are requesting a copy of the analysis conducted for it.

Below is our reasoning for the request:

- SFAs have zero authority to increase USDA reimbursement rates
- School cafeterias, per USDA regulations, must have a HACCP Plan at every site; Per CalCode **only** smoking and curing facilities, facilities with live tanks of molluscan shellfish, and slaughter facilities are required to have a HACCP plan
- School cafeteria staff receiving training annually on food safety, a USDA requirement
- School cafeterias are not opened year round
- School cafeterias have limited operating hours
- SFAs serving federal meal programs are a **safety net** to our students, a vulnerable population that are not old enough to to cast a vote
- Increased fees are hitting us on multiple directions
    - Proposed fees come on the heels of increased Plan Check fees.
    - Proposed fees also affect our vendor partners, such as milk delivery trucks, that will indirectly affect SFAs
- If SFAs cannot cover our obligations, the school district's General Fund will need to make us whole
    - Redirecting General Fund resources to regulatory expenses reduces funding available for academic programs and student services
- The proposed permit fees will take money from the mouths of our students and their academic success

We are also concerned that the proposed fee structure appears to substantially increase costs without clear evidence that school nutrition programs present a commensurate increase in public health risk. Given the extensive food safety requirements already imposed on school meal programs, we respectfully request transparency regarding the methodology and analysis used to justify the proposed permit classifications and fee levels.

Los Angeles County has long prioritized child health, educational success, food security, and equity. The proposed fee increases risk undermining these shared goals by redirecting limited resources away from student meals and into administrative costs.

We recognize that fee adjustments may be necessary. However, an increase exceeding **325%** places an extraordinary burden on federally funded nutrition programs whose sole purpose is to feed children. We respectfully request a collaborative approach that recognizes

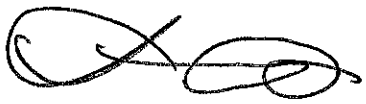
SFAs as unique public-service operations and develops a fee structure that supports both public health objectives and student well-being.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and commitment to the students and families of Los Angeles County. We look forward to working together to find a balanced solution that protects public health while preserving resources for student nutrition and academic success.

Sincerely,

Glendale Unified School District Nutrition Services Team

Jennifer Gonzales, Administrator of Maintenance, Operations & Nutrition Services



Linda Scaletta, Assistant Director, Nutrition Services

October 5, 2026

Dear Board of Supervisors,

Westside Union School District alongside the eighty (80) Los Angeles County school districts are aware that a vote is scheduled on the LA County Board of Supervisors meeting on November 10, 2026 for the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, Environmental Health Division (LACDPHEH) proposed amendments to public health fees that will affect the budgets of school food authorities (SFAs) significantly. For Westside Union School District, the increase will be over 400%. In addition, this **does not guarantee** that two health (2) inspections will be conducted for compliance for USDA.

SFAs currently have a service agreement that is a fee-for-service with LACDPH for two (2) inspections per site cafeteria annually, each inspection costing $197.00. Each school cafeteria receives a Certificate of Inspection to operate.

LACDPHEH plans on moving schools away from a fee-for-service agreement to implementing public health permits.The proposed new permits will cost each school site between $706 - $1,142 depending on how the cafeteria is categorized as low, moderate, or high risk based on the method of food preparation and service, for example, fast scratch cooking vs heat & serve.

Most importantly, the proposed fee increase would divert funding equivalent to approximately 8,700 student lunches annually, reducing the resources available to provide nutritious meals to the students who depend on school meal programs. For Westside Union School District Nutrition Services, health inspection costs are projected to increase from $2,364 to $10,984 placing a significant burden on a program designed to support student nutrition and food security.

SFAs serving USDA meal programs, such as the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), School Breakfast Program, Afterschool Snack Program, and/or Supper Program are a **safety net** for our students. They are reimbursement programs where the rates increased between 2.32%-4.14% at the highest between 2018-2025. For example, USDA lunch reimbursement in 2018-19 was $3.31, and for 2025-26 it is $4.76. The increases are **pennies** at a time.Unlike commercial food establishments, school nutrition programs are not-for-profit operations and have no authority to increase USDA reimbursement rates or

pass increased costs on to students and families. Any significant increase in regulatory fees ultimately reduces resources available to feed children.

We request the Board of Supervisors for the following:

- Postpone the vote for the LACDPHEH proposed changes to fees charged to schools
- Include SFAs for the discussion for the increase of fees that make sense for school cafeterias
- Establish a separate fee category for SFAs participating in the USDA Child Nutrition Programs
- Implement the fee increase in stages over a course of five (5) years
- To help us better understand the cost of the proposed permits, we are requesting a copy of the analysis conducted for it.

Below is our reasoning for the request:

- SFAs have zero authority to increase USDA reimbursement rates
- School cafeterias, per USDA regulations, must have a HACCP Plan at every site; Per CalCode **only** smoking and curing facilities, facilities with live tanks of molluscan shellfish, and slaughter facilities are required to have a HACCP plan
- School cafeteria staff receiving training annually on food safety, a USDA requirement
- School cafeterias are not opened year round
- School cafeterias have limited operating hours
- SFAs serving federal meal programs are a **safety net** to our students, a vulnerable population that are not old enough to to cast a vote
- Increased fees are hitting us on multiple directions
    - Proposed fees come on the heels of increased Plan Check fees.
    - Proposed fees also affect our vendor partners, such as milk delivery trucks, that will indirectly affect SFAs
- If SFAs cannot cover our obligations, the school district's General Fund will need to make us whole
    - Redirecting General Fund resources to regulatory expenses reduces funding available for academic programs and student services

- The proposed permit fees will take money from the mouths of our students and their academic success

We are also concerned that the proposed fee structure appears to substantially increase costs without clear evidence that school nutrition programs present a commensurate increase in public health risk. Given the extensive food safety requirements already imposed on school meal programs, we respectfully request transparency regarding the methodology and analysis used to justify the proposed permit classifications and fee levels.

Los Angeles County has long prioritized child health, educational success, food security, and equity. The proposed fee increases risk undermining these shared goals by redirecting limited resources away from student meals and into administrative costs.

We recognize that fee adjustments may be necessary. However, an increase exceeding 400% places an extraordinary burden on federally funded nutrition programs whose sole purpose is to feed children. We respectfully request a collaborative approach that recognizes SFAs as unique public-service operations and develops a fee structure that supports both public health objectives and student well-being.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and commitment to the students and families of Los Angeles County. We look forward to working together to find a balanced solution that protects public health while preserving resources for student nutrition and academic success.

Sincerely,

Nicole Sewalson

Nicole Sewalson, Director of Child Nutrition

Terri Rowitz

Terri Rowitz, Supervisor Child Nutrition Fiscal

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

EXECUTIVE OFFICE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

VERIFICATION

Name:	**Nicole Sewalson**
Email:	**n.sewalson@westside.k12.ca.us**
Phone:	**(661) 943-1057**
Organization:	**Westside Union School District**
Address:	**41914 50th Street W Quartz Hill CA, 93536**
Uploaded attachments:	• **WUSD Letter 10-5-26 to County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors.pdf, Refers to Agenda Item Public Comment**

Agenda Number	Position	Comments
Public Comment	Other	

⚠ **Please review your submitted information.**
If all your entries are correct, please click on 'Acknowledge'. If you want to make any changes, please click on 'Go Back to Edit'.

Go Back To Edit | Acknowledge

October 5, 2026

Dear Board of Supervisors,

Westside Union School District alongside the eighty (80) Los Angeles County school districts are aware that a vote is scheduled on the LA County Board of Supervisors meeting on November 10, 2026 for the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, Environmental Health Division (LACDPHEH) proposed amendments to public health fees that will affect the budgets of school food authorities (SFAs) significantly. For Westside Union School District, the increase will be over 400%. In addition, this **does not guarantee** that two health (2) inspections will be conducted for compliance for USDA.

SFAs currently have a service agreement that is a fee-for-service with LACDPH for two (2) inspections per site cafeteria annually, each inspection costing $197.00. Each school cafeteria receives a Certificate of Inspection to operate.

LACDPHEH plans on moving schools away from a fee-for-service agreement to implementing public health permits.The proposed new permits will cost each school site between $706 - $1,142 depending on how the cafeteria is categorized as low, moderate, or high risk based on the method of food preparation and service, for example, fast scratch cooking vs heat & serve.

Most importantly, the proposed fee increase would divert funding equivalent to approximately 8,700 student lunches annually, reducing the resources available to provide nutritious meals to the students who depend on school meal programs. For Temple City Unified School District Food Services, health inspection costs are projected to increase from $2364 to $8472 placing a significant burden on a program designed to support student nutrition and food security.

SFAs serving USDA meal programs, such as the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), School Breakfast Program, Afterschool Snack Program, and/or Supper Program are a **safety net** for our students. They are reimbursement programs where the rates increased between 2.32%-4.14% at the highest between 2018-2025. For example, USDA lunch reimbursement in 2018-19 was $3.31, and for 2025-26 it is $4.76. The increases are **pennies** at a time.Unlike commercial food establishments, school nutrition programs are not-for-profit operations and have no authority to increase USDA reimbursement rates or pass increased costs on to students and families. Any significant increase in regulatory fees ultimately reduces resources available to feed children.

We request the Board of Supervisors for the following:

- Postpone the vote for the LACDPHEH proposed changes to fees charged to schools
- Include SFAs for the discussion for the increase of fees that make sense for school cafeterias
- Establish a separate fee category for SFAs participating in the USDA Child Nutrition Programs
- Implement the fee increase in stages over a course of five (5) years
- To help us better understand the cost of the proposed permits, we are requesting a copy of the analysis conducted for it.

Below is our reasoning for the request:

- SFAs have zero authority to increase USDA reimbursement rates
- School cafeterias, per USDA regulations, must have a HACCP Plan at every site; Per CalCode **only** smoking and curing facilities, facilities with live tanks of molluscan shellfish, and slaughter facilities are required to have a HACCP plan
- School cafeteria staff receiving training annually on food safety, a USDA requirement
- School cafeterias are not opened year round
- School cafeterias have limited operating hours
- SFAs serving federal meal programs are a **safety net** to our students, a vulnerable population that are not old enough to to cast a vote
- Increased fees are hitting us on multiple directions
    - Proposed fees come on the heels of increased Plan Check fees.
    - Proposed fees also affect our vendor partners, such as milk delivery trucks, that will indirectly affect SFAs
- If SFAs cannot cover our obligations, the school district's General Fund will need to make us whole
    - Redirecting General Fund resources to regulatory expenses reduces funding available for academic programs and student services
- The proposed permit fees will take money from the mouths of our students and their academic success

We are also concerned that the proposed fee structure appears to substantially increase costs without clear evidence that school nutrition programs present a commensurate increase in public health risk. Given the extensive food safety requirements already imposed on school meal programs, we respectfully request transparency regarding the methodology and analysis used to justify the proposed permit classifications and fee levels.

Los Angeles County has long prioritized child health, educational success, food security, and equity. The proposed fee increases risk undermining these shared goals by redirecting limited resources away from student meals and into administrative costs.

We recognize that fee adjustments may be necessary. However, an increase exceeding 400% places an extraordinary burden on federally funded nutrition programs whose sole purpose is to feed children. We respectfully request a collaborative approach that recognizes SFAs as unique public-service operations and develops a fee structure that supports both public health objectives and student well-being.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and commitment to the students and families of Los Angeles County. We look forward to working together to find a balanced solution that protects public health while preserving resources for student nutrition and academic success.

Sincerely,

Marisol Cortez, Director of Food Services

October 5, 2026

Dear Board of Supervisors,

Covina-Valley Unified School District alongside the eighty (80) Los Angeles County school districts are aware that a vote is scheduled on the LA County Board of Supervisors meeting on November 10, 2026 for the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, Environmental Health Division (LACDPHEH) proposed amendments to public health fees that will affect the budgets of school food authorities (SFAs) significantly. For Covina-Valley Unified School District, the increase will be over 400%. In addition, this **does not guarantee** that two health (2) inspections will be conducted for compliance for USDA.

SFAs currently have a service agreement that is a fee-for-service with LACDPH for two (2) inspections per site cafeteria annually, each inspection costing $197.00. Each school cafeteria receives a Certificate of Inspection to operate.

LACDPHEH plans on moving schools away from a fee-for-service agreement to implementing public health permits.The proposed new permits will cost each school site between $706 - $1,142 depending on how the cafeteria is categorized as low, moderate, or high risk based on the method of food preparation and service, for example, fast scratch cooking vs heat & serve.

Most importantly, the proposed fee increase would divert funding equivalent to approximately 8,700 student lunches annually, reducing the resources available to provide nutritious meals to the students who depend on school meal programs. For Covina-Valley Unified School District Nutrition Services, health inspection costs are projected to increase from $6,698 to $19,414 placing a significant burden on a program designed to support student nutrition and food security.

SFAs serving USDA meal programs, such as the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), School Breakfast Program, Afterschool Snack Program, and/or Supper Program are a **safety net** for our students. They are reimbursement programs where the rates increased between 2.32%-4.14% at the highest between 2018-2025. For example, USDA lunch reimbursement in 2018-19 was $3.31, and for 2025-26 it is $4.76. The increases are **pennies** at a time.Unlike commercial food establishments, school nutrition programs are not-for-profit operations and have no authority to increase USDA reimbursement rates or pass increased costs on to students and families. Any significant increase in regulatory fees ultimately reduces resources available to feed children.

We request the Board of Supervisors for the following:

- Postpone the vote for the LACDPHEH proposed changes to fees charged to schools
- Include SFAs for the discussion for the increase of fees that make sense for school cafeterias

- Establish a separate fee category for SFAs participating in the USDA Child Nutrition Programs
- Implement the fee increase in stages over a course of five (5) years
- To help us better understand the cost of the proposed permits, we are requesting a copy of the analysis conducted for it.

Below is our reasoning for the request:

- SFAs have zero authority to increase USDA reimbursement rates
- School cafeterias, per USDA regulations, must have a HACCP Plan at every site; Per CalCode **only** smoking and curing facilities, facilities with live tanks of molluscan shellfish, and slaughter facilities are required to have a HACCP plan
- School cafeteria staff receiving training annually on food safety, a USDA requirement
- School cafeterias are not opened year round
- School cafeterias have limited operating hours
- SFAs serving federal meal programs are a **safety net** to our students, a vulnerable population that are not old enough to to cast a vote
- Increased fees are hitting us on multiple directions
    - Proposed fees come on the heels of increased Plan Check fees.
    - Proposed fees also affect our vendor partners, such as milk delivery trucks, that will indirectly affect SFAs
- If SFAs cannot cover our obligations, the school district's General Fund will need to make us whole
    - Redirecting General Fund resources to regulatory expenses reduces funding available for academic programs and student services
- The proposed permit fees will take money from the mouths of our students and their academic success

We are also concerned that the proposed fee structure appears to substantially increase costs without clear evidence that school nutrition programs present a commensurate increase in public health risk. Given the extensive food safety requirements already imposed on school meal programs, we respectfully request transparency regarding the methodology and analysis used to justify the proposed permit classifications and fee levels.

Los Angeles County has long prioritized child health, educational success, food security, and equity. The proposed fee increases risk undermining these shared goals by redirecting limited resources away from student meals and into administrative costs.

We recognize that fee adjustments may be necessary. However, an increase exceeding 400% places an extraordinary burden on federally funded nutrition programs whose sole purpose is to feed children. We respectfully request a collaborative approach that recognizes SFAs as unique public-service operations and develops a fee structure that supports both public health objectives and student well-being.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and commitment to the students and families of Los Angeles County. We look forward to working together to find a balanced solution that protects public health while preserving resources for student nutrition and academic success.

Sincerely,

Lizett Olivares

Lizett Olivares, Director of Nutrition Services

October 5, 2026

Dear Board of Supervisors,

Paramount Unified School District (PUSD) alongside the eighty (80) Los Angeles County school districts are aware that a vote is scheduled on the LA County Board of Supervisors meeting on November 10, 2026, for the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, Environmental Health Division (LACDPHEH) proposed amendments to public health fees that will affect the budgets of school food authorities (SFAs) significantly. For PUSD, the increase will be over 161%. In addition, this does not guarantee that two health (2) inspections will be conducted for compliance with USDA.

SFAs currently have a service agreement that is a fee-for-service with LACDPH for two (2) inspections per site cafeteria annually, each inspection costing $197.00. Each school cafeteria receives a Certificate of Inspection to operate.

LACDPHEH plans on moving schools away from a fee-for-service agreement to implementing public health permits. The proposed new permits will cost each school site between $706 - $1,142 depending on how the cafeteria is categorized as low, moderate, or high risk based on the method of food preparation and service, for example, fast scratch cooking vs heat & serve.

Most importantly, the proposed fee increase would divert funding equivalent to approximately 5,800 student lunches annually, reducing the resources available to provide nutritious meals to the students who depend on school meal programs. For PUSD Nutrition Services health inspection costs are projected to increase from $ 7,486.00 to approximately $19,518.00, placing a significant burden on a program designed to support student nutrition and food security.

SFAs serving USDA meal programs, such as the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), School Breakfast Program, Afterschool Snack Program, and/or Supper Program are a safety net for our students. They are reimbursement programs where the rates increased between 2.32%-4.14% at the highest between 2018-2025. For example, USDA lunch reimbursement in 2018-19 was $3.31, and for 2025-26 it is $4.76. The increases are pennies at a time. Unlike commercial food establishments, school nutrition programs are not-for-profit operations and have no authority to increase USDA reimbursement rates or pass increased costs on to students and families. Any significant increase in regulatory fees reduces resources available to feed children.

We request the Board of Supervisors for the following:

- Postpone the vote for the LACDPHEH proposed changes to fees charged to schools.

- Include SFAs for the discussion for the increase of fees that make sense for school cafeterias.
- Establish a separate fee category for SFAs participating in the USDA Child Nutrition Programs
- Implement the fee increase in stages over a course of five (5) years.
- To help us better understand the cost of the proposed permits, we are requesting a copy of the analysis conducted for it.

Below is our reasoning for the request:

- SFAs have zero authority to increase USDA reimbursement rates.
- School cafeterias, according to USDA regulations, must have a HACCP Plan at every site; Per CalCode only smoking and curing facilities, facilities with live tanks of molluscan shellfish, and slaughter facilities are required to have a HACCP plan.
- School cafeteria staff receive training annually on food safety, a USDA requirement.
- School cafeterias are not open year-round.
- School cafeterias have limited operating hours.
- SFAs serving federal meal programs are a safety net to our students, a vulnerable population that are not old enough to cast a vote.
- Increased fees are hitting us on multiple directions.
    - Proposed fees come on the heels of increased Plan Check fees.
    - Proposed fees also affect our vendor partners, such as milk delivery trucks, which will indirectly affect SFAs.
- If SFAs cannot cover our obligations, the school district's General Fund will need to make us whole.
    - Redirecting General Fund resources to regulatory expenses reduces funding available for academic programs and student services.
- The proposed permit fees will take money from the mouths of our students and their academic success.

We are also concerned that the proposed fee structure increases costs without clear evidence that school nutrition programs present a commensurate increase in public health risk. Given the extensive food safety requirements already imposed on school meal programs, we respectfully request transparency regarding the methodology and analysis used to justify the proposed permit classifications and fee levels.

Los Angeles County has long prioritized child health, educational success, food security, and equity. The proposed fee increases risk undermining these shared goals by redirecting limited resources away from student meals and into administrative costs.

We recognize that fee adjustments may be necessary. However, an increase exceeding 161% places an extraordinary burden on federally funded nutrition programs whose sole purpose is to feed children. We respectfully request a collaborative approach that recognizes SFAs as unique public-service operations and develops a fee structure that supports both public health objectives and student well-being.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and commitment to the students and families of Los Angeles County. We look forward to working together to find a balanced solution that protects public health while preserving resources for student nutrition and academic success.

Sincerely,
Celeste Calubaquib
Director of Nutrition Services
Paramount Unified School District

October 5, 2026

Dear Board of Supervisors,

Hawthorne School District (HSD) alongside the eighty (80) Los Angeles County school districts are aware that a vote is scheduled on the LA County Board of Supervisors meeting on November 10, 2026 for the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, Environmental Health Division (LACDPHEH) proposed amendments to public health fees that will affect the budgets of school food authorities (SFAs) significantly. For HSD, the increase will almost 600%. In addition, this **does not guarantee** that two health (2) inspections will be conducted for compliance for USDA.

SFAs currently have a service agreement that is a fee-for-service with LACDPH for two (2) inspections per site cafeteria annually, each inspection costing $197.00. Each school cafeteria receives a Certificate of Inspection to operate.

LACDPHEH plans on moving schools away from a fee-for-service agreement to implementing public health permits.The proposed new permits will cost each school site between $706 - $1,142 depending on how the cafeteria is categorized as low, moderate, or high risk based on the method of food preparation and service, for example, fast scratch cooking vs heat & serve.

Most importantly, the proposed fee increase would divert funding equivalent to approximately 4,500 student lunches annually, reducing the resources available to provide nutritious meals to the students who depend on school meal programs. For HSD Nutrition Services health inspection costs are projected to increase from $2,167 to approximately $12,562 placing a significant burden on a program designed to support student nutrition and food security.

SFAs serving USDA meal programs, such as the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), School Breakfast Program, Afterschool Snack Program, and/or Supper Program are a **safety net** for our students. They are reimbursement programs where the rates increased between 2.32%-4.14% at the highest between 2018-2025. For example, USDA lunch reimbursement in 2018-19 was $3.31, and for 2025-26 it is $4.76. The increases are **pennies** at a time.Unlike commercial food establishments, school nutrition programs are not-for-profit operations and have no authority to increase USDA reimbursement rates or pass increased costs on to students and families. Any significant increase in regulatory fees ultimately reduces resources available to feed children.

We request the Board of Supervisors for the following:

- Postpone the vote for the LACDPHEH proposed changes to fees charged to schools
- Include SFAs for the discussion for the increase of fees that make sense for school cafeterias

- Establish a separate fee category for SFAs participating in the USDA Child Nutrition Programs
- Implement the fee increase in stages over a course of five (5) years
- To help us better understand the cost of the proposed permits, we are requesting a copy of the analysis conducted for it.

Below is our reasoning for the request:

- SFAs have zero authority to increase USDA reimbursement rates
- School cafeterias, per USDA regulations, must have a HACCP Plan at every site; Per CalCode **only** smoking and curing facilities, facilities with live tanks of molluscan shellfish, and slaughter facilities are required to have a HACCP plan
- School cafeteria staff receiving training annually on food safety, a USDA requirement
- School cafeterias are not opened year round
- School cafeterias have limited operating hours
- SFAs serving federal meal programs are a **safety net** to our students, a vulnerable population that are not old enough to to cast a vote
- Increased fees are hitting us on multiple directions
    - Proposed fees come on the heels of increased Plan Check fees.
    - Proposed fees also affect our vendor partners, such as milk delivery trucks, that will indirectly affect SFAs
- If SFAs cannot cover our obligations, the school district's General Fund will need to make us whole
    - Redirecting General Fund resources to regulatory expenses reduces funding available for academic programs and student services
- The proposed permit fees will take money from the mouths of our students and their academic success

We are also concerned that the proposed fee structure appears to substantially increase costs without clear evidence that school nutrition programs present a commensurate increase in public health risk. Given the extensive food safety requirements already imposed on school meal programs, we respectfully request transparency regarding the methodology and analysis used to justify the proposed permit classifications and fee levels.

Los Angeles County has long prioritized child health, educational success, food security, and equity. The proposed fee increases risk undermining these shared goals by redirecting limited resources away from student meals and into administrative costs.

We recognize that fee adjustments may be necessary. However, a 600% increase places an extraordinary burden on federally funded nutrition programs whose sole purpose is to feed children. We respectfully request a collaborative approach that recognizes SFAs as unique public-service operations and develops a fee structure that supports both public health objectives and student well-being.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and commitment to the students and families of Los Angeles County. We look forward to working together to find a balanced solution that protects public health while preserving resources for student nutrition and academic success.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Kim, Nutrition Services Director

Andrés E. Chait
Superintendent
Pedro Salcido
Deputy Superintendent, Business Services & Operations
Matthew Friedman
Chief Procurement Officer
Manish Singh
Director

Food Services Division
Nourishing Children to Achieve Excellence
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October 5, 2026

Dear Members of the Board of Supervisors,

Eighty (80) Los Angeles County school districts are aware that the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors is scheduled to vote on November 10, 2026, on proposed amendments to public health fees by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, Environmental Health Division (LACDPH-EH). These proposed changes will significantly impact the budgets of School Food Authorities (SFAs), with estimated increases of approximately 325% to 490% per district. For Los Angeles Unified School District, which operates 688 school sites, the increase would exceed $580,000.

Currently, SFAs operate under a fee-for-service agreement with LACDPH-EH that provides for two inspections per school cafeteria each year, at a cost of $197 per inspection. Each cafeteria receives a Certificate of Inspection to operate.

Under the proposed changes, schools would move from the current fee-for-service model to an annual public health permit system. The proposed permit fees would range from **$706 to $1,142 per school site**, depending on whether a cafeteria is classified as low, moderate, or high risk based on food preparation and service methods, such as heat-and-serve versus scratch cooking.

SFAs serving USDA meal programs provide an essential safety net for our students. These federally reimbursed programs do not allow school districts to independently increase reimbursement rates to offset rising costs. From 2018-19 through 2025–26, reimbursement rates have increased incrementally, rather than providing districts with the flexibility to absorb significant new costs.

We respectfully request that the Board of Supervisors:

- Postpone the November 10 vote on the proposed public health fee changes affecting school cafeterias.
- Include School Food Authorities in further discussions to develop a fee structure that appropriately reflects school cafeteria operations.
- Phase in any fee increases over five years to allow districts time to plan and absorb the additional costs.
- Provide the analysis and methodology used to establish the proposed permit fees so SFAs can better understand the basis for the increases.

Why School Cafeterias Should Be Considered Differently

School cafeterias have unique operating conditions and already have extensive food safety requirements, including:

- HACCP-based food safety plans at every site.
- Annual food safety training for cafeteria employees.
- Required regulatory inspections and ongoing compliance.
- Limited operating hours and school calendars that do not operate year-round.
- Federal meal program reimbursement rates that are established by USDA and are outside the control of local school districts.
- Service to children and families who rely on school meals as an essential safety net.

Additionally, school districts are facing increased costs from multiple directions. The proposed public health permit fees come on the heels of increased Plan Check fees and may also increase costs for vendors serving school food programs, such as milk delivery companies, which could ultimately be passed on to SFAs.

We understand that public health fees may need to increase after many years without significant adjustments. However, an increase of more than 325% is a substantial financial impact for school districts and, ultimately, the students and families we serve.

We respectfully ask the Board to work with SFAs to develop a reasonable, transparent, and sustainable approach that supports public health while recognizing the unique role and operating structure of school food programs.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued partnership in supporting the health and well-being of our students.

Sincerely,

Soniya Perl, MS, RDN, SNS

Deputy Director, LAUSD Food Services

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