

April 7, 2006

Dear Business Owner/Operator/Representative:

I want to share with you proposed changes to our device, scanner inspection, and quantity control inspection programs. Part of this proposal includes changing the fees businesses pay to register weighing and measuring devices and/or automated point of sale stations (scanners) (see table on back). If this proposal is approved, we are proposing to use the increased revenue to implement an enhanced inspection program.

The proposed fees were developed after the State Legislature passed AB 889, which changed the fee structure and established a uniform sampling method when we inspect businesses with scanners. AB 889 was developed and approved by working with industry including the California Grocers Association, the California Retailers Association, the Independent Oil Marketers, the California Farm Bureau, the County Agricultural Commissioners and Sealers Association, and the State Legislature. The bill was signed by the Governor and became effective January 1, 2006.

We have performed a careful analysis of our local device and scanner programs, noting that our staffing level has remained the same since 1975 while demand for service has significantly increased. This situation has made it very difficult for us to meet program service levels, resulting in more complaints for us to respond to rather than working with businesses to maintain compliance. We are proposing to add two new inspectors to our program starting fiscal year 2006/2007 with the additional revenue. Doing so would allow us to inspect more devices and packages each year, thereby meeting the required annual inspection frequency, implement the new sampling method for scanners, and be more proactive in protecting both consumers and competing businesses.

The Board of Supervisors will hold a public hearing on the proposed fees on April 18, 2006. If approved, the new fees would go into effect on January 1, 2007. Registration fees do not pay for the full cost of the program; rather they partially offset County costs for administering the entire weights and measures program. The proposed Ordinance and Resolution are available at [http://www.sonoma-county.org/agcomm/weights\\_measures/](http://www.sonoma-county.org/agcomm/weights_measures/) and at our office, 133 Aviation Blvd, Suite 110, Santa Rosa, during normal business hours (8am to 5pm).

If you have any questions concerning the proposals, we look forward to discussing the issue with you directly. Please feel free to contact me, or the Sealer, Lisa Correia, by calling (707) 565-2371. Thank you for your continued support and cooperation.

Sincerely,

Mark Hanson  
Chief Deputy Sealer

**FY 06-07 Proposed Device Registration Fees**

<b>Device Type</b>	<b>Location Fee</b>	<b>Proposed fee per device</b>
Retail Motor Fuel	\$70.00	\$14.00
Wholesale Meter	\$70.00	\$17.50
Vehicle Meter	\$70.00	\$17.50
Retail Water Vending	\$70.00	\$14.00
Taxi Meter	\$70.00	\$14.00
Fabric/Cord/Wire	\$70.00	\$14.00
Liquid Petroleum Gas	\$70.00	\$122.50
Vehicle Scale	\$70.00	\$175.00
Hopper (>10,000 lbs)	\$70.00	\$175.00
Crane Scale	\$70.00	\$105.00
Hopper (2,000 - 10,000lbs)	\$70.00	\$105.00
Monorail	\$70.00	\$105.00
Dormant	\$70.00	\$105.00
Animal	\$70.00	\$105.00
Livestock (>10,000 lbs)	\$70.00	\$105.00
Livestock (2,000 - 10,000 lbs)	\$70.00	\$70.00
Computing Scale	\$70.00	\$14.00
Platform Scale	\$70.00	\$14.00
Counter Scale	\$70.00	\$14.00
Jewelers Scale	\$70.00	\$14.00
Hanging Scale	\$70.00	\$14.00

**Mobile Home Park, Apartments, Recreational Vehicle Park**

Electric		\$2.00
Vapor	\$70.00	\$2.00
Water		\$2.00

**Automated Point of Sale (Scanner) Systems**

1-3 Stations	Flat Fee	\$150.00
4 or more Stations	Flat Fee	\$220.00