



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

1600 PACIFIC HIGHWAY, ROOM 335, SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92101-2470

AGENDA ITEM

DATE: May 15, 2013

09

TO: Board of Supervisors

SUBJECT: ASSISTING DISABLED VETERANS WITH MODIFYING THEIR HOME TO BE MORE ACCESSIBLE (DISTRICTS: ALL)

SUMMARY

Overview

San Diego County government has always valued those who serve in our armed forces and the veterans that live in the region. We must always look to improve the lives of those who have risked everything to protect our country. In particular, we can help disabled veterans to continue living independently by waiving permit fees for an accessibility modification to their home.

County staff has determined that we have the authority to enact a fee waiver of this nature through local ordinances already adopted. However, action would still need to be taken by this Board to implement the fee waiver. Even though we can move forward without it, State legislation (AB 151) has been introduced that authorizes local jurisdictions to grant financial assistance to disabled veterans by reducing or waiving building inspections or permit fees for accessibility modifications to their home.

Today's action directs the Chief Administrative Officer to draft the necessary ordinance amendments to waive plan check fees and building permit fees for accessibility home modifications for disabled veterans and report back to the Board within 90 days. In an effort to encourage other counties to do the same, today's action also registers our support for AB 151.

Recommendation(s)

VICE-CHAIRWOMAN JACOB AND SUPERVISOR HORN

1. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to draft the necessary ordinance amendments to waive plan check fees and building permit fees for accessibility modifications for disabled veterans and report back to the Board within 90 days.
2. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to draft a letter communicating this Board of Supervisors' support for Assembly Bill 151 to San Diego County's legislative representatives in Sacramento and to the appropriate members of the State Legislature and Administration.

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Fiscal Impact

There is no fiscal impact associated with this action.

Business Impact Statement

N/A

Advisory Board Statement

N/A

Background

San Diego County government has always valued those who serve in our armed forces and the veterans that live in the region. We must always look to improve the lives of those who risk everything to protect our country. In particular, we can help disabled veterans to continue living independently by waiving permit fees for an accessibility modification to their home.

County staff has determined that we have the authority to enact a fee waiver of this nature through local ordinances already adopted. However, action would still need to be taken by this Board to implement the fee waiver. Even though we can move forward without it, State legislation (AB 151) has been introduced that authorizes local jurisdictions to grant financial assistance to disabled veterans by reducing or waiving building inspections or permit fees for accessibility modifications to their home.

San Diego County previously adopted ordinances that reduce or waive certain building permit fees for military personnel. County Code section 91.1.109.5.10 waives certain fees for an applicant who is called to active military duty. Section 91.1.109.2.1 (c) specifies that a military applicant shall not be required to pay a new plan review fee when a call to military service caused delay in the applicant's ability to proceed with the project. The County has also adopted other fee reductions or waivers, such as those for farm employee housing, unreinforced masonry seismic retrofits, and homeowner relief for minor improvements, without specific authorizing state legislation.

Currently, the Department of Planning and Development Services issues approximately ten accessibility upgrades on homes per year, and a few of those are for disabled veterans. Since accessibility building requirements do not apply to single family homes, the upgrades are voluntary and usually require a building permit because the structure or the plumbing is being modified in some way. The cost for these permits is relatively minor; \$116 for plan review and \$312 for the building permit.

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Today's action directs the Chief Administrative Officer to draft the necessary ordinance amendments to waive plan check fees and building permit fees for accessibility home modifications for disabled veterans and report back to the Board within 90 days. In an effort to encourage other counties to take the same step, today's action also registers our support for AB151. We urge your support.

Respectfully submitted,

DIANNE JACOB
Vice-Chairwoman

BILL HORN
Supervisor, Fifth District

Linkage to the County of San Diego Strategic Plan
N/A

ATTACHMENT(S)
N/A

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AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION SHEET

REQUIRES FOUR VOTES: Yes No

WRITTEN DISCLOSURE PER COUNTY CHARTER SECTION 1000.1 REQUIRED

Yes No

PREVIOUS RELEVANT BOARD ACTIONS:

N/A

BOARD POLICIES APPLICABLE:

N/A

BOARD POLICY STATEMENTS:

N/A

MANDATORY COMPLIANCE:

N/A

ORACLE AWARD NUMBER(S) AND CONTRACT AND/OR REQUISITION NUMBER(S):

N/A

ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT: Vice-Chairwoman Dianne Jacob and Supervisor Bill Horn

OTHER CONCURRENCE(S): N/A

CONTACT PERSON(S):

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