

Agenda Report

TO: CITY COUNCIL
Through: FINANCE COMMITTEE

DATE: November 4, 2002

FROM: CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: AMENDMENTS TO THE FY 2003 GENERAL FEE SCHEDULE
FOR BEE REMOVAL BY THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the City Council approve a resolution to amend the FY 2003 General Fee Schedule to include a fee in the amount of \$133.00 during normal business hours and \$273.00 after business hours for emergency bee removal on private property by the Public Health Department.

BACKGROUND

During the June 10th meeting of the Finance Committee, it was recommended that the Public Health Department include a new fee with the FY 2003 General Fee Schedule for emergency bee removal on private property. The City Council concurred with the Finance Committee's recommendation. Staff prepared a full cost recovery study to determine the appropriate fee amount for bee removal based on direct and indirect costs that include staff time, supplies and materials, pesticides, and equipment. The amount of the fee for each bee removal service incident is proposed at \$133.00 during normal business hours and \$273.00 after business hours.

In 1999, the Pasadena Public Health Department, along with other vector control agencies in Los Angeles County, responded to the migration of the Africanized Honey Bee (AHB) into the county by implementing an Africanized Honey Bee Control program. Unlike the common European Honey Bee, the Africanized Honey Bee is extremely aggressive when defending its colony. This behavior poses a greater risk to the public's health and safety and therefore requires a more immediate response. Under the AHB Program, city staff has been responsible for removing AHB hives and swarms reported throughout the City.

For the past three years, the Environmental Health Division has responded to all AHB complaints and service calls from businesses, residents and the public sector. Over this period, the number of calls has grown substantially and

Once a seasonal occurrence, AHB complaints are now received year round. During season peaks, staff spends an average of 50 overtime hours per pay period on after hours and weekend calls. The inordinate staff and other resources required for AHB control are reducing staff capacity to address other vector control priorities such as mosquitoes, rodents and other types of infestations that can affect the public's health. Additionally, a sufficient supply of private pest control vendors is available to address AHB complaints.

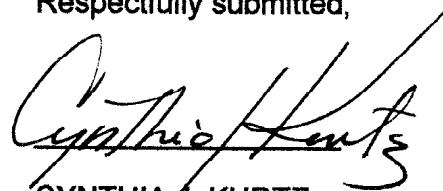
In the FY 2003 Budget, staff proposed reducing its AHB Program as a way of containing costs and to be consistent with other vector control districts in Los Angeles County. To prepare residents for this change, the Public Health Department included an article in the July issue of In-Focus announcing the program change. There have also been several press releases from the Los Angeles County Department of Agricultural Commissioner announcing AHB program changes by surrounding vector control districts, including the Greater Los Angeles Vector Control District and the San Gabriel Valley Vector Control District.

Under this newly structured program the Public Health Department will only respond to bee complaints on public property. Exceptions will be made for bee complaints involving private property if: (1) a beehive or swarm is identified on a private property near or at a school or child day care center; or (2) a multiple bee stinging incident involving one or more individuals or animals is reported. These emergency bee removal services will be provided to the public for a fee. When the Public Health Department receives non-emergency calls regarding bees, staff will provide property owners with a list of licensed pest control companies who can assist in bee removal.

FISCAL IMPACT

This action by the City Council will ensure cost recovery of bee removal services and will not result in new net revenue.

Respectfully submitted,



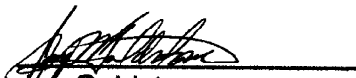
CYNTHIA J. KURTZ
City Manager

Prepared by:



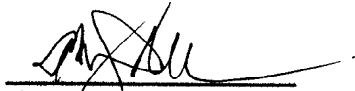
Mel Lim, REHS
Environmental Health Division Manager

Concurred by:



Jay Goldstone
Director of Finance

Approved by:



Wilma J. Allen
Director of Public Health