

LOS ANGELES FIRE DEPARTMENT



August 4, 2026

JAIME E. MOORE
FIRE CHIEF

July 20, 2026

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
FILE NO. 26-039

TO: Board of Fire Commissioners

FROM:  Jaime E. Moore, Fire Chief

SUBJECT: CREATION OF A NEW LOS ANGELES COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT
PARTICIPATING AGENCY OVERSIGHT FEE FOR HAZARDOUS
WASTE PROGRAM

FINAL ACTION:	☐ Approved	☐ Approved w/Corrections	☐ Withdrawn
	☐ Denied	☐ Received & Filed	☐ Other

SUMMARY

This report recommends the creation of a new Los Angeles County Fire Department (LACoFD) Participating Agency (PA) Oversight Fee. The LACoFD PA Oversight Fee is intended to recover the costs assumed by the Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA) in administering, coordinating, and evaluating the Hazardous Waste Generator and Onsite Hazardous Waste Treatment Program ("Hazardous Waste Program") implemented by LACoFD Health Hazardous Materials Division (HHMD) within the City of Los Angeles. The City has the authority to recover costs associated with administration of the Unified Program or any of its elements as outlined in L.A.M.C. Section 120.6.4. This proposed fee is consistent with the City's financial policy of achieving full cost recovery for special services and the requirements of Section 25404.5 of the California Health and Safety Code which mandates that CUPA permit fees cover the costs of program implementation.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Board:

1. Approve the creation of a LACoFD PA Oversight Fee, and add the new fee to the Department's Cost of Special Services for CUPA Programs.
2. Transmit this report to the City Council and Mayor for consideration and approval.

FISCAL IMPACT

This fee would be incorporated into the Unified Program Fee and assessed on all 7,508 current hazardous waste facilities within the City. The fee will be approximately \$136.51 for each hazardous waste facility. The fee will generate approximately \$1,024,966 in additional CUPA Permit revenue in Fiscal Year 2026-27 to offset the cost of staff time and resources allocated to oversight of the Hazardous Waste Program.

DISCUSSION

As a CUPA designated by the State of California, the Fire Department is authorized to apply statewide standards to each facility within its jurisdiction that treats or generates hazardous waste, operates underground storage tanks and aboveground storage tanks, or stores hazardous materials.

The CUPA consolidates under one agency the following six hazardous materials and waste programs:

- Aboveground Petroleum Storage Act Program;
- Hazardous Waste Generator and Onsite Hazardous Waste Treatment Program;
- Hazardous Materials Release Response Plans and Inventory Program;
- California Accidental Release Prevention Program (CalARP);
- Underground Storage Tank Program; and
- Uniform Fire Code Plans and Inventory Requirements.

The Hazardous Waste Program in the City of Los Angeles, though implemented in the field by LACoFD HHMD under a PA agreement, is centrally administered and overseen by the Los Angeles City CUPA. The CUPA is fully responsible for ensuring that the program complies with all statutory, regulatory, and administrative requirements of the Unified Program.

CUPA's oversight and administrative responsibilities include:

- Preparing and distributing annual permit invoices to 7,508 regulated Hazardous Waste facilities;
- Collecting and processing facility permit payments, and remitting program revenue to the PA in accordance with the PA agreement;
- Issuing facility permits under the City's consolidated permit framework;
- Responding to the vast majority of billing and permitting inquiries on behalf of the PA;
- Responding to public records requests related to the Hazardous Waste Program;
- Conducting annual performance evaluations of the PA's inspection, enforcement, and accounting functions, including documentation review, evaluation of field and administrative practices, and tracking and follow-up on required corrective actions;
- Managing internal data systems, permit processing, and reporting functions to maintain program integrity and transparency.

These oversight functions require significant staffing resources, in addition to time contributed by CUPA technical evaluators, program analysts, and supervisory staff. These functions are currently being completed by our existing staff, but we are quickly falling behind and are forced to request overtime twice a year.

Despite the scale and complexity of these responsibilities, the CUPA currently receives no dedicated funding for oversight activities. Los Angeles Municipal Code Section 120.6.4.1 authorizes the Fire Department to levy an administrative charge to recover costs associated with CUPA oversight of the Hazardous Waste Program element. To ensure long-term program sustainability and align with cost recovery principles, it is proposed that an oversight fee be created and included in the FY 2026/2027 Cost of Special Services Schedule. This fee would account for the CUPA's actual oversight, administrative, and compliance assurance costs.

CONCLUSION

The creation of an administrative oversight fee to account for staff time in overseeing the Hazardous Waste Program is consistent with the City's financial policy of full cost recovery for special services.

Board report prepared by Royce Long, CUPA Program Manager, Fire Prevention and Public Safety Bureau.