



**SAN FRANCISCO  
PLANNING  
DEPARTMENT**

# PLANNING DIRECTOR BULLETIN NO. 1

## AN OVERVIEW OF Development Impact Fees

This Bulletin provides a general overview of fees that are charged to development projects in order to pay for the impacts created by those projects on public services, infrastructure, and facilities.

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**References:  
Planning Code Article 4  
SFPUC Resolution Numbers 07-0099 & 07-0100  
California Education Code Section 17620  
San Francisco Citywide Development Impact Fee Register**

The City imposes development impact fees on development projects in order to mitigate the impacts caused by new development on public services, infrastructure and facilities. For example, the burden on the transit system created by a new office building is offset through the payment of an impact fee used to improve MUNI. Impact Fees are different from, and apply in addition to, application fees, which are used to cover the cost of the City’s review of a given proposal.

This Bulletin is intended to offer preliminary information with respect to the applicability and assessment of the City’s various impact fees. It may be particularly useful for current and prospective property or business owners who are seeking an initial understanding of the fees that may apply to a given development project. This Bulletin should be used in conjunction with the Citywide Development Impact Fee Register, which details current fee levels and is updated on an annual basis as fees are indexed or otherwise changed. The Fee Register and related information can be found online at [www.sfplanning.org/impactfees](http://www.sfplanning.org/impactfees).

This Bulletin is not intended, nor should it be used, to supersede the fee rates or the assessment methodologies contained in the Fee Register, the Planning Code and/or other implementing documents. The Department of Building Inspection’s Development Fee Collection Unit is responsible for the collection of all impact fees and, prior to permit issuance, will prepare a Development Impact Fee Report that identifies the amount of all applicable fees. This Bulletin does not supersede that Report or any other legal requirements to pay fees.

The impact fees listed below are grouped into three categories: (1) ‘City-Wide Impact Fees’ that apply to development in all parts of the City, (2) ‘Neighborhood-Specific Impact Fees’ that apply to development in particular geographic areas of the City, and (3) ‘Elective Impact Fees’ that are alternate means of compliance with certain aspects of the Planning Code. With respect to Neighborhood-Specific Impact Fees, maps providing specific neighborhood boundaries are available at [www.sfplanning.org/impactfees](http://www.sfplanning.org/impactfees) and [propertymap.sfplanning.org](http://propertymap.sfplanning.org).

### FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT IMPACT FEES

**Fee Calculation**

Planning Department,  
Office of the Zoning  
Administrator  
(415) 575-9081 or  
[corey.teague@sfgov.org](mailto:corey.teague@sfgov.org)

**Fee Collection**

Dept. of Building Inspection,  
Fee Collection Unit  
(415) 558-6131 or  
[john.blackshear@sfgov.org](mailto:john.blackshear@sfgov.org)

**School Fees**

SF Unified School District  
(415) 241-6090 or  
[mariscalc@sfusd.edu](mailto:mariscalc@sfusd.edu)

**Water & Waste-Water Fees**

SF Public Utilities Commission  
(415) 575-6941



## CITY-WIDE IMPACT FEES

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### Affordable Housing Fee

Planning Code Section 415

This fee addresses the impact created by new market-rate housing to the stock of, and need for, affordable housing. It applies city-wide to residential projects and is triggered by the creation of ten or more dwelling units. Generally, the fee is calculated based on twenty percent of the number of proposed units, at a unit-size mix reflective of the overall project. There are additional options for compliance with this fee, including providing affordable units on or off-site.

### Child Care Fee

Planning Code Section 414

This fee addresses the impact created by certain employment-generating uses on the availability of child care. It applies city-wide to office and hotel projects and is triggered by the creation of 50,000 square feet or more of office or hotel uses. There are additional options for compliance with this fee, including the provision of on or off-site child care.

### Jobs-Housing Linkage Fee

Planning Code Section 413

This fee addresses the impact created by employment-generating uses to the availability of affordable housing. It applies city-wide to most non-residential uses and is triggered by the creation of at least 25,000 square feet. In the case of a change of use, fees are lowered to provide credit for the existing use. There are additional options for compliance with this fee, including an in-lieu payment to a housing developer.

### School Impact Fee

California Education Code Section 17620

This fee addresses the impacts to the school system created by employment-generators and housing. It applies city-wide to most projects and is triggered by any addition of floor area. This fee is assessed by the Department of Building Inspection (DBI) and associated questions should be directed to either DBI or the San Francisco Unified School District.

### Street Tree In-Lieu Fee

Planning Code Section 425

This fee addresses the impact on the urban forest from development projects that are physically unable to provide the otherwise-required number of street trees. It applies on a per-tree basis to only those projects for which the City determines that site constraints preclude the planting of required street trees. Elective payment of this fee (e.g. in-lieu of planting a required tree) is not allowed.

### Transit Impact Development Fee (TIDF)

Planning Code Section 411

This fee addresses the impact created by non-residential uses on the transit system. It applies city-wide to all non-residential projects and is triggered by (1) construction of a new building or (2) an addition or conversion of at least 800 square feet. In the case of a change of use, fees are lowered to provide credit for existing uses that have been active within the most recent five years.

### Wastewater Capacity Charge

SFPUC Resolution Number 07-0100

This fee – which is technically a capacity charge rather than an impact fee – covers City costs in providing new or increased sewerage service to customers. It applies city-wide to all projects and is triggered by either (1) a new connection to the wastewater system or (2) an increase in capacity as a result of any addition, alteration or change of use. This fee is assessed by the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) and associated questions should be directed to the SFPUC.

### Water Capacity Charge

SFPUC Resolution Number 07-0099

This fee – which is technically a capacity charge rather than an impact fee – covers City costs in providing new or increased water service to customers. It applies city-wide to all projects and is triggered by (1) a new connection to the water system or (2) an increase in water capacity as a result of any addition, alteration or conversion. This fee is assessed by the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) and associated questions should be directed to the SFPUC.

## NEIGHBORHOOD-SPECIFIC IMPACT FEES

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### Balboa Park Infrastructure Fee

Planning Code Section 422

This fee addresses the impact on neighborhood infrastructure created by the increased development permitted under the Balboa Park Area Plan. It applies to all projects within the Balboa Park Area Plan and is triggered by (1) the addition of a dwelling unit or (2) the addition or conversion of 800 square feet or more. In the case of a change of use, fees are lowered to provide credit for the existing use. There are additional options for compliance with this fee, including in-kind provision of infrastructure.

### Downtown Park Fee

Planning Code Section 412

This fee addresses the impact created by office uses on downtown parks. It applies to office uses in C-3 Zoning Districts and is triggered by any addition of, or conversion to, office space.

### Eastern Neighborhoods Infrastructure Fee

Planning Code Section 423

This fee addresses the impact on neighborhood infrastructure created by the increased development permitted under the Eastern Neighborhoods Area Plan. It applies to all projects within the Eastern Neighborhoods Plan Area (East SoMa, Western SoMa, Showplace Square/Potrero Hill, the Mission, and Central Waterfront) and is triggered by (1) the addition of a dwelling unit or (2) the addition or conversion of 800 square feet or more of space. In the case of a change of use, fees are lowered to provide credit for the existing use. There are additional options for compliance with this fee, including in-kind provision of infrastructure.

## NEIGHBORHOOD-SPECIFIC IMPACT FEES, continued

### Market & Octavia and Upper Market Street Affordable Housing Fee

Planning Code Section 416

This fee addresses the impact created by new market-rate housing to the stock of, and need for, affordable housing within and nearby the Market and Octavia Plan Area. It applies in (1) the Market and Octavia Plan Area and (2) the Upper Market Neighborhood Commercial District and is triggered by the creation of 10 or more dwelling units. It applies in addition to the city-wide Affordable Housing Fee (discussed above). In the case of a change of use, fees are lowered to provide credit for the existing use.

### Market & Octavia Infrastructure Fee

Planning Code Section 421

This fee addresses the impact on neighborhood infrastructure created by the increased development permitted under the Market and Octavia Area Plan. It applies in the Market and Octavia Plan Area to all projects and is triggered by (1) the addition of a dwelling unit or (2) the addition or change of use of 800 square feet of space. In the case of a change of use, fees are lowered to provide credit for the existing use. There are additional options for compliance with this fee, including in-kind provision of infrastructure.

### Rincon Hill Infrastructure Fee

Planning Code Section 418

This fee addresses the impact on neighborhood infrastructure created by the increased development permitted under the Rincon Hill Area Plan. It applies to all projects in the Rincon Hill Plan Area and is triggered by (1) the addition of a dwelling unit or (2) the addition or change the use of 800 square feet of space. In the case of a change of use, fees are lowered to provide credit for the existing use. There are additional options for compliance with this fee, including in-kind provision of infrastructure.

### South of Market Community Stabilization Fee

Planning Code Section 418.3(d)

This fee addresses the impact on existing neighborhoods created by the increased development permitted under the Rincon Hill Area Plan. It applies in the Rincon Hill Plan Area and is triggered by any addition of residential square footage.

### Transit Center Open Space Fee

Planning Code Section 424.6

This fee addresses the impact on parks and recreational facilities created by the increased development permitted under the Transit Center District Plan. It applies to all projects in the Transit Center Special Use District and is triggered by (1) the addition of a dwelling unit, (2) the addition of 800 square feet of space or (3) the creation of any new use subject to higher fees than the use it replaces. Fees vary depending on use and increase for square footage beyond a Floor Area Ratio (FAR) of 9:1. There are additional options for compliance with this fee, including in-kind provision of open space.

### Transit Center Transportation and Street Improvement Fee

Planning Code Section 424.7

This fee addresses the impact on the transportation system created by the increased development permitted under the Transit Center District Plan. It applies in addition to the Transit Impact Development Fee (TIDF) to all projects in the Transit Center Special Use District and is triggered by (1) the addition of a dwelling unit, (2) the addition of 800 square feet of space, or (3) the creation of any new use subject to higher fees than the use it replaces. Fees vary depending on use, with an increase for square footage beyond a Floor Area Ratio (FAR) of 9:1 and a further increase for square footage beyond a Floor Area Ratio (FAR) of 18:1. There are additional options for compliance with this fee, including in-kind provision of infrastructure.

### UMU District Affordable Housing Fee

Planning Code Section 419

This fee addresses the impact created by new market-rate housing in formerly industrial areas to the stock of affordable housing. It applies in the UMU Zoning District instead of the Affordable Housing Fee that applies elsewhere in the City (discussed above), and is triggered by the addition of ten or more dwelling units. Generally between 23% and 27% of the number of new units, depending on the applicable Fee Tier, at a unit-size mix reflective of the overall project, are used as the basis for the fee. There are additional options for compliance with this fee, including providing on-site units, providing middle-income affordable units, and dedicated land for the future development of affordable housing.

### Van Ness & Market Affordable Housing and Infrastructure Fee

Planning Code Section 424

This fee addresses the impact created by new development to the stock of, and need for, affordable housing and neighborhood infrastructure nearby the intersection of Market Street and Van Ness Avenue. It applies in the Van Ness and Market Downtown Residential Special Use District and is triggered by any addition or new construction in excess of a Floor Area Ratio (FAR) of 6:1. It applies in addition to the city-wide Affordable Housing Fee (discussed above). Fees vary depending on use, and increase for square footage beyond a Floor Area Ratio (FAR) of 9:1. There are additional options for compliance with this fee, including in-kind improvements.

### Visitacion Valley Facilities and Infrastructure Fee

Planning Code Section 420

This fee addresses the impact on infrastructure created by development anticipated in the Visitacion Valley neighborhood. It applies in the Visitacion Valley Fee Area to all projects that contain 20 or more dwellings and is triggered by either (1) the addition of a dwelling or (2) the addition of at least 800 square feet of space to a dwelling. In the case of a change of use, fees are lowered to provide credit for existing uses. There are additional options for compliance with this fee, including in-kind provision of infrastructure.

## ELECTIVE IMPACT FEES

### Bicycle Parking Fee

Planning Code Section 430

This fee addresses impacts to the City's bicycle infrastructure from development projects that seek to not provide otherwise-required Class 2 bicycle parking spaces (e.g. short-term publicly accessible bicycle racks). It is available to any project that either (a) chooses to pay a fee rather than provide the required number of Class 2 spaces, within specific parameters or (b) receives a Variance or exception from providing the required number of Class 2 spaces beyond those parameters.

### Downtown Special Development District Open Space Fee

Planning Code Section 427(b)

This fee addresses the impact on parks and open spaces from development projects that seek to not provide the otherwise-required on-site open space. It applies in the C-3-O(SD) District to all projects that (a) receive a Variance from providing the required amount of residential Usable Open Space or (b) are required to provide Privately Owned Public Open Space (POPOS) but choose to pay a fee for some or all of that space.

### Eastern Neighborhoods

#### Alternate Affordable Housing Fee

Planning Code Section 417

This fee addresses the impact created by new small-scale market-rate housing to the stock of, and need for, affordable housing. It is available to projects within the Eastern Neighborhoods Plan Area that create between 10 and 20 dwelling units, or no more than 25,000 square feet of residential space. Eligible projects can opt-out of the Affordable Housing Fee (discussed above) and instead choose to pay a rate based on the project's total residential square footage.

### Eastern Neighborhoods

#### Non-Residential Open Space Fee

Planning Code Section 426

This fee addresses the impact on parks and open spaces from development projects that do not provide the otherwise-required on-site open space. It is available only in Eastern Neighborhoods Mixed Use Districts to non-residential projects that choose not to provide the required amount of Usable Open Space.

### Eastern Neighborhoods

#### Residential Open Space Fee

Planning Code Section 427(a)

This fee addresses the impact on parks and open spaces from development projects that seek to not provide the otherwise-required on-site open space. It is available only in Eastern Neighborhoods Mixed Use Districts to residential projects that receive a Variance or exception from providing the required amount of Usable Open Space.

### Public Artwork Fee

Planning Code Section 429

This fee addresses impacts on arts and cultural resources from development projects that seek to not provide otherwise-required on-site public artwork. It is available to a subset of those projects which are required to install public art. Rather than providing on-site public art of a value equivalent to one percent of a project's construction cost, projects may choose to pay a portion of that amount into the City's Public Artwork Trust Fund.

### South of Market

#### Non-Residential Open Space Fee

Planning Code Section 425

This fee addresses the impact on parks and open spaces from development projects that seek to not provide the otherwise-required on-site open space. It is available only in South of Market Mixed Use Districts to projects that choose not to provide the required amount of Usable Open Space.



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Call or visit the San Francisco Planning Department

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*Planning staff are available by phone and at the PIC counter.  
No appointment is necessary.*