

## New Public Works Permit Fees

The public works bureaus for the City of Portland (PBOT, BES, and PWB) will be making some changes to the fee structure for public works permits for the coming fiscal year. As you may recall, underneath the public works permitting reforms started in January of 2010, the bureaus developed the not-to-exceed fee as a way to structure fees on a project-by-project basis, giving more certainty than we had in the past with our open-ended cost-recovery formula. The intent moving forward was to move towards more of a "set-fee" structure (similar to BDS) to give even more certainty during project development (and tools for the development community to estimate their own fees before coming in to start a project). We have gone back to Council annually to keep this structure in place, with minor modifications along the way (for example, creation of the Residential Infill Permit last year).

For the past few months, the bureaus have taken the data they've gathered over the 3+ years of the program and used it to move to the next step: set permit fees for smaller projects and structured permit fees for most normal projects. The benefits of the set structure we are moving to include a reduction in administrative costs to permits (accounting at end of review is no longer needed); the bureaus have also used this as a way to reduce down some of the general costs during review for permits in which they are not needed (for example, removing of scoping where not necessary). This should result in a general cost reduction for most permits. Only the projects the bureaus deem to be complex will remain as cost-recovery (there have been a handful or two of those since January 2010).

The bureaus have passed this information through Council as an updated Ordinance on May 29th (to be Ordinance No. 186057; final copy not yet posted on the Auditor's website). I've attached the basic permit type and fee structuring information (Exhibit A and Appendices A-C) that was created for restructuring the fees using this methodology, as well as the ordinance language that was provided. I am also attaching the BES and PBOT fees as approved through Council for the upcoming fiscal year 2013-2014 for your use with the methodology to determine project fees.

**These changes will be effective July 1, 2013 for all public works permitting projects with an initial submittal on or after that date.** We are currently in the process of updating our website to provide this information. Additionally, all submittal forms will potentially be changing; please check our website to download the latest forms before submitting. We will also be setting up a brown-bag session as a forum to answer your questions about these changes, likely for the last week of June (details to follow).

