

June 2, 2009

The Honorable Lois Wolk
State Capitol, Room 4032
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Senate Bill 676 (Wolk); Related to Local Fees
California Association of Clerks and Election Officials
AMEND

Dear Senator Wolk:

The California Association of Clerks and Election Officials respectfully request that you amend your Senate Bill 676, which will allow counties to adjust fees for specified services to meet the actual cost of the service. Current law places caps on the amount that counties may charge for a variety of services which may no longer fully reimburse departments for the price of performing the service.

Specifically, the County Clerk Legislative Committee would like to delete the provision of your bill which lifts the cap on the documentary handling fee that the clerk may charge for specified filings under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The current amount contained in the Fish and Game Code for this service is \$50. Under the new language in SB 676, the \$50 fee is removed and replaced with a provision allowing the county clerk to charge a documentary handling fee to reimburse the county for this service.

On page 6, line 28, of the current bill, the subsection (e) reads: *The county clerk may charge a documentary handling fee per filing to reimburse the county for the actual costs of services rendered, in addition to the filing fee specified in subdivision (d).* CACEO would request that this language be deleted. A statewide fee study would create inconsistencies from county to county for those who file in multiple jurisdictions. Additionally, counties already possess the option to conduct a study and adjust the fee through the ordinance process to reflect actual cost for the service.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and for your efforts on this measure.

Sincerely,

Matt Siverling
Legislative Advocate
CACEO