Date: December 1, 2017
To: All Recording Customers
From: Chuck Storey
County Clerk/Recorder
Re: Government Code section 27388.1 – Affordable Housing & Job Act Fee (SB-2)
Signed by the Governor and filed with the Secretary of State September 29, 2017,
Effective January 1, 2018

Effective January 1, 2018, the Imperial County Recorder’s Office will charge an additional seventy-five dollars ($75) fee for documents accepted for recording in order to fund the State’s Affordable Housing & Job Act (SB-2), Government Code section 27388.1. The code reads as follows:

“...a fee of seventy-five dollars ($75) shall be paid at the time of recording of every real estate instrument, paper, or notice required or permitted by law to be recorded, except those expressly exempted from payment of recording fees, per each single transaction per parcel of real property. The fee imposed by this section shall not exceed two hundred twenty-five dollars ($225)...”

Only an expressly limited number of statutory exemptions exist regarding the collection of this fee. When an exemption is applicable, a valid declaration of exemption must be placed on the face of each document prior to depositing with the Recorder, otherwise the fee will be assessed and collected. The following are samples of applicable statutory exemptions to be used on the first page of each document:

1. A Documentary Transfer Tax (DTT) Declaration stating that the transfer is subject to payment of the DTT including the amount of DTT due and to be paid at the time of recording; and/or
2. Exempt from fee per GC sec 27388.1(a)(2); recorded concurrently “in connection with” a transfer subject to the imposition of DTT; or
3. Exempt from fee per GC sec 27388.1(a)(2); recorded concurrently “in connection with” a transfer of real property that is a residential dwelling to an owner-occupier; or
4. Exempt from fee per GC sec 27388.1(a)(1); fee cap of $225 reached; or
5. Exempt from fee per GC sec 27388.1(a)(1); not related to real property.

Failure to include a specified statutory exemption reason will result in the imposition of the $75 Building Homes and Job Act fee. Fees are collected on behalf of the State and are deposited with the State for funding of the State program. The County Recorder only collects the fee on behalf of the State.