

- Q. Does the City of Calabasas have “hidden taxes” such as the cost of permits, usage fees etc. that I would have to pay for?
- A. No, both the City and the County have the same 5% utility tax on gas, electric, and telephone utilities. The tax is not applicable to cable, satellite, trash collection or water usage. As a result, the City’s utility tax will have no impact to the usage fees you are currently paying.

As for the cost of permits, the City has not updated its fee schedule since 1991, whereas the County has revised its fee schedule as recent as 2008. Consequently, the City’s cost for permits is typically lower than the County’s. In addition to lower permit costs, the City is conveniently located adjacent to the Commons of Calabasas and all City departments are open from 7:30 am to 5:30 pm Monday through Thursday and 7:30 am to 2:00 pm on Friday. In comparison, LA County Building and Safety Department is open from 7:00 am to 5:30 pm Monday through Thursday and closed on Friday, while the Planning Department is open from 7:00 am to 11:00 am Monday through Thursday and closed on Friday. Below is a comparison of the cost difference for typical permits issued by Planning and Building and Safety.

Common Building and Safety Permits:

Scenario	Permit Type	City of Calabasas Fee	LA County Fee
Replace water heater	Plumbing Permit	\$19.20	\$41.30
Repair damaged water line to sewer	Sewer Repair	\$36.00	\$54.60
Replace a/c compressor and furnace	Electrical Permit	\$62.00	\$103.20
Bathroom or kitchen remodel	Plumbing Permit	\$19.50 per fixture	\$41.30 per fixture
	Electrical Permit	\$2.25 per light fixture, switch or outlet.	\$28.10 per light fixture, switch or outlet.
	Mechanical Permit	\$18.75 per vent	\$41
500 square-foot addition	Plan Check and Building Permit	\$2,000 to \$3,000 no extra fee for soils and geology review	\$2,500 to 3,500 plus \$1,000 for soils and geology review

Common Planning Permits:

Scenario	Permit Type	City of Calabasas Fee	LA County Fee
500 square-foot addition	Site Plan Review (Calabasas) Revised Exhibit “A” (LA County)	\$406.25	\$1,162.00
New Pool	Zoning Clearance (Calabasas) Revised Exhibit “A” (LA County)	\$150.00	\$1,162.00