



Long Beach City Auditor's Office
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PRESS RELEASE

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Contact: Meghan King, Communications Director, 562.570.6726,

Meghan.King@longbeach.gov

For Immediate Release

Long Beach City Audit Earns National Distinguished Knighton Award for Identifying at Least \$22 Million Loss from Unadjusted Development Impact Fees



Above: Performance Auditor Karen Reyes Perez, City Auditor Laura Doud, Deputy City Auditor Tiffany Lam, and Performance Auditor Alondra Olmos receive the Distinguished Knighton Award for the Development Impact Fees Performance Audit.

Long Beach, CA – The Long Beach City Auditor's Office (Office) was awarded the prestigious 2025 Distinguished Knighton Award for their Development Impact Fees Performance Audit from the Association of Local Government Auditors (ALGA).

The City of Long Beach (City) collects impact fees from developers when new commercial and residential buildings are built to help fund the added demand placed on public infrastructure and services due to the new development. The audit found four of the City's seven impact fee rates - Fire, Police, Transportation, and Parks - have not been adjusted for inflation or kept pace with rising costs, since adoption up to 35 years ago. This has resulted in a loss of at least \$22 million for public infrastructure and services.

"This audit emphasizes the importance of regularly evaluating impact fees, complying with state law by publicly presenting nexus studies to City Council to promote transparency, and adjusting impact fees to ensure they remain aligned with the demands placed on infrastructure and services by new development," said City Auditor Laura Doud. "When this revenue does not keep up with rising costs, the General Fund is responsible to make up the difference."

The City has an extensive [list of projects that are eligible for the use of impact fee revenue](#). These projects include a paramedic ambulance and safety equipment, Police Academy building expansion,

the Belmont Beach and Aquatics Center, Studebaker Road, Artesia Great Boulevard and street corridor improvements, Orange Avenue Backbone Bikeway, and the Shoreline Drive Realignment.

City Management agreed with all of the audit recommendations and reported that they have started to implement them including improvements made in interdepartmental collaboration. Since the release of the audit in 2025, the City has yet to present its nexus studies to City Council or adjust impact fees. Community Development Department Management recently presented impact fee information to the Budget Oversight Committee, highlighting the upcoming nexus studies and fee adjustments including the plan for automatic annual indexing by early fall 2026.

Judges determined the Office's report was among the best of 2025, noting that the audit "demonstrates that the City of Long Beach needs to revamp its administration of Development Impact Fees" and "recommendations addressed the issues succinctly."

This is the tenth ALGA Knighton Award City Auditor Laura Doud has received, which is a highly regarded honor as it recognizes the best performance audit reports among its over 300 local government audit organization members.

Detailed judges' comments can be viewed [here](#) and the Development Impact Fees Performance Audit can be viewed [here](#).

About the Long Beach City Auditor's Office

The Long Beach City Auditor's Office's mission is to make Long Beach better through independent audits and fraud investigations. The Office works to provide assurance City funds are spent as intended, promote transparency and accountability of City operations, and prevent fraud, waste and abuse of City resources. For more information visit CityAuditorLauraDoud.com and connect with the Office @LBCityAuditor on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [X](#). Sign up to receive email [updates](#) and download the MyAuditor App at the [App Store](#) or [Google Play](#).

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