
EL DORADO COUNTY FILM PERMIT FEES

OCTOBER 21, 2025





PRIOR BOARD ACTION

- Approved the new Film Ordinance 5236 on August 19, 2025.
- Approved the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the County and the El Dorado Chamber of Commerce on behalf of El Dorado Tahoe Film + Media (Film Office) on August 19, 2025.
- Directed staff to prepare a fee schedule for Film Permit activities.

COUNTY FILM ORDINANCE & MOU



Current state code requires a designated person for commercial film activities



Permits required for any motion picture, television, digital media or commercial still photography on public or private property, facility or residence.



Exclusions: News Media, personal/family video, studio filming in a certified studio, or portrait photography not requiring road/facility closure reimbursement or use of drones.



MOU: El Dorado Chamber/El Dorado Tahoe Film + Media (Film Office), clarifies obligations of parties, establishes County film permit fees, and assists in collection of more robust data and reporting.



COUNTY FILM PERMIT FEES

- Use of County roads, facilities or properties
 - Shooting days
 - Prep/Strike days
- Application fee (primary basis for data collection)
- Date Change fee (not weather related)
- Sliding scale based on size/type of production
- Collected by County to offset annual Film Office costs (\$150,750) and County staff time



FILM FEE HOURLY RATE

- Billing Rate Development
 - County labor rate established by each Department Resolution or Ordinance
 - Film Office labor rate* calculated with labor costs (direct) and non-labor costs (overhead) across all functions

Cost Element	Cost Allocation to Each Function / Activity	
	Direct Services	Total
Labor	88,942.50	88,942.50
Recurring Non-Labor	27,135.00	27,135.00
Overhead	12,060.00	12,060.00
Chamber Admin	22,612.50	22,612.50
Division Total	\$ 150,750.00	\$ 150,750.00
Cost Recovery Targeted from Fees	100%	100%
Amount Targeted for Consideration in Billings/Fees	150,750.00	150,750.00
Amount Requiring another Funding Source	-	-
FULLY BURDENED HOURLY RATE		\$ 85.00

* Fully burdened rate is based on 1,770 working hours per year.

FILM PERMIT APPLICATION FEE

Application Fee - The purpose of this fee is to recover administrative costs of reviewing applications, coordinating with departments and agencies, and issuing the permit. It reflects staff time across Planning, Building, Parks, Sheriff, Transportation, and Film Office.

	Film Office	Planning	Building	Parks	Sheriff	Transportation	Total
Application Fee hours	1	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.25	3.25

Director, or designee, at their discretion, may waive or reduce permit fees for student projects or for County promotional films.

Other County departments may have a small review of the Film Permit Application and will only be charged upon request (Cemetery, Airports, etc.).





DAILY FILM / COMMERCIAL STILL FEE

The Daily Film Fee is structured to account for the varying levels of the Film Office's resources required based on the size and scale of a production crew.

By linking fee levels to production size, the County ensures that fees remain proportionate to actual service demands and that film productions, rather than taxpayers, cover the costs of County staff time and resources. The fees are based on the Film Office hourly rate and time required for each level of permit.

Film Permit	# of People on Set	Fee
Daily Film Permit Rate Low	01-20 people	\$255.00
Daily Film Permit Rate Medium	21-50 people	\$510.00
Daily Film Permit Rate High	51-100 people	\$1,615.00

Commercial Still Photography	# of People on Set	Fee
Daily Photography Permit Rate Low	01-10 people	\$168.30
Daily Photography Permit Rate Medium	11-20 people	\$336.60
Daily Photography Permit Rate High	21-50 people	\$1,065.90



PREP / STRIKE FEE

The fee is set to recover costs associated with each day of preparation or site strike-down (removal of sets, equipment, or other temporary uses) associated with filming on County-Owned property. This fee ensures that time spent by production crews outside of actual filming is also accounted for, as such activity can limit access, create traffic or safety concerns, and place burdens on County staff and community resources.

Film Permit	# of People on Set	Fee
Prep/Strike Rate Low	01-20 people	\$127.50
Prep/Strike Rate Medium	21-50 people	\$255.00
Prep/Strike Rate High	51-100 people	\$807.50

Commercial Still Photography	# of People on Set	Fee
Prep/Strike Rate Low	01-10 people	\$84.15
Prep/Strike Rate Medium	11-20 people	\$168.30
Prep/Strike Rate High	21-50 people	\$532.95

FILM FEE COMPARISON

Film Fee Comparison			
Jurisdiction	Application	Daily Fee	Prep/Strike Fee
El Dorado County	\$421	\$168 - \$1,615/day	\$84 - \$808/day
City of South Lake Tahoe	\$197	\$676/day	N/A
EID	N/A	\$300 - \$2,000/day	\$150 - \$1,000/day
City of Placerville	N/A	\$0 - \$1,000/day	N/A

