

2024 STAFFING & COMPENSATION COMPARISON

This is a comparison of employer-reported **wages plus retirement and health contributions** published by the California State Controller. It is not a full operating-budget comparison, and the department boundaries are not identical.

23.9×	1.9×	\$175K / \$173K
San Francisco's population relative to West Hollywood	West Hollywood's combined per-resident compensation relative to SF DBI	Approximate average reported compensation per listed employee: WeHo combined / SF DBI

JURISDICTION / REPORTED UNIT	POPULATION	EMPLOYEES	WAGES	RETIREMENT + HEALTH	TOTAL	PER RESIDENT
West Hollywood Building and Safety	35,284	10	\$1,574,335	\$418,209	\$1,992,544	\$56.47
West Hollywood Neighborhood and Business Safety	35,284	15	\$1,854,674	\$533,898	\$2,388,572	\$67.70
West Hollywood combined Two units implicated by the case	35,284	25	\$3,429,009	\$952,107	\$4,381,116	\$124.17
San Francisco Department of Building Inspection	842,027	317	\$43,090,110	\$11,786,290	\$54,876,400	\$65.17

THE PAY ISN'T THE SCANDAL. THE MISSING WORK PRODUCT IS.

What the numbers show: San Francisco had about 23.9 times West Hollywood's population. West Hollywood's two reported units together carried about 1.9 times the per-resident employee-compensation cost of San Francisco's Department of Building Inspection. Average reported compensation per listed employee was nearly the same: about \$175,245 in the West Hollywood combined units and \$173,112 in SF DBI.

What the numbers do not show: They do not prove waste, misconduct, or identical workloads. They do show that “small city” and “limited staff” are not self-proving explanations for an absent or inadequate public work product.

Methodological limits: The State Controller posts data as submitted by each employer. Department scopes differ. Employee counts can include part-year and part-time workers as full employee counts in averages. San Francisco reports that its contribution figure includes payments toward unfunded retirement liability; West Hollywood reports that its figure does not. Treat this as a scale-and-resourcing comparison, not a productivity ranking.

CALCULATIONS

West Hollywood combined total = $(\$1,574,335 + \$418,209) + (\$1,854,674 + \$533,898) = \$4,381,116$. Per resident: $\$4,381,116 \div 35,284 = \124.17 .

San Francisco DBI total = $\$43,090,110 + \$11,786,290 = \$54,876,400$. Per resident: $\$54,876,400 \div 842,027 = \65.17 .

Per-resident ratio = $\$124.17 \div \$65.17 = 1.905$. Population ratio = $842,027 \div 35,284 = 23.864$.

CONTROLLING GOVERNMENT SOURCES

California State Controller - West Hollywood departments, 2024: <https://gcc.sco.ca.gov/Reports/Cities/City.aspx?entityid=244&rpt=4&year=2024>

California State Controller - San Francisco departments, 2024: <https://gcc.sco.ca.gov/Reports/Cities/City.aspx?entityid=410&rpt=4&year=2024>

Accessed August 11, 2026. The State Controller page states that the information is posted as submitted by each reporting public employer.