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Cape mayor drops idea for non-utility fee

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Cape Coral Mayor Eric Feichthaler wishes more people would build in areas served by utilities, but he says there's an incentive to choose areas where wells and septic tanks are used.

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Feichthaler has dropped an idea to charge a water-depletion and septic tank fee to discourage growth in outlying areas and encourage people to build where services are available.

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He also wanted the fee to provide some impact fee relief for people who live in areas that are next in line to receive utilities services.

Growth in outlying areas puts pressure on the aquifer that supplies water for household wells and increases the threat of septic tank pollution, according to Feichthaler.

The aquifer reached new lows this dry season, posing the risk of dry wells for many residents.

"There is an incentive to move where there isn't water and sewer service," Feichthaler said. Residents avoid a \$6,750 utilities impact fee .

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