



Fees to fund OV water development

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New building construction costs in Oro Valley are likely to spike dramatically in the near future. Increases stem from proposals to retool impact fees that town officials hope will cover costs for building new water infrastructure. Money generated by the fees will be crucial for the building of infrastructure as the town grows, said Phillip Saletta, Oro Valley Water Utility Director. "People should look at the economic value and benefit of water," Saletta said. "We need to build more (water) systems for growth." Fees are set according to water meter sizes. For example, new residential construction, up to 87 percent of which uses five-eighths inch meters, will jump \$5,475. By far the largest increases will be assigned to commercial construction, where costs could soar as high as \$397,000 for larger commercial projects, an increase of 26,600 percent. The increases are two-fold, a Potable Water System Development Impact Fee and an Alternative Water Resources Development Impact Fee. Funds generated by potable water fees will go toward building new wells, transmission mains and other infrastructure. Money raised from alternative water fees will go to construction of a new canal and treatment facility for CAP water. In March the town council agreed in principle to the proposed fee increases but a final vote on the fees is scheduled for June 20. Public hearing on the proposed increases are planned for June 6, if the council votes in favor, fees will go into effect September 19.

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