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Board discusses trash, impact fees

[Bill Gamblin](#)

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Santa Rosa's Board of County Commissioners are doing everything they can to stimulate the local economy when it comes for builders.

To help encourage continued growth, Santa Rosa County Commissioner voted to extend the suspension of transportation impact fees for the third straight year.

Any new construction, residential or commercial, which would normally be assessed a transportation impact fee during the building permit process in 2009, 2010 or 2011 will have impact fees waived.

Commissioners originally came up with the idea to suspend these fees during a workshop in Jan. of 2009 due to the economic downturn and high unemployment, which was very prevalent in the construction industry.

Those builders and property owners who are already paying installments will be required to make payments for 2010 and 2011.

Commissioners will address the suspension again in December 2011 for the following years.

While focusing on trash issues, the commissioners agreed to grant an extension to garbage haulers who are thinking about trying to become the exclusive trash hauler to the southern portion of Santa Rosa County.

When the plan is awarded in 2011, residents south of the Eglin Reservation will have two options – utilize the bid winner or to dispose of the trash themselves.

Some trash haulers wanted it to be mandatory to utilize their services, but commissioners did not go that far at Thursday's meeting.

Commissioner also decided to remove the clause for the winning bidder to service all of the county's recycling receptacles on the south end of the county.

"We're already proposing a significant change in the way these services are performed," said Santa Rosa Commission Chairman Layne Lynchard.

Some seem concerned about what could happen on the south end without a local place to dispose of the trash.

"If you're going to stay with the voluntary versus mandatory, please get us a transfer station down there," said Navarre resident Etta Lawlor, who is in favor of mandatory service. "There will be people who won't sign up for service."

Lawlor's concern focused on the fact that residents who opt out of the service available would have to haul their trash to Milton in order to properly dispose of it.

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