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## Riverside Co. reviews new development fee

A proposal to significantly increase Riverside County's Transportation Uniform Mitigation Fees program, which charges fees for new developments, will go before the Executive Committee of the Western Riverside Council of Governments for a vote today.

Riverside County, the second-fastest growing county in the nation, originally planned to raise \$3 billion over 20 years for street and interchange improvements and other transportation projects.

Now the proposed plan seeks \$5 billion over 25 years about \$250 million annually.

San Bernardino County, which has yet to solidify its plan, intends to rake in about \$1.5 billion over 24 years, said Cheryl Donahue, spokeswoman for San Bernardino Associated Governments, which coordinates the program. The association is requiring cities to have a structure for charging development fees in place by November.

Cindy Roth, Greater Riverside Chambers of Commerce president and chief executive officer, said she is concerned the proposed increase will drive developers to San Bernardino County, where the fees are substantially lower.

Under the plan, fees for a single-family home in Riverside County would increase from \$7,247 to \$9,693. A multi-family home would increase from \$5,021 to \$6,806.

The soaring fees would not be so daunting if San Bernardino County had a similar program, which was guaranteed when the TUMF program was approved two years ago, Roth said.

Even with the fee programs in place, neither county will come close to reaching its goal. San Bernardino County will be short about \$5 billion and Riverside County will need just under \$1 billion. If the proposed fee is not approved, Riverside County will be lacking about \$2.5 billion.

- Stacia Glenn, (909) 335-9520

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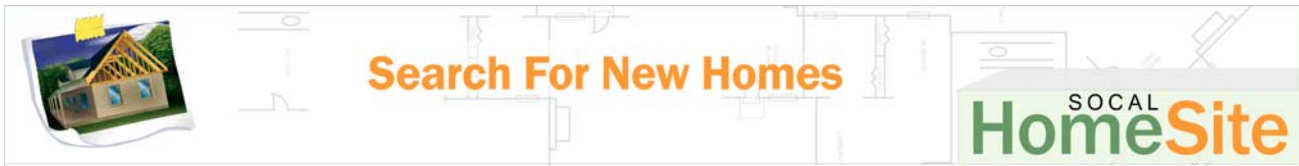
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