

Plymouth OKs new developer fees for roads

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By Jim Reece (jreece@ledger-dispatch.com)

The Plymouth City Council on Thursday voted to join Jackson, Ione, Sutter Creek and Amador County in a traffic mitigation program that will charge regional fees on new development inside Plymouth City limits.

Charles Field, executive director of the Amador County Transportation Commission, recommended passing traffic mitigation fees during a public hearing.

"We've been running this program for two years," Field said. He said the program included a list of highway projects, the first 19 of which the county pays for with development fees collected in unincorporated areas of the county. Plymouth has the second and third projects on the prioritized list, after county projects.

The council voted unanimously to approve a resolution and ordinance setting a fee schedule based on the ACTC nexus determination of \$2,832 per single-family dwelling unit for new development. The fees would become effective 60 days from last night's approval date.

Field said instituting the plan in Plymouth would help the city get funds for projects already slated to occur in the city, such as improvement of Highway 49 at Empire Street and the addition of a turn lane and improvement of the Main Street and Highway 44 juncture. A Latrobe Road and Highway 16 repair project is also on the highway wish list.

A traffic signal due to be placed at the corner of highways 49 and 16 was scheduled to be built this summer, Field said, to be installed by Caltrans at its own expense. The project has not yet been started and he did not know why.

He said the long-range plan to expand the highway 49 and 16 intersection will eventually affect Highway 104 which will have a regional impact.

"We will need a full interchange there which no one can afford," Field said.

The next step in ACTC's preference is the forming of a regional traffic mitigation fee plan committee as a joint powers authority, Field said. Each member entity would have a vote and the majority would determine project priority. Now, the ACTC tends to go with the most urgently needed projects, ones that are environmentally exempt and that are popularly supported.

The council voted 5-0 to pass a resolution and an ordinance to start the traffic fee plan. The vote also directed the city clerk to file a notice of exemption for the project under the California Environmental Quality Act.

Counsel Shasta Green with the city attorney's law firm, said the ordinance sets the fee structure while the resolution sets the fees.

The council also voted to join a Mosquito Control District that is forming under the Amador County Agriculture Department after a presentation by Mike Boitano, the agency director, who urged them to join during the planning stage of the district's formation.

The council also unanimously approved:

- A study for a development impact fee for community facilities.
- A five year capital improvement plan.

- A revenue plan for a wastewater treatment program.
- A request for \$20,000 in Proposition 40 per capita funding to modify restrooms at Begovich Park.

The council, on advice from Green, decided to forgo a discussion of Measure I on the upcoming countywide ballot that will determine whether or not citizens support the creation of additional casinos in the county.

The measure reads: "Do you approve of the establishment of any more casinos in Amador County?"

The options are to vote yes or no on the advisory measure.

Green also said the county is going to have to schedule a couple of closed sessions based on a couple of claims.

A Sept. 16 filing in Amador Superior Court by 21st Century Insurance Company seeks \$4,057.93 in damages to a vehicle owned by Trisha Fine after a burst water line in Plymouth erupted and sent water, dirt, sand, asphalt, cement and/or rock into the air.

The suit alleged that Plymouth was negligent in the incident, which occurred Oct. 5, 2004 at the parking lot of Pokerville Market.

Sides in the suit will meet for a case management conference 9 a.m. Jan. 19, 2006.

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