

## Red Bluff restores impact fees

By ANDREA WAGNER -DN Staff Writer [redbluffdailynews.com](http://redbluffdailynews.com)

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Construction is well underway at the site of a new Holiday Inn Express just north of The Home Depot on North Main Street in Red Bluff. ( DN-Thompson )Development Impact Fees will be reinstated after a one-year suspension expires March 3 in Red Bluff.

City Council members opted to restart the fees after Planning Director Scot Timboe suggested that not collecting the fees did little to stimulate building in the area. "It's a lot of money not to receive," Timboe said.

He referred to \$815,700 that the city would have collected from building permits since the development impact fee suspension went into effect March 1, 2011.

The fees are collected from those requesting new building permits and fund city facilities and equipment that are needed as a result of development or growth.

The deferment or suspension of the fees was passed as an incentive for developers to start new projects in the city.

However, the city hasn't seen any building permits come through other than the Holiday Inn and a 56-unit apartment complex near Vista Way, that were spurred by the elimination of the fees, Timboe told the council.

Developers of a new CVS Pharmacy that is being proposed near Lariat Bowl on Main Street said that such a fee wouldn't change their minds, Timboe said.

The only repercussion of letting the fee suspension expire would be that individuals who want to build homes won't get to take advantage of the suspended fees, he said.

The council agreed.

"It was something to try," said Mayor Pro Tem Wayne Brown. "It didn't work."

The council took no action, which means the resolution suspending the fees will sunset, or expire, and fees will be applied to any permits filed after March 3.

Fees collected may be used in part toward Parks and Recreation funding.

