

Article Display Date: 3/21/2006 12:00 AM

SB development-fee hike wins OK

Kelly Rayburn, Staff Writer
San Bernardino County Sun

SAN BERNARDINO - Fees on new development will double over the next four years following a 4-3 City Council vote Monday.

The vote came six weeks after the council held off on deciding the matter after they faced claims that the city's proposal was based on a faulty report.

Development-impact fees are charged on the premise that new development causes an added burden to a city's infrastructure and that developers should be expected to cover a fair share of the costs.

Monday's vote to raise the fees from just under \$12,000 per unit to more than \$21,000 this year, and up to nearly \$24,000 in 2009, came after a majority of the council rejected an attempt by 7th Ward Councilwoman Wendy McCammack to put off a vote on the fee hikes once again.

McCammack recommended the council consider a more gradual phasing-in of the fees, a position similar to one held by the Building Industry Association.

Council members Esther Estrada, Dennis Baxter, Gordon McGinnis and Rikke Van Johnson voted against McCammack's amendment. Chas Kelley and Neil Derry supported it.

When it came time to vote on the original proposal, McCammack, Kelley and Derry voted against it.

The fee proposal that was tabled six weeks ago drew the criticism of some developers, as well as Donald Rogers, interim executive director of the Inland Valley Development Agency.

Rogers requested that a traffic-impact portion of the total fee be waived for those redeveloping the former Norton Air Force Base.

He noted that the IVDA had already developed the roads around San Bernardino International Airport and said it had also successfully lobbied local representatives in Congress for federal dollars for roads in the area.

City staff worked out a deal with the IVDA, and in a separate action Monday, the council capitulated to Rogers' request.

Rogers commended the city last week for the deal.

Kelley and McCammack voted against the IVDA amendment.