



Editor [John Stephens](#): Heard some news you want us to check out? Let me know: John.Stephens@patch.com

Like 301

[Get the Patch Newsletter](#)

[Home](#)

[News](#)

[Events](#)

[Places](#)

[Marketplace](#)

[Q&A](#)

[Government](#)

No Change Made to Development Fees

Despite some debate and disagreement, the vote was unanimous.

By [Kevin McGuire](#) | [Email the author](#) | 5:00am

[Print](#)

[0 Comments](#)

0

[Email](#)

[Tweet](#)

[Recommend](#) [Send](#)

[View full size](#)



Tell Your Neighbors About Patch

The City Council chose not to make any adjustment to current Public Facilities Fees, which have not changed during Tuesday's meeting.

The Public Facilities Fees, also known as the Development Impact Fees, are a bundle of charges collected for services such as water, sewer, parks, police and library services. The fees are collected from residential, commercial and industrial properties.

Council Member Joe Mosca suggested that the fees be brought back to 2006 levels, noting that when the city achieved 100 percent cost recovery, based on the fee study at that time.

“The fee is very high, and it’s still going to remain high and the reason is, we are a small community,” Mosca said.

The current fees total \$41,000 for a single family unit. Mosca felt that rolling back to the rate set to 2006 would address those who voiced their opposition to the high rates.

Council Member MaryAnn MacGillivray disagreed with Mosca’s sentiments in what became a slightly heated exchange.

“At a time when budgets are so tight, to not recoup 100 percent of the cost, based on 2009, puts a challenge on us,” MacGillivray said.

She went on to call the fee study a "good study" and therefore the fee should remain the same.

Mosca continued to make his case stating “[the fees] are too high compared to every surrounding community. The cost of development from happening in the city [larger units].”

MacGillivray disagrees

“The large developments are going to have a big impact and are the one’s that ought to pay these fees,” MacGillivray said.

After Mayor John Buchanan jumped in to attempt to stop the two Council Members from talking over each other, a resolution that the fee at the 2009 level was not a “deal breaker” for him.

But the discussion and at times testy exchange, did not end there.

Instead, it just shifted gears as Mayor Pro Tem Josh Moran weighed in and agreed with Mosca, giving his support for the fee study.

“In 2006 and 2007, the cost for construction was a hell of a lot higher than it is right now,” Moran stated. “We’ve had a lot of material in every project we’ve done this year. The cost of concrete and steel were very high in 2006 because there was incredible growth in China...everything was through the roof,” said Moran.

The Mayor Pro tem also noted that if you based the impact fee on this latest fee study and factor in the change in material costs, you would see a gain if we use the 2006 numbers.”

MacGillivray attempted to correct Moran by pointing out that “the current fee rates do not reflect maximum market value. Rolling back, “Right now it doesn’t, because we are stuck in 2009.”

Council Member Nancy Walsh sided with MacGillivray, stating that there is not sufficient data to support such a change.

Mayor John Buchanan, while understanding the arguments for rolling the fees back, chose to stay with “a status quo” of cost expected to accompany any new development.

Though Mosca and Moran disagreed on various issues of the policy and adjourning fees, the resolution was passed. Though Mosca hoped there would be further discussion regarding possibly a new fee study and hiring a contractor to study if city incentives are effected by the current policy.

Related Topics: [City Council](#), [Redevelopment](#), and [public facilities fee](#)

Do you think the cost of developing in Sierra Madre should go up, or go down? [Tell us in the comments.](#)

Interested in a follow-up to this article?

 Keep me posted!

[Recommend](#)[Send](#)[Follow this article](#)[Submit a tip](#)[Add photos & video](#)

Leave a comment

[Submit ›](#)

THE SHABBY DOG
GROOMING • DAY CARE • BOUTIQUE
Click Here For Our Special Offers
31 E. Montecito Avenue Sierra Madre, CA 91024
As featured on Rachel Ray, National Enquirer and PEOPLE Pts.

Advertise

Advertise on Patch and reach potential customers in your backyard and beyond. Click here for more information.

[Learn more »](#)

Volunteer

If you want to help local causes, or your cause needs local help, your next click should be right here.

[Learn more »](#)

Patch Info

[About Us](#)[Jobs](#)[Advertise](#)[Terms of Use](#)[Privacy Policy](#)

Get in Touch

[Help](#)[Contact Us](#)[Patch Blog](#)

Patch Initiatives

[PatchU](#)[Patch.org](#)

Goodies

[Newsletters](#)[Widgets](#)

Copyright © 2011 Patch. All Rights Reserved.