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Developers to pay higher development fees to build in Buckeye

by **Eddi Trevizo** - Jun. 14, 2010 09:33 AM
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Developers who build in Buckeye will pay increased development fees that are used to pay for new roads, police and fire stations and other services.

It's the town's first increase in five years for development-impact fees, Buckeye Finance Director Gail Reese said. The town reviews its fee structure every three to five years, she said.

Cities commonly use development fees to offset the costs of growth. Those costs, in turn, are usually passed on to homebuyers or business owners.

The impact fee for a single-family home jumped more than \$1,300, to nearly \$5,000. Fee increases for other types of construction ranged from about \$600 to more than \$1,000. Developers said the increases, which took effect last week, are tough because growth is at a standstill.

"It's very difficult any time costs are increased in this type of a market," said Connie Wilhelm, president of the Home Builders Association of Central Arizona.

"We are really fighting to keep the prices (of building) from going up," she said.

This year Maricopa and Pinal counties have issued 584 single-family dwelling permits, compared to 760 permits the previous year, Wilhelm said.

Buckeye officials said it is difficult to predict how much revenue the new fees will generate because construction has slumped.

Revenues collected in fiscal 2011 will be used to finance projects the next fiscal year, Reese said.

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