

LOCAL NEWS

[Home](#) > [News](#) > [Local](#)

[RSS Feed](#)
[Print Story](#)
[Buzz up!](#)
[MY YAHOO!](#)

Supervisors OK fee change over developer objections

BY JAMES BURGER, Californian staff writer
jburger@bakersfield.com | Tuesday, May 19 2009 06:15 PM

Last Updated Tuesday, May 19 2009 06:15 PM

HOT TOPICS:

[Breaking News: Raw Report: Highway 166 eastbound closed at 101 due to crash](#)

[Breaking News: Victim of multi-car fatal at 4th and King streets identified: Raw Report](#)

[Breaking News: Woman who drowned at Motel 6 identified](#)

A passionate appeal from home builders, workers and industry leaders failed Tuesday in the face of Bakersfield's practical need to build roads and freeways.

Kern County supervisors approved a decrease in the county's transportation impact fee from \$12,958 to \$12,870.

While the fee is going down in the county, the supervisors' decision clears the way for the city of Bakersfield to implement the same fee.

The city's fee is currently less than \$8,000 and most land developers are currently building in the city.

Builders and their workers argued that the city and county's joint fee increase would kill their ability to sell new homes and could put their businesses at risk of collapse.

Bob Decker of the Kern County Home Builders Association said it is unfair to dump Bakersfield's transportation "sins of the past" on current home buyers and builders.

Builder Matt Tavenor said the industry needed the supervisors' protection

[Search Classifieds](#)

[Search](#) [View All](#)

[Place an Ad](#) | [BakoDeals](#) | [Advertise with Us](#)



[Autos](#) [Accountant Immediate opening for Oil & Gas Acc...](#)

[Jobs](#)

[Merchandise](#)

[AIR CONDITIONING / REFRIGERATION TECHNICIANS Air ...](#)

[Pets](#)

[CONSTRUCTION Entry level positions No exp. nec. W](#)

"There isn't much left of the local housing community. What's remaining is a small little mule that was part of the wagon train (of the housing boom)," he said.

But city and county roads officials countered with their own arguments.

City of Bakersfield Public Works Director Raul Rojas argued that developers are responsible for helping build a road system that serves the homes and businesses they build.

"The sins of the past, if not addressed, do have an impact on development," he said. "If you can't drive on Truxtun and you can't drive on Rosedale then the sins of the past do matter because you can't build further out."

County Roads Commissioner Craig Pope said federal and state funding -- most significantly the \$630 million secured for Bakersfield by former Rep. Bill Thomas, R-Bakersfield -- would be at risk.

Supervisor Mike Maggard said the county can't risk losing that money, which will be backed by borrowing the county has done to match the federal dollars.

Supervisor Michael Rubio voted against the fee decision because it increases the impact fee on projects in the central area of Bakersfield, where the full transportation system has been built, from \$4,905 to \$7,747.

Mixed result in Oildale

Also Tuesday, a controversial project near Bakersfield Speedway received a split decision from the board.

The project would include mini-storage and commercial property as a buffer between the nearby Bakersfield Speedway and the residences to the east.

But neighbors didn't want apartments that were part of the project.

Supervisors voted for the mini-storage and a commercial zoning but the apartments were sent back to staff for more work.

Rentals

[Receptionist for Family Practice Physician. Ple...](#)

Schools

[Product Manager, Tornados Responsible for brand de...](#)

[SALES Local security co. seeking motivated sales ...](#)

[Grader Must have exp on Motor Grader and Skip Loa...](#)

[Apartment Manager Seeking on-site Mgr for lg. apt....](#)

[More Top Jobs](#)

Need to sell something? [Place your ad](#)