

## Meeting set on county impact fees

Written by

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The Tulare County Resource Management Agency will put on a public workshop Friday to get input on a pair of studies on the need for the county to charge impact fees for new developments.

While the eight cities in the county already charge impact fees, it would be the first time that they are charged by the county if the Board of Supervisors approves them.

And the fees wouldn't extend just to the construction of new homes, businesses and developments in unincorporated parts of the county. Part of the county's proposal is to also charge the impact fees for new development within the cities.

"It goes back to the recognition that fees are needed to maintain the roads and the public facilities of the county," and the fees are being sought to expand or build new county government buildings — or "facilities" — and roads, as well as to maintain them, said Fred Brusuelas, chief planner for RMA's planning division.

"The county has never had these development impact fees before," he said, adding that county officials pushing for the

fees recognize that "there are going to be population increases in 20 or 30 years, and there will be more demand on public buildings and roads.

"There needs to be a source for revenue to pay for those improvements and the maintenance of them."

In April, RMA held a meeting to discuss the studies with city engineers and other representatives from the cities.

While Friday's meeting is open to the public, it will be geared toward developers, people involved in the construction industry and Chamber of Commerce representatives to get their input on the traffic impact fee and public facilities impact fee studies developed by consultants contracted by the county.

The comments will be presented to the supervisors.

Some in the construction industry have said the fees may further inhibit new

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construction here when the industry already is being hit hard by **California's** real estate and economic downturns.

Brusuelas said the studies are needed to show justification for the fees. He said they include proposed fee rates that the supervisors may consider if they approve charging the fees.

County officials are in discussion with the cities to collect impact fees for the county for new developments in their borders, if the fees are approved.

So far, only Dinuba approved such an agreement, Brusuelas said.

## County impact fee workshop

<sup>a</sup> What: Public meeting to get comments on Tulare County's proposed traffic impact fee and public facilities impact fee.

<sup>a</sup> When: 9 a.m. Friday. The traffic impact fee **study** will be presented and discussed first, followed by a presentation of the public facilities impact fee study at 10:30 a.m.

<sup>a</sup> Where: County Board of Supervisors Chambers, 2800 W. Burrel Ave., Visalia.

View the reports online at [www.VisaliaTimesDelta.com](http://www.VisaliaTimesDelta.com).

### Related Links

[Traffic Impact Fee Study - Omni means.pdf](#)

[Tulare County Public Facilities Fee Report Public Review Draft 4-13-11 v2.pdf](#)

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