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County Supervisors OK park fee hike

By: Cheri March
Wednesday, July 18, 2007

Following six months of bargaining between El Dorado Hills Community Services District and county officials, the Board of Supervisors finally signed off on a park fee increase.

Owners of new single-family homes in EDH, for example, can now expect to pay \$9,807 toward parks, or nearly 39 percent more than the current rate. The development impact fees will cover new parks and enhanced features, but not refurbishment of existing amenities.

The county's Planning Commission shot down the El Dorado Hills Community Services District's initial proposal for a 118 percent increase late last year, amid questions about the effect of rising home prices on affordable housing and concerns from the building industry.

CSD twice lowered the fee schedule by reducing recreational amenities, like the aquatic center, and scaling down plans for a new district headquarters.

"It went through so many changes and gyrations (at the commission level), I didn't see why we wouldn't adopt it," said Supervisor Rusty Dupray, adding that, to his knowledge, the board had yet to turn down a special district's request for higher fees.

Building officials, who initially fought to lower proposed fees, were satisfied with the outcome.

"We want to fully fund parks, but make sure we're within the right cost estimate," said BIA representative John Costa.

CSD and BIA officials will meet quarterly to adjust for future cost changes, he said.

El Dorado Hills resident Paul Raveling was relieved to see the new schedule finally pass.

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