

Impact fees, Measure A extension on Chico school board agenda

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CHICO — A hike in developer fees and a proposal to extend a previously voter-approved bond, will both come before the Chico Unified School District board of trustees on Wednesday.

Developer fees, or so called "impact fees," are funds collected at the time a building is constructed. The fees are meant to mitigate growth has on the schools.

CUSD has not changed its impact fee rates, which are assessed on a per-square-foot basis, since 2008.

The agenda for Wednesday's meeting asks the trustees to raise the fee on residential construction from \$2.97 per square-foot to \$3.20 per square-foot. The fee also covers commercial and if approved would go from 47 cents per square-foot to 51 cents per square-foot.

Money collected in developer fees is restricted to construction and reconstruction of school facilities.

Another item on the agenda, if approved, could result in a vote on extending the existing Measure A bond.

In 1998 voters within the district approved a \$48.73 million bond. Initially the bond was to pay for the construction of a third comprehensive high school. When it became clear the student enrollment was not going to support a new school, the trustees voted to use the funds for classrooms and other facilities that would serve high school students.

Last month Maureen Fitzgerald, assistant superintendent for business, said the original bond money will be exhausted when projects that have already been approved are completed.

Fitzgerald is asking the board to approve a ballot proposal that would extend the term of the current bond, freeze the per-property tax rate at the current level, and refinance the bond.

If the Measure A bond was refinanced to a currently available interest rate, it would result a saving of \$4 million to the taxpayers, according to Fitzgerald.

The agenda item asks the board to either move ahead with the proposal that would have to go before the voters in November, or to just not pursue the proposal.

Chico City Council Chambers,

421 Main St.

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