

HOLLISTER FREE LANCE

Impact fees jump to help fund future park projects

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BY ADAM BREEN

For the first time in 20 years, the City of Hollister has increased the fees it charges builders to help fund parks projects in the city.

The Hollister City Council this week voted to raise the existing park development fee for new developments from \$1,123 per parcel to a two-tiered fee totaling \$4,37 - \$2,133 for park land acquisition and \$2,244 for park construction.

"The idea behind impact fees - whether they are for parks or police or fire services - it to maintain a certain level of service," said William Avera, Hollister's development services director.

The city's General Plan sets a goal of having four acres of parks and recreation facilities per 1,000 residents. Officials say the amount of existing neighborhood and community park land and open space sits at 4.34 acres per 1,000 city residents.

The newly-increased park impact fees are designed to maintain that ratio while setting aside money for more parks.

For the full story, see The Weekend Pinnacle on Friday.

