

This is a printer friendly version of an article from **thecalifornian.com**
To print this article open the file menu and choose Print.

[Back](#)

Article published Mar 27, 2008

Deal reached on fees

By DAWN WITHERS
The Salinas Californian

A program to collect road improvement fees from Monterey County developers is expected to keep more money in Salinas while raising fees in north county, following a compromise reached Wednesday.

The Transportation Agency for Monterey County board voted 15-1, with Marina Mayor Gary Wilmot absent, to implement the Regional Development Impact Fee program - even if a half-cent sales tax going before voters in November fails. The TAMC board vote confirms fee program changes proposed by the Salinas Council on Tuesday.

"I support this compromise. I think it's a move in the right direction," said Seaside Mayor and TAMC board member Ralph Rubio.

Under the changes, the original three development zones - Salinas and north county, south county, and the Monterey Peninsula - will increase to four, with Salinas splitting off from north county and becoming its own development zone.

The program's per-unit development fees in Salinas will now be about \$3,600, or \$200 less than in the three-zone scheme, while fees in north county will jump from \$3,800 per development unit to \$5,400. It also means Salinas will spend a smaller percentage of its developer-fee money paying for projects in other parts of the county.

Monterey County Supervisor Lou Calcagno, a TAMC member, said he is unhappy with the change because north county communities he represents are expected to produce a small share of growth in coming decades and shouldn't have the highest developer fees in the county.

"North county is taking a beating on this," Calcagno said. Voters will be asked in November to approve a half-cent increase to the sales tax in Monterey County, the proceeds of which would be dedicated to transportation funding. The measure requires a two-thirds margin of approval.

King City Councilwoman Susan Kleber voted against the change, saying that failing to tie the fee to the sales tax will hurt voter support.

TAMC staff say both the fee program and sales tax are needed to pay for more than \$1 billion worth of road improvement projects planned for the next 25 years. The fee program would bring in just \$328 million.

The fee program now goes to each city council and the Monterey County Board of Supervisors. If approved, TAMC expects to start collecting fees under the program in July.
