The Signal

Original source: http://www.the-signal.com/?module=displaystory&story_id=51091&format=html

City Asks Builders to Pay Own Way

By Katherine Geyer Signal Staff Writer

With developers bringing sometimes thousands of homes at a time to the Santa Clarita Valley, the City Council agreed Tuesday to establish a fee to get developers to help ease the strain they place on the city's law enforcement facilities.

The so-called law enforcement facilities impact fees, which range from \$35 per 1,000 square feet of industrial building to \$467 per single-family unit, are expected to bring in about \$9.6 million by 2025, which would contribute to the \$19.4 million expansion of the Santa Clarita Valley Sheriff's Station, which officials say has reached capacity.

"This is an opportunity for new development to pay its fair share for a police station," City Manager Ken Pulskamp said. "Anybody who has been to the police (station) knows it is woefully inadequate."

He said the city has been talking to county officials about converting the block bordered by Citrus Street and Magic Mountain Parkway to a larger civic center that would include some private sector facilities that would bring money into the civic center.

"I think when people designed the building, that was essentially built in 1972, I suspect those people had no idea how many people were going to be living in the Santa Clarita Valley," he said.

A consultant's report released in March shows that the station serves about 220,000 residents and workers. By 2025, that number is expected to climb 30 percent. While the sheriff's station currently serves the valley's unincorporated areas, the study excluded those areas since it is expected they will have their own stations in the future.

kgeyer@the-signal.com

Copyright: The Signal