

Legislative Updates - Eastern Riverside County

Updated April 2014

City of Blythe

- Reported only 2 residential permits pulled in 2013. None in first two months of 2014.
- Has an Interim City Manager, Frank Luckino. The Assistant City Manager is also ‘Interim’.

City of Cathedral City

- Reported 10 single family residential permits pulled in 2013.
- The process for the annexation of Thousand Palms continues.
- The first of April finally sees the completion of the Date Palm Interchange at Interstate 10.
- Measure B: The Cathedral City Continuation of Fiscal Stability/Local Control Measure. Maintains a 1% added sales tax; on June Ballot.

City of Coachella

- Reported pulling 108 single family residential permits in 2013. 45 in June appears to be an attempt to beat fee increases.
- Updating Ordinances for Waste Discharge and Sewer Use and Water Service
 - Re-evaluating existing fees for water and waste services
- User/Services Fees have been temporarily reduced until July 1, 2014
- The City closed the public comment period regarding the General Plan Update last August/September
 - DVBA submitted a list of comments and concerns relating to housing costs should the Plan be adopted as is.
 - Staff has advised that they share some of those same concerns and are working on potential changes
 - Formal responses to written comments from the public and DVBA have **not** been provided
 - Considering public comments and the recently approved specific plan for the La Entrada project, the City will Re-Produce the New General Plan.
- The City stands out as the only Coachella Valley city that has not provided an Annual AB1600 Development Impact Fee Report (several years).
 - Per recent discussions with staff, they will start work on this in the near future

City of Desert Hot Springs

- Reported 1 single family residential permit pulled in 2013.
- The City is in the midst of yet another Fiscal Crisis. They have slashed salaries across the board; including Police and Fire personnel.
- Ballot Measure F, an 1151% increase to parcel taxes on vacant land, will be on the June 3rd ballot.

- The current parcel tax, supported by a cost sharing analysis in 2009, of \$29.80 will increase to \$372.68 per acre of vacant land.
- A large majority of these property owners will not be allowed the opportunity to vote on this tax. We believe this to be a violation of Prop. 218.
- This will not spur development as suggested by the Mayor.
- This does not guarantee the collection of taxes in a timely fashion to avoid insolvency
- This does not take into account the number of property owners willing to sell to the Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan which will take taxed land out of the parcel tax program.
- Does not account for those many parcels already behind on tax payments, or the process to place liens on properties, or to legally process and sell such properties to collect back taxes.
- A new city manager is due to take the reins by the end of April.

City of Indian Wells

- Total of 14 residential units permitted in 2013 with a valuation of \$5mil.
- The Tennis Garden expansion was opened on time for the BNP Paribas Tennis Tournament, setting an event record in attendance.

City of Indio

- A total of 348 residential units permitted in 2013 with a valuation of \$59.4 mil.

City of La Quinta

- Reported pulling 117 single family residential permits in 2013.
- Working on a new development/plan processing system with the goal of faster processing

City of Palm Desert

- Reported 138 single family residential building permits pulled in 2013.

City of Palm Springs

- Reported 152 single family residential building permits pulled in 2013.
- Has approved the use of \$4.8 million of Measure J funds for improvements in and around the downtown business district

City of Rancho Mirage

- Reported 49 single family residential building permits pulled in 2013, averaging a \$432,950 valuation.
- Has produced a new Development Impact Fee Study
 - Most fees are decreasing
 - The Parks fee is increasing significantly
 - DVBA submitted a list of questions and comments of concern
 - Adopted November 21, 2013. Implemented 60 days later.

County of Riverside

- Reporting that the unincorporated regions of the County pulled 721 permits for single family residential buildings. We don't have the breakdown for those built in the eastern region of the county including the Coachella Valley and Blythe.
- Back in April (2013) we reviewed the County Development Impact Fee Study
 - All fees in the Coachella Valley were decreasing by approximately 29%
 - Do to internal issues the County has yet to take action
 - The earliest this study and respective fee schedule will be publically discussed is January 2014
- Meanwhile (September 10, 2013), the Board of Supervisors has reduced the existing fee schedule by 50% again(Retro-active back to July1, 2013) , with requirement that the DIF update be brought to the Board of Supervisors "no later" than January 2014
- The new Development Impact Fee has been provided and reviewed.
 - Fees for residential construction have all gone down in Eastern Riverside
 - Commercial fees have increased from previous assessment, however they are reduced significantly from the study produced a year ago
 - **Adoption is expected in late April and will include a recommendation for phasing in new fees as the current rate is 50% of what the previously adopted study stated was a reasonable fee/rate.**
 - **The Board of Supervisors have pulled this item from any upcoming agendas due to the upcoming elections.**

Indio Water Agency

- Adopted and Implemented a \$12,120/acre Supplemental Water Supply Program fee
 - This was required as part of a settlement agreement with CVWD
- Brian Macy has been appointed as the new IWA General Manager

Coachella Valley Water District

- Has had a busy year (2013) with numerous fee updates and regulatory policy reviews
 - Special Charges for Miscellaneous Service
 - Storm Water Policy; Ordinance 1234
 - Water System Backup Facilities Charge
 - Joint Water Policy Advisory Committee
 - Sanitation Capacity Charge
 - Domestic Water Meter and Service Installation Fees
- Most recently completed an update to the Development Design Manual
- Advocating for a more moderate Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for Chromium-6
 - DVBA has written an Op-Ed in support of their position as well submitted a letter to CDPH
 - Form letter was provided to DVBA members

- AB 1896 (V.M. Perez) the District has requested additional language to an existing law requiring HOAs in the CVWD territory to connect to non-potable sources when reasonable for use in common areas.
 - There has been a great deal of discussion regarding what is, who determines what is reasonable.
 - DVBA has submitted a letter of support.

Mission Springs Water District

- Reports that CV Integrated Regional Water Management group has submitted for and awarded a \$5.4 million grant for water quality improvements throughout the valley
- The District has gathered data related to I-10 and Indian Canyon area to determine if the formation of either an assessment or community facility district is warranted to spur growth activity in this corridor and deal with future infrastructure needs.

Desert Water Agency

- The Board of Directors has appointed Richard Oberhaus to the seat recently vacated by retiring director of 28 years, Tom Kieley.

Valley Sanitary District

- *The District will NOT be increasing the Connection Capacity Fee this year*
- *The fee will remain at \$4,265/EDU*

Legislative Updates - Imperial Valley

City of Brawley

- Reported only 9 single family residential building permits issued in 2013.
- The City contends that they only collect \$500 per acre as an Annexation Fee and has established that this fee predates the Mitigation Fee Act. However, the City Fee Schedule displays an Annexation fee as \$500+\$6,630, which increased from \$500 + 4,753 a year earlier.
 - We have requested detailed information into the development of this fee and questioned its legality
 - We have a public records request in with Imperial County LAFCO for additional information
- We have submitted a public records request for their AB1600 Annual and Five Year Reportable Fees Reports.
 - We have received one report that combines the years of 2006 to 2010.
 - They are requesting RFP/FQs for firms to bring the City current

City of Calexico

- Reported 10 single family residential building permits issued in 2013.
- As usual we don't receive any required documents from this city

- We are looking into alternative means of compliance
- We have submitted a public records request for their AB1600 Annual and Five Year Reportable Fees Reports.
 - We have received a phone call from a new staffer that stated they would be working on providing the required annual reports. No time frame has been given.

City of Calipatria

- Reported that zero single family residential building permits were issued in 2013.
- Recently met with city manager – his comment, “...not a whole lot of activity in this city.”

City of El Centro

- Reported only 1 single family residential building permit issued in 2013. However, the city kept busy with commercial construction and tenant improvements. Deferral of fees to the CFO has been extended and additional 2 years and to reviewed on a case by case basis.
- New Businesses: Harbor Freight, Dollar General and Pap John’s
- Dogwood Interchange – work is commencing

City of Holtville

- Reported zero single family residential building permits for 2013.
- The formation of a public/private partnership has broken ground on a new detention center which will provide approximately 200+ new jobs to the region. Detainees are currently housed in Sacramento and must be transported back to the region for court appearances. Completion of this project will provide significant cost savings to state tax payers.
- The City has adopted, with input from DVBA, a reduction of fees in a number of categories in an effort to attract business and interest in residential development. Contact City Manager Alexander Myerhoff for specific information or review fee schedule on city website: <http://www.holtville.ca.gov>
- The City has requested that DVBA start the Directional Sign Program for the new projects in the City. This is the first City to request our involvement in directing new home buyer traffic to a city.
- We have submitted a public records request for their AB1600 Annual and Five Year Reportable Fees Reports.

City of Imperial

- Reported 62 single family residential building permits in 2013.
- City staff has finally returned to city hall after nearly 3 years following the Easter Sunday April 4th, 2010 earthquake center near Mexicali, Baja California.
- We have submitted a public records request for their AB1600 Annual and Five Year Reportable Fees Reports.
 - The last report they provided was for
- DVBA has installed first sign program structures & panels in this community with active builder projects on-site.

County of Imperial

- Reported 4 single family residential building permits issued in 2013.
- We have submitted a public records request for their AB1600 Annual and Five Year Reportable Fees Reports.
 - The last report we received from the City was for fiscal year 2005/2006.
 - The report had several problems with accuracy and proper documentation
 - We never received a corrected version.

City of Westmorland

- Reported zero single family residential building permits issued in 2013.

Other Imperial Valley Agencies

Heber Public Utilities District

Imperial Irrigation District

- SB 1139 (Hueso and Co-authored by V.M. Perez) will added geothermal renewable energy plants to be a required source for energy in meeting state regulations for the Renewables Portfolio Standard.

Seeley County Water District