

# Building fees imposed to pay for North County fire service

CENTRAL COAST BUREAU

New construction in North County will be assessed a fee to help pay for fire protection, the Monterey County Board of Supervisors agreed yesterday.

The board approved a resolution authorizing collection of fees in the area served by the North County Fire Protection District, based on the square footage of construction projects.

New buildings without automatic sprinkler systems will be assessed 45 cents per square foot, while sprinklered buildings will be assessed 15 cents per square foot.

Tom Wiley, secretary of the

board of the fire district, said the fees are "extremely important to us due to the fact of the large amount of growth in our district."

The money will help the fire district buy new equipment, he said, but no estimate of the total amount that will be generated by the fee has been made.

Fees would have to be paid before the county would issue a building permit.

Dale Ellis, county zoning administrator, said fire district fees were authorized by the supervisors on March 17, 1992. Since then three districts have applied for the fees: those in Aromas, Greenfield, and now in North County.