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For Immediate Release

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### **Yucaipa Boulevard Widening Recognized As 2021 Local Roadway Project of the Year**

The City of Yucaipa is pleased to announce that the Yucaipa Boulevard Widening Project – Phase I & II has been recognized by the American Public Works Association – Inland Empire branch (APWA-IE) to receive the 2021 Local Roadway Project of the Year Award.

“I’m extremely proud of our community! City staff, together with the utility companies’ staff, dedicated a significant amount of time and resources in successfully coordinating the planning, design, and construction of the Yucaipa Boulevard Widening Project. It’s great to see their hard work recognized and rewarded” said Mayor Greg Bogh.

Established in 1981, APWA-IE covers the communities in Riverside and San Bernardino Counties. This organization provides a forum in which public works professionals can exchange ideas, improve professional competency, strive to increase the performance of their agencies, and discuss work-related topics with those in the local, state, and federal arenas.

This year, the APWA-IE encouraged cities and counties to submit either large or small projects that included innovative or unique approaches to design, construction and/or provide an exceptional public benefit. The City chose to nominate the Yucaipa Boulevard Widening Project for the 2021 Local Roadway Project of The Year because it was complex project that took collaboration among a number of agencies. With its completion, the project has facilitated economic development in our community and enhanced the quality of life for our residents.

This project widened Yucaipa Boulevard from four lanes (two in each direction) to six lanes (three in each direction) from 15<sup>th</sup> St. to Interstate 10 (I-10). This \$11.2 million investment required the timely coordination between the City, five utility agencies, the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), and our community stakeholders within the project limits. Phases I & II work consisted of upgrading, relocating, and undergrounding of Southern California Edison (SCE), Spectrum and Frontier transmission lines and distribution facilities. Staff also coordinated the installation of a sewer main with Yucaipa Valley Water District (YVWD) as well as the installation of a water main by Wester Heights Water Company (WHWC). “These improvements will support commercial growth in the area and improve water quality by removing old septic systems. This project is a perfect example of the type of positive collaboration that residents should be able to expect from

their local government agencies, as it resulted in less disruptions along the roadway and significant savings of tax dollars” said Chris Mann, President of the Yucaipa Valley Water District. Additionally, the project included the signalization of the intersections at 16<sup>th</sup> St., Chinaberry St. as well as the construction of a raised curb median from Avenue E. to 18<sup>th</sup> St. The work also included the installation of ADA curb ramps, bike lanes and upgrading drainage systems along the roadway. “The City staff has done an excellent job of planning and coordinating the Yucaipa Boulevard Widening Project. This was a difficult project and the benefits to the city are many and deserve recognition.” said Tim Green, President of the Board for Western Heights Water Company,

Since the completion of Phase I and Phase II the quality of life for our residents has significantly benefited. For example, prior to the signalization at 16<sup>th</sup> St. and Chinaberry St., Yucaipa Boulevard only had one signalized intersection from 15<sup>th</sup> St. to I-10. These newly controlled intersections have dramatically increased pedestrian safety as well as helped to reduce the speed of traffic along the corridor. The raised curb median creates a second safety net for our residents as it helps to mitigate and prevent head on collisions along the route. The roadway widening and provision of utilities has helped create and spur-on significant economic investment, most notably, the Yucaipa Pointe Development. This exciting development will be home to several chain restaurants, retailers as well as a 60,000 sq. ft. medical office facility which will bring more accessible healthcare options to Yucaipa residents. The coordination between SCE, YVWD, WHWC, Frontier, Spectrum and the City helped minimize the environmental impact and footprint by combining all these projects (utility relocation, sewer, water main and street widening) into one. The relocating and undergrounding of the utilities have significantly improved the aesthetics along the roadway, giving residents and visitor a greater view of the San Bernardino National Forest. The raised curb median will help with environmental enhancements as California friendly shrubs and trees are established in the median. Finally, the construction of the ADA curb ramps, sidewalks as well as the extension of bike lanes has helped increase sustainability in our community. These elements will help off-set current carbon emissions and increase an individual’s opportunity to utilize different forms of transportation as economic opportunity grows within the city.

The APWA-IE branch will be recognizing the City on Thursday, November 4<sup>th</sup> at a virtual event. A formal presentation will be made at a future Yucaipa City Council meeting.