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For Immediate Release

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Wildwood Canyon Road Interchange Project Update

In 2008, the City of Yucaipa adopted the Freeway Corridor Specific Plan (Plan) which encompasses 1,242 acres located in the southwest portion of the City. This Plan, which is bisected by Interstate 10 (I-10), has carefully studied and reviewed the increase in economic development and population growth occurring within the City, eastern San Bernardino County as well as Riverside County. As a result, the Plan has identified the need for a new interchange between Live Oak Canyon/Oak Glen Road and County Line Road, the Wildwood Canyon Road Interchange. Not only will the proposed interchange mitigate local and regional traffic congestion, but it will also help the City secure long-term economic sustainability while incorporating community amenities such as trails and open spaces in order to create a cohesive area where residents can live, work, shop, and play.

The Yucaipa City Council and City Staff have eagerly worked with transportation leaders to discuss and study the importance of the proposed interchange. In March of 2018, the City Council approved an agreement with San Bernardino County Transportation Authority (SBCTA) to begin the preparation of the Wildwood Canyon Road Interchange Project Study Report (PSR). During the PSR process, representatives from Department of Transportation (Caltrans), SBCTA, City consultants and City Staff are tasked with developing, studying and reviewing dozens of conceptual interchange configurations. The PSR closely examines all safety elements associated with the interchanges, studies traffic impacts to the surrounding intersections, reviews any environmental constraints, provides cost analysis as well as recommends which conceptual interchanges may best suit this area. As a result, this process identified three conceptual interchange configurations that would support the efforts of the Freeway Corridor Specific Plan.

The City is pleased to announce that the final Project Study Report has received approval from Caltrans, allowing the proposed project to move forward in the process. The City, along with our consultants and transportation partners, will begin work on the Project Approval and Environmental Document phase (PA&ED). The purpose of this phase is to further study the three conceptual interchange configurations identified in the PSR. For example, the PA&ED will examine and discuss the planning, design and construction elements associated with these three conceptual interchanges. Additionally, an environmental document will be initiated in order to properly complete the requirements laid out in the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Also, a scoping meeting for the proposed project will

take place in order to provide an opportunity for stakeholders and community members to ask questions, provide input as well as submit comments about the project.

“I’m glad to report that the proposed Wildwood Canyon Road Interchange Project is moving forward. City staff has done an excellent job of engaging our stakeholders and transportation partners to ensure its success. This proposed interchange will be instrumental in balancing our business and housing needs while providing an opportunity for our community to secure long-term economic sustainability,” said Mayor Greg Bogh.

As the City continues to work on the proposed project, it’s anticipating that the PA&ED phase of work will begin in early 2022.