

NEWS RELEASE FOR THE CITY OF YUCAIPA

For Immediate Release

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Despite the efforts of the State and the Supreme Court to abolish Redevelopment Agencies throughout California, the Yucaipa City Council approved completing the Uptown Revitalization Project using General fund moneys Monday night at its regularly scheduled meeting. According to Mayor Riddell, "if our attorney is advising us that we cannot use our Redevelopment money at this time we still must complete the project utilizing General funds in hopes that the future RDA Oversight Committee will concur with the decision to reimburse the City for these costs in the future."

Major milestones are being met on the Uptown Streetscape project. The contractor, Hillcrest Contracting, Inc. is planning to construct the roundabout at 2nd Street on Monday, January 16 and will be closing the eastbound lane to through traffic for this last phase of their work. Yucaipa Blvd. will also be open in both directions from the first driveway east of 2nd St through to Bryant St. starting on January 16. Patrons of the Subs of USA business will be able to park in the parking lot to the east of the restaurant by following the detour.

The businesses between 3rd St and 2nd St are all open and will be accessible to the public during this closure. Traffic that accesses the businesses east of 3rd St will be allowed to make a u-turn at the closure. The Mayor also encouraged residents to continue to patronize the local businesses during this important street improvement project.

According to Public Works Director Bill Hemsley, "The official eastbound Yucaipa Blvd. detour around the 2nd St closure will be north on 3rd St to east of Acacia St and south on 1st St to Yucaipa Blvd."

The Uptown Streetscape Project California Street Art was awarded on Monday night to an upcoming artist, Aaron Eby, of Redding, Ca in the amount of \$142,000. The art will include a sculpture representing an orchard worker taking shelter under a fruit tree from the rain, eating a piece of fruit while sitting on a fruit crate. The 29-foot tall tree will be made of corten steel and will have a water feature representing rain dripping from the outer branches. The proposed schedule is to have the art work installed before the May 5 project opening ceremony.