

## **NEWS RELEASE FOR THE CITY OF YUCAIPA**

For Immediate Release

Contact: Bill Hemsley (909) 797-2489 ext. 253

On December 12, 2011, Yucaipa City Council approved the purchase of accent lights for the Uptown Streetscape Project trees. The 128 “up-lights” will accent each tree along Yucaipa Blvd within the project area. In addition they approved the purchase of 150 speakers and an accompanying sound system to pipe music through the Historic Uptown District. The speakers will be mounted on the decorative street lights adjacent to the hanging planter baskets and below the banners.

In addition, staff presented an updated construction schedule. Redevelopment Agency Chairwoman, Denise Hoyt stated, “Although the award of contracts for landscaping, irrigation and street lighting to be installed in conjunction with the hardscape work has delayed the completion date for the hardscape somewhat, their implementation at this time will avoid having to make cuts in the hardscape after it is completed. It will ensure that the entire project is completed in April as originally anticipated.” According to Bill Hemsley, Public Works Director, “Weather permitting, in two weeks the segment of Yucaipa Blvd. between California Street and Bryant Street will be opened to two-way traffic and the street light poles are scheduled to arrive in the next two weeks.”

“The street lights will make a dramatic milestone in the streetscape project, giving people a good idea of what the final project will look like,” according to Ray Casey, the City Manager. Landscaping will begin to be placed starting next week which will also dramatically improve the look of the Uptown project.

According to the schedule, the Uptown roadwork should be completed in January, the landscaping, lighting and electrical work should be completed the following month. The artwork, including the archway monuments to be installed at both ends of the project (Bryant St. and 2<sup>nd</sup> St.) and the monuments to be installed in the roundabouts should be completed by April.

The Council was also very pleased with the progress of the Uptown project and complimented the Lions Club and staff on a job well done on the 2011 Christmas Parade. Councilmember Tom Masner actively participated by handing (tossing) out 96 pounds of candy from the old fire truck that the council members rode in. According to Mayor Riddell, “We are excited to have this project come together so well!”

