



Perris Press Release

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Enchanted Heights Sewer Project Outreach in Full Swing

The City of Perris, driven by its commitment to improve the quality of life for the residents of Enchanted Heights, has begun the effort to replace the community's existing and inadequate septic tanks with a modern sewer system.

City administrators and representatives have begun an outreach campaign with Enchanted Heights homeowners and residents, laying out specifics and answering questions about the new sewer project that will replace the aging septic tanks.

Maria Elena Kennedy, the City's outreach coordinator on the Enchanted Heights project, has already conducted two meetings with residents in the community on Perris' west end. Each was attended by more than 100 homeowners and residents.

In addition, Kennedy and Assistant City Manager Ron Carr conducted a walking tour through Enchanted Heights last week, listening to residents and gaining first-hand insights into the challenges that await the City faces as it begins planning the sewer project.

Carr, along with staff from the Eastern Municipal Water District and the County of Riverside, is working with state agencies on the \$15 million project, which will replace septic tanks in the 446 homes in Enchanted Heights. Half of the residences lie within the City of Perris and the other half are located in an unincorporated area of Riverside County just outside the City's boundary.

Enchanted Heights residents say household septic tanks do not provide adequate sewer service to their homes, many of which were built 50 years ago, and eagerly await the improvements that will come when new sewer lines are installed and functional.

Several dozen Enchanted Heights residents appeared at a City Council meeting this month to show their support for a new sewer system.

"We are grateful, more than grateful, that the City of Perris is addressing this issue," said Enchanted Heights resident Nadir Orozco.

Carr said the City of Perris is working with the Eastern Municipal Water District to begin construction of a sewer system. Details of the project are nearly finalized and digging could begin as early as this summer and be completed within 18 months.

"We are able to tap into State of California funding to make this project happen, which makes this a once in a lifetime opportunity that we can't let get away," Carr said.

Kennedy said Enchanted Heights residents peppered her with questions during the two community meetings. Other residents have formed a phone tree to keep each other informed of the latest developments and future meetings. The next informal community meeting will be held on March 26th and will be attended by City Manager Richard Belmudez and Assistant City Manager Ron Carr.

"The residents are very excited about this sewer project," Kennedy said. "They want to get it going as soon as possible."



Maria Elena Kennedy speaks to Enchanted Heights residents Saturday in an informational meeting to discuss a new sewer system that will replace aging septic tanks. The City of Perris is conducting an outreach campaign to inform Enchanted Heights residents about the new system.



Maria Elena Kennedy, the City's outreach coordinator for the sewer project, and Assistant City Manager Ron Carr listen to Enchanted Heights resident Nadir Orozco talk about the need to upgrade the area's sewage system.