



## Perris Press Release

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### Enchanted Heights Outreach Continues

Perris City officials continue educating Enchanted Heights residents about plans to install a new sewer system to replace aging septic tanks, conducting two public information sessions within the last week and scheduling two more in April.

City Manager Richard Belmudez, Assistant City Manager Ron Carr, Redevelopment Project Coordinator Veronica Arana and Maria Elena Kennedy, the City's consultant on the Enchanted Heights project, met with about 50 community residents at the home of Nazir Orozco.

Perris representatives spent more than an hour explaining the project—and the process needed to bring it to fruition—and answering questions from residents.

The City also has scheduled public hearings for 6 p.m. on April 21 and 6 p.m. on April 28 at Enchanted Hills Elementary School, 1357 Mt. Baldy Street. Spanish translators will be provided.

The City is partnering with Riverside County, the State of California and Eastern Municipal Water District on a \$15 million project to replace inadequate and leaking 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.

Carr, speaking at Tuesday's Perris City Council meeting, announced that EMWD informed the City this week that the contract for constructing the new sewer system is expected to be awarded by July and that construction should begin this fall.

EMWD Board Director Ron Sullivan said the water district is looking "forward to working with the residents of Enchanted Heights during the construction period for the streets and house connections.

"Keeping residents informed is of utmost importance concerning the vital funding components such as right of entry, construction start dates and the construction schedule and phases," Sullivan said. Kennedy also spoke at the City Council meeting, answering questions from the council and restating her beliefs that, after meeting individually and in small groups with Enchanted Heights residents, support for the sewer system is overwhelming.

"They are excited about this project, they are anxious for this project to start and they are ready to cooperate," Kennedy said. 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. They say the system will ease chronic flooding in Enchanted Heights and raise the quality of life in the community.

Perris Mayor Daryl Busch also praised Belmudez, Carr and other City staff for meeting with Enchanted Heights residents and seeking their support for the project.

"They are working very hard," Busch said. "This project will go forward."



City consultant Maria Elena Kennedy explains the proposed Enchanted Heights sewer system to community residents while Perris City Manager Richard Belmudez looks on.



City Redevelopment Project Coordinator Veronica Arana attended an informal public hearing in Enchanted Heights as part of an ongoing educational effort.