



Perris Press Release

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New Fire Station to Break Ground Thanks to RDA Funds

Ground-breaking is set for Aug. 31 at 11 a.m. on a new fire station that will provide enhanced public safety protection, continue the renaissance of Perris' Downtown core and reinforce the City's commitment to bringing needed services to residents through the wise use of redevelopment dollars.

City and Riverside County officials and firefighters will gather at the site of the new \$3.5 million fire station south of San Jacinto Avenue between F and G streets.

The City Council earlier this year designated Redevelopment Agency funds to complete the new fire station, which includes an 8,000-square-foot main building and an adjacent 1,200-square-foot emergency operations center.

The project is one of many using Redevelopment Funds that Perris officials have completed or are in the process of building, even as the state threatens to confiscate RDA funding to balance its own budgets.

Some of those projects include:

- The \$25 million Perris Station Apartments for low-income seniors
- The \$25 million Big League Dreams sports complex
- The \$14 million Mercado Apartment complex for Perris families
- A \$2.2 million commercial façade and unreinforced masonry program to rehabilitate historic D Street
- Millions in money to repave streets and improve drainage from one end of Perris to the other

The Small Business Incentives Program, part of the City's Redevelopment Agency, is responsible for attracting six businesses, creating 542 jobs and pouring \$65 million in economic activity into Perris.

In addition, more than 400 families would not have been able to purchase new homes with assistance from the Redevelopment Agency or would not have had the resources to beautify or make safety improvements to their residences. RDA projects completed this year include the renovations of a major shopping center on Fourth Street and the location's anchor tenant, Rio Ranch Market, lured to Perris with RDA funding. The City also scored big this year when it attracted the aerospace company Stretch Forming Corporation to a vacant warehouse on Redlands Avenue, again with incentives provided by RDA.

Perris City Councilman Al Landers said pushing ahead on construction plans like the new fire station/emergency operations center shows that Perris' elected leaders and staff are committed to keeping Perris moving forward.

He said the City has used its RDA funding judiciously on projects that remove blight, attract businesses and improve the lives of ordinary residents.

"This City Council and staff are of one mind when it comes to enhancing life in Perris and keeping our residents as safe as possible," Landers said.

Plans call for the new fire station to hold two vehicle bays big enough to house the City's ladder truck, fire engines and other emergency vehicles. The façade of the structure will be constructed in the California Mission style, similar to that of the City Council chambers.

In keeping with the City's commitment to "go green" by using alternative energy methods, the new station will include solar panels on its roof and will make use of natural lighting.

"I am thrilled, excited and delighted that a new fire station is coming to Perris," said Mayor Pro-Tem Joanne Evans, who spent 35 years working for CalFire in Riverside County. "The fire department is so dear to my heart. I am really thrilled about it and I can't wait for it to get built."

Perris City firefighters currently work out of CalFire's Riverside County headquarters at San Jacinto and C Street. Access to that building is restricted by narrow roads leading to the station and stop signs which drivers often go through, creating potential collisions with firefighting vehicles.

Perris firefighters must share that building with CalFire contemporaries.

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Evans pointed out that the new fire station is close to the recently opened Rio Ranch Market and aerospace company Stretch Forming Corp. and to the new interchange at Interstate 215 and Fourth Street. It is also near historic D Street and the City's main north-south thoroughfare, Perris Boulevard.

"It's going to be great for Downtown and for the whole City of Perris," Evans said. "We are taking a vacant lot and making it useful. It's outstanding."

Perris Mayor Daryl Busch said the new fire station will be "an outstanding addition to our City."

"It will significantly enhance public safety and be a great asset to Perris," Busch said. "It will be great for our City. It's what RDA funding was designed to make possible."

Rene Avila, the City's Assistant Director of Development Services and the staff member working on the project, said the ground-breaking ceremonies include an honor guard, Police Explorers, elected City officials and representatives from the county and CalFire.

"It's going to be a very special day," he said.



Ground-level view of the new \$3.5 million complex.



An aerial view of the new Perris Fire Station/Emergency Operations Center in Downtown.