



Perris Press Release

Contact: Joe Vargo, Perris Public Information Officer
Phone: 951-956-2120
jvargo@cityofperris.org

Enchanted Heights Project Breaks Ground

A group of local government officials, including several from Perris, broke ground Monday on a long-awaited sewer project in Enchanted Heights, a milestone that capped nearly 15 years of working with local and state partners to dramatically improve the quality of life in the long-established community.

With backhoes and bulldozers already on the construction site, Perris officials joined with representatives from Riverside County and Eastern Municipal Water District in praising the spirit of cooperation that is making the Enchanted Heights project possible.

The three-year, \$13 million project will replace existing and inadequate septic systems in the 446 residences in Enchanted Heights with modern sewer connections, ease potential health concerns, increase property values and increase community pride.

Other partners working on the Enchanted Heights renovations include the California Department of Public Health and the State Water Resources Control Board.

"This is something that needed to be done and it is being done," said Perris Mayor Daryl Busch. "We've recognized it as a need that needs to be addressed. A lot of people will benefit. We are taking an area that was built in the 1950s and bringing it up to 21st Century standards."

Perris City Councilman Al Landers, who addressed the crowd of about 50 dignitaries, said new sewers will dramatically remake Enchanted Heights.

"The residents of Enchanted Heights are finally getting to realize the dream we have been working on for 15 years," Landers said. "It's been a long time coming and it will benefit the community hugely."

Landers thanked the City's partners, paying special compliments to Riverside County and EMWD for their tenaciousness for obtaining the necessary funding and permits necessary to get the project under way.

Riverside County Supervisor Marion Ashley said he has been aware of the sewage concerns in Enchanted Heights since the late 1990s, when he served on the EMWD board of directors. He noted that Enchanted Heights lies halfway within the City of Perris and halfway inside unincorporated Riverside County. He also said that Enchanted Heights began as a resort community of singles and couples but has since evolved into families. Over the years, the additional population has seriously strained the capacity of most septic systems, Ashley said.

Ashley said the City of Perris deserves ample credit for constructing the trunk sewer line that makes the current project possible.

"These things take time, but they happen," Ashley said. "This is a real quality-of-life project. I am real pleased to have a role in it."

EMWD board member Ron Sullivan said Monday's ground-breaking ceremony was the "culmination of a lot of effort."

The initial phase of the sewer project includes construction of a lift station at San Jacinto Avenue and Lukens Lane. Construction of the connection system tentatively is set to begin this winter and wrap up in winter 2013. Onsite work is scheduled to begin in the fall of 2012. San Diego-based Garver West Inc. is the general contractor.

In addition to Mayor Busch and City Councilman Landers, the City of Perris was represented at Monday's ground-breaking by City Manager Richard Belmudez, Assistant City Manager Ron Carr, Deputy City Manager Darren Madkin, Human Resources Manager Isabel Lugo, Planning Manager Clara Miramontes and Housing Manager Sabrina Chavez.



Perris City Councilman Al Landers addresses the crowd at the Enchanted Heights ground-breaking ceremony: "It's been a long time coming."



State, Riverside County, EMWD and Perris City officials joined in the ground-breaking ceremony.



Perris Mayor Daryl Busch and EMWD Board member Ron Sullivan stand in front of the sign announcing the Enchanted Heights Sewer Project.