



Perris News

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New Wyndham Hotel Comes to Perris

Construction is expected to begin early next year on a three-story, 100-room hotel on the City's south side that elected officials and staff members say will provide accommodations for players and families taking part in baseball tournaments at the adjacent Big League Dreams sports complex.

Not only that, City Council members said, the \$8 million Wingate-by-Wyndham Hotel will serve as a magnet to lure restaurants, service stations and other shops to Perris and potentially pump millions in tax revenues into municipal coffers.

The hotel, on Trumble Road just south of the Big League Dreams sports complex, includes a gym, whirlpool, swimming pool, conference room and meeting rooms.



"I think it's safe to say we hit a home run, make it a grand slam," said Perris City Councilman Al Landers. "The whole area will blossom and bloom. It's going to be great for our City. It will attract other businesses to town. We desperately need a hotel in that part of our City and this hotel will meet that need. I am proud to be on a City Council with a staff that goes out and brings businesses to our town. Perris is a good place to be these days."

To help jump-start the project, the City Council on Tuesday unanimously approved a three-year, \$500,000 Redevelopment Agency loan for development and operation of the hotel.

That money, which is restricted to redevelopment use, will be well spent, officials said.

In its first three years, the hotel is expected to contribute \$1.35 million in fees, hotel occupancy tax and property taxes to Perris municipal coffers, said Michael McDermott, the City's Redevelopment and Economic Development Manager. After that, the City can expect to receive another \$255,000 annually in hotel occupancy revenues. The hotel is expected to provide 35 full-time and part-time jobs, McDermott said.

Construction should begin in April and the project is expected to be completed by November 2011, just after the expected finish of the \$24-million Big League Dreams complex.

That project features replicas of two historic baseball fields—Fenway Park and Yankee Stadium—and replicas of Dodgers Stadium and the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim Stadium as well as a soccer field, pro shop, concession area, pavilion and restaurant. Work on the sports complex is progressing rapidly.

City Councilwoman Rita Rogers said Perris will "get a great return" on the redevelopment funds it investing to bring the Wyndham Hotel to Perris.

"We will triple our return in the first three years," she said. "It will bring more people to Perris and give us the chance to increase our revenue even more. We are a very pro-active City with a great Redevelopment Agency and Economic Development Agency.

City Councilman Mark Yarbrough said Perris' long-term goals call for improving infrastructure and adding more recreational amenities. The hotel and adjacent athletic complex accomplish both, he said.

"Scratch those two off the list," Yarbrough said.

Yarbrough said he foresees the day when skydivers parachuting at the nearby Perris Valley Airport, train buffs riding the trains at the Orange Empire Railway Museum and race fans looking for excitement at the Perris Auto Speedway make use of the Wyndham site.

"Our council is in sync with our staff," he said. "We are on track."

Perris Mayor Daryl Busch called the Wyndham Hotel and the Big League Dreams complex a "major draw" for Perris that will lure people from many communities to the City. He said the hotel makes it more likely that restaurants and possibly another hotel could soon be making their way to Perris.

"This is a good thing," Busch said. "The City will benefit from the tax revenue generated by these businesses. We are getting things done in Perris because we've stayed on track in our major objective—to make Perris a better place to live. We've never lost sight of that."

City Councilwoman Joanne Evans said despite the difficult economy, Perris continues improving its infrastructure while adding new businesses. She noted that construction is underway on a new interchange at Interstate 215 and Fourth Street. Wal-Mart and Target stores are in their works. The City recently broke ground on the Mercado apartment complex which will anchor the south end of D Street.

"When it's all done, this will be like a whole new city," Evans said. "It's very rewarding to see all these projects in the works. I am glad to be part of this City Council. It makes me feel like we're doing the things the citizens expected when they elected us."