

# **PROPOSED HEMET ANNEXATION**

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What are the proposed boundaries of the Annexation?**

*The proposed boundaries are the easterly extension of Garbani Road to the south, the National Forest Boundary to the east, the Soboba Tribal Lands and the City of San Jacinto to the north, and approximately California Street to the west. Please refer to the attached map.*

### **What are the advantages to being a resident of the City of Hemet?**

*The following have been given as the main reasons for the annexation effort:*

- (a) The proposed annexation area is identified with the City of Hemet, and its incorporation represents a logical extension of the city limits.*
- (b) The annexation will provide greater local control over governmental activity, and will afford citizens more opportunity to have a voice in governmental decisions that affect them.*
- (c) Currently, local tax dollars are sent to Riverside to be distributed county-wide. After the annexation, a greater share of the taxpayer dollar remains within the community, and better opportunity exists for more responsive, effective, and efficient public services.*
- (d) Local governance of the annexation area will promote improved planning in land use and development related issues, especially those concerning streets and flood control.*
- (e) Reduction or elimination of the obligation to provide local services may enable the County to devote its financial resources to more pressing regional concerns.*

### **What level of local representation will I receive if the annexation passes?**

*The City of Hemet is divided into five City Council Districts with each having roughly the same amount of people. Upon annexation, the City of Hemet's population will increase and new City Council district boundaries will need to be re-drawn. It is expected that at least two of the re-drawn City Council Districts will include the vast majority of the City's new residents. Unlike the day meetings of the County Board of Supervisors which are held in Downtown Riverside, Hemet City Council meetings are held in Downtown Hemet on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month in the evenings.*

### **If I am annexed into the City of Hemet, won't my property taxes go up?**

*No. Under the rules of Proposition 13, property taxes cannot exceed 1% of fair market value regardless of whether the property is located in an unincorporated area or a city. Also, no reassessment of your property occurs as a result of annexation. The only difference is that with annexation, a greater share of your tax dollar remains within the local community.*

### **What about the sales tax?**

*In order to raise more funding for public safety, in 2016, the voters of Hemet overwhelmingly passed Measure "U" which increased the local sales tax by an additional 1%. These funds are specifically to be spent on local public safety measures. After the annexation, residents would incur this additional sales tax amount.*

### **What about lighting and landscaping districts, or other assessment districts?**

*The City of Hemet will not be increasing or establishing any new taxes to provide for street lighting and landscaping. In the event a property is currently within a County Service Area, after the annexation, the City will be able to assume the responsibility for providing the applicable services.*

**What will be the impact on my police and fire protection?**

*The City of Hemet will ultimately assume the responsibility for both police and fire protection, and the transition is expected to take several months. The creation of a smaller service area for police protection together with specific police beats exclusively for that area will translate into reduced response times and better service. In addition, the Hemet Police Department will immediately begin hiring additional police officers. Regarding the Hemet Fire Department, all responses come with full paramedic service.*

**Will my water or sewer service be affected?**

*No. The agency which now serves you will continue to provide you with service after the annexation. Also, if you currently do not have sewer service, no sewer charge will be imposed by the City after annexation.*

**How about my refuse collection?**

*As in the County, mandatory refuse collection service will be a part of the annexation, and the City of Hemet refuse contractor (CRR) will ultimately be providing refuse, recycling, and green waste collection services. You will have the option of remaining with the County's refuse contractor (Waste Management) for up to five years or, at your discretion, you may decide to switch to CRR after comparing rates, billing practices, and levels of service.*

**Will the annexation have any effect on the Hemet Unified School District?**

*No. However, a suggested advantage and reason for the annexation is that the City of Hemet Police Department would be able to maintain greater patrols and supervision around the annexation area's many schools.*

**Will I have a change of address?**

*Yes. For emergency response purposes, and to readily identify whether a particular resident lives in the city or county, a change to a four digit address is necessary. This change will take place over a 12 month period to assist the residents and the post office.*

**What about services like street sweeping?**

*Upon annexation, the City of Hemet's subcontractor would assume the street sweeping responsibility. Usually, street sweeping will occur on a once per two week cycle depending on the type of street improvements, and this service would commence shortly after the annexation.*

**If I currently have horses and farm animals, will I be able to keep them?**

*Your property's current Riverside County zoning designation will transfer to a City of Hemet equivalent zone after the annexation. All Riverside County existing legal "non-conforming" uses and home occupations will be permitted by the City as long as they do not impact the health, safety, or welfare of the community. Farming, equestrian, and other animal uses are permitted under the City zoning designation comparable to the County, and the City has already adopted County agricultural zones to eliminate code differences.*

**How will the City's Code Enforcement policy affect me?**

*Probably not at all. While the codes designed to protect the health and safety of citizens are very similar in the City and the County, the City has demonstrated a commitment to respond in a "common sense" manner on a complaint basis to those situations which cause a nuisance or are of a public health concern.*

**Can I park my recreational vehicle or commercial truck on my property or in front of my house?**

*Yes, within certain reasonable limitations. Generally, only very large tractor-trailers on residential streets, or junk cars that have been stored on the street or in front yards would be subject to removal, and then generally only after a complaint has been filed with the City.*

**What is the procedure for the proposed annexation?**

*Since this is a citizens'-initiated annexation, local residents gather signatures on petitions requesting annexation. The requesting petitions are then submitted to the City of Hemet. The City then studies the proposal to insure that it is feasible, and then submits a formal application to the Riverside County Local Area Formation Commission (LAFCO). LAFCO also studies the proposal and, after several months, will hold a public hearing and will at that time vote to either recommend approval or disapproval.*