



NEWS RELEASE

The City and School District Partner to Fund Much Needed Traffic Safety Project

With the support of LEUSD, the City can move forward on a proposed traffic signal in the Canyon Hills neighborhood to improve safety and circulation for vehicles and pedestrians.

LAKE ELSINORE, CA, January 15, 2014 – The [City of Lake Elsinore](#) and [Lake Elsinore Unified School District \(LEUSD\)](#) are jointly funding a new traffic signal to improve traffic safety while benefitting school children and residents of the Canyon Hills Community.

The signal will be placed at the intersection of [Canyon Hills Road and Sage Lane](#), which serves as a main access point for Cottonwood Canyon Elementary and Canyon Lake Middle Schools. The cost of signalization is approximately \$260,000. The City earmarked \$195,000 in its current Capital Improvement Program and LEUSD has pledged the remaining \$65,000 to ensure the project moves forward. Construction is estimated to begin in summer of 2014.

“This project is an example of how the City is working with our local and regional agencies to resolve community concerns,” said Mayor Natasha Johnson. “Approval by the City Council means we now have the green light to proceed on a very important project in our community.”

The signal is warranted because of the high volume of cars using the roads adjacent to two neighborhood schools, compounded by one-way school ingress/egress, and traffic congestion during school pickup and drop off at peak usage. The City has installed a number of warning signs to alert drivers and the District has assigned crossing guards to the intersection to improve safety conditions.

LEUSD President Heidi Matthies Dodd said, “The timing of this project through pooled resources couldn’t be better for Canyon Hills residents and school children in the vicinity of Cottonwood Canyon Elementary and Canyon Lake Middle Schools, which serve over 2,100 students combined. The City has been very proactive in getting us to the starting gate.”

LEUSD’s Governing Board and the Lake Elsinore City Council unanimously approved the joint funding agreement in separate meetings in December and January, respectively.

Canyon Hills traffic concerns raised by residents have been previously acknowledged by the City’s Public Safety Advisory Commission, the Lake Elsinore Sheriff’s Department—which routinely conducts traffic enforcement in the area—and a joint-committee of district and city officials, including two elected reps from each agency.

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With approvals and funding now in place, design, bidding, and a contract award will occupy the next several months up until a notice to proceed is given by the City.

Cottonwood Canyon Elementary and Canyon Lake Middle School are among LEUSD's top performing schools, with achievement scores of 875 and 820, respectively. By comparison, the Academic Performance Index (API) target set by the state is 800.

About the City of Lake Elsinore

The City of Lake Elsinore features Southern California's largest natural freshwater lake. The second oldest city in Riverside County, Lake Elsinore celebrated its 125th Year of Incorporation on April 9, 2013. The City's current population is estimated at 55,430. The City's brand and slogan, "Dream Extreme," exemplify the scenic beauty and active lifestyle of this 125-year-old boom town. Visitors and residents enjoy water sports such as skiing, power boating and fishing, a world-class sky diving drop zone and thermals, a regional motocross track, professional baseball, an 18-hole golf course, outlet shops, plus dining and entertainment in Historic Downtown. To find out more or to stay informed about upcoming events in the City, visit www.Lake-Elsinore.org and sign up for email notifications, like the City's page on Facebook or follow the City on Twitter.

- **City website:** www.Lake-Elsinore.org
- **Telephone:** (951) 674-3124 **Fax:** (951) 674-2392
- **Business Hours:** Mon. - Thurs. 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Fri. 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

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About the Lake Elsinore Unified School District

The Lake Elsinore Unified School District covers more than 144 square miles and educates K-12 students from the cities of Lake Elsinore, Canyon Lake and Wildomar, and several unincorporated Riverside County communities, including Lakeland Village and Horsethief Canyon. The district serves nearly 22,000 students and operates 24 different schools, along with alternative education programs, and an online K-12 academy. LEUSD offers the rigorous International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme at Temescal Canyon High School, a newly certified IB World School. LEUSD has shown steady and positive academic performance growth overall, according to California's Academic Performance Index for 2013.

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