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Construction to Start on Towers Lane in San José *Residents led long effort for street improvements*

San José --- Residents of Towers Lane are rejoicing after 50 years relying on a dirt road for access to their homes. On **Saturday, June 4, at 10:00 a.m.**, neighbors will be joining Mayor Ron Gonzales and the San José Department of Public Works and Redevelopment Agency to celebrate the start of construction on Towers Lane, one of the last unpaved streets in San José.

“This is a great day for the residents of this neighborhood,” said Mayor Ron Gonzales. “Because of their patience, persistence and partnership, we finally are able to make Towers Lane a street everyone can be proud to live on.”

Towers Lane is located in the West Evergreen neighborhood west of Highway 101. For years, local residents have been asking for street and utility improvements since the surrounding area was annexed into the city in 1960s. Difficulties in securing neighborhood consensus, project funding and physical impediments blocked progress until this year. Nine homes and a church are served by the dirt road.

Property owners asked the City of San José to convert the private street to a publicly maintained street, and the City completed right-of-way acquisition this year. The Towers Lane improvement project will transform the dirt road to a standard two-lane residential street with sidewalks, storm and sanitary sewers.

Jonna Mae Baker, a 90-year-old San José resident who has lived on Towers Lane for more than 58 years, and her son Jerry Baker, led neighborhood efforts that finally reached the start of construction on the project.

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“Chasing this dream is what has kept me going all these years, and I’m glad that the City and Redevelopment Agency are able to move forward on this project,” said Ms. Baker. I know I’ll be shouting hip, hip, hooray when I see those yellow tractors come through.”

The cost of the project is estimated at \$1.5 million and is funded by the City of San José and the San Jose Redevelopment Agency. The San José Department of Public Works is leading the construction efforts, and completion is scheduled for December 2005.

The San Jose Redevelopment Agency is dedicated to improving the quality of life for all who live and work in San José. Together the City and the Redevelopment Agency facilitate and oversee comprehensive programs for development to revitalize the City’s Downtown, neighborhoods, and industrial areas.

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