



## Yucaipa City Council Works to Fix Potholes Faster

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
April 4, 2023

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Yucaipa is taking a new approach to fix potholes faster. To enhance its existing street maintenance efforts, the City will use on-call contractors to hurry pothole fixes. This move comes in response to resident complaints about potholes on City streets.

At its March 13th meeting, the Yucaipa City Council directed staff to issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) for on-call pothole repair services. Issuing an RFP will allow the City to find qualified contractors for it to call upon when needed. Using on-call services will help the City to fix potholes faster and improve road safety.

“One of local government’s primary responsibilities is to maintain the community’s streets. Unfortunately, this has not been a top priority in the past,” said Mayor Justin Beaver. “This Council has changed that. We are now investing millions of dollars a year into our roads, and are actively looking for ways to expand and expedite our responses to reports of hazardous road conditions. I, along with my fellow Council members, believe that this on-call service will be a key component of our efforts to improve response times and mitigate hazardous conditions.”

Complaints about potholes have become a common complaint received by the City. According to a AAA study, damage caused by potholes cost American drivers \$26.5 billion in 2021. Water and traffic are the two main factors that contribute to the formation of potholes. With the recent winter storms, the City has seen a rise in potholes and pothole complaints.

The City has purchased equipment to fix potholes in-house, but recent storms have led to a number and size of potholes that exceed the capacity of the City’s small Public Works department. On-call services give the City more resources to respond as demand fluctuates. It does this without adding overhead costs. On-call services may help to reduce costs and improve response times through competition. With multiple vendors on-call, the City can choose the most affordable and responsive option.



The on-call services will be part of the City’s existing Pavement Management Program (PMP). The PMP relies on four primary revenue sources. First, Measure I, a countywide half-cent sales tax. Second, Prop 42, passed by the voters in 2002, which dedicates a part of gas taxes to repair road hazards. Third, SB 1, passed by the Legislature in 2017, which raised various taxes and fees to fund road maintenance. Last is Council-approved use of various local fees.

Residents can help the City by reporting potholes and other road damage. Although residents are welcome to call City Hall, the City encourages use of the Yucaipa App. Besides being a convenient way to report an issue, the Yucaipa App gives the City an exact location of the issue. The City can use this location information to track trends and be proactive.

The Yucaipa App gives residents an easy way to engage with the City and report issues. It is available in the Apple App and GooglePlay stores.

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