



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The City of Yucaipa is deeply saddened by the Passing of Former Councilmember Diane Smith

YUCAIPA, Calif. — The City of Yucaipa is saddened to announce the passing of former Councilmember Diane Smith, a dedicated public servant whose leadership and commitment to the community helped shape the City.

Diane Smith began her service to the City in 1995 when she was appointed to the Yucaipa Planning Commission to fill an unexpired term. She later served two terms on the Yucaipa City Council from 2000 to 2004 and from 2008 to 2012. During her second term, she served as Mayor Pro Tem from 2010 to 2012, providing thoughtful leadership and steadfast advocacy for the residents of Yucaipa.

Throughout her years of public service, Smith represented the City on numerous regional organizations and local committees. She served as Chairperson of the Redevelopment Agency from 2000 to 2003 and represented Yucaipa on the Crafton Hills Open Space Conservancy, the League of California Cities as Legislative Delegate, the San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water Advisory Committee, and Omnitrans. She also served as Council Liaison to the Economic Development Advisory Committee, Finance Committee, Youth Advisory Committee, and Healthy Yucaipa Committee. In 2021-2022, Diane also served as a Commissioner on the Park and Recreation Commission.

Smith leaves behind a legacy through many initiatives that continue to enrich the community today. She was instrumental in the creation of the Yucaipa Iris Festival, dedicating countless hours to establishing what became one of the City's signature annual events for many years. She also initiated the Youth Advisory Committee, creating opportunities for young residents to become engaged in civic leadership. Through the collaborative efforts of the committee and City staff, Yucaipa participated in the National Civic League's 2011 All-America City Award competition, showcasing the City's spirit of innovation and community involvement.

During her tenure on the City Council, Smith championed projects that significantly enhanced the quality of life for Yucaipa residents. Her leadership contributed to the development of the Community Center, Community Park, City Hall, Fire Station No. 3, the Uptown Revitalization Project, the Affordable Senior Housing Project, the Community Aquatics Center, the beginning of construction on the Multi-Purpose 13th Street Sports Complex, and renovations to valued community landmarks, including the Historical Fire Museum and the Vision Quest Facility.

The City of Yucaipa extends its heartfelt sympathies to Diane Smith's family and loved ones during this difficult time. Her dedication to public service, her passion for the community, and her lasting contributions to Yucaipa will be remembered with gratitude and respect.