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NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Town of Yucca Valley has announced the resignation of Town Manager Andy Takata, who will be leaving his post on February 14th to begin serving as the City Manager with the City of Banning.

Mr. Takata began working for the Town of Yucca Valley officially on May 1, 2004. Prior to his start date, he split his time between his job as manager of the City of Newcastle, Washington and Yucca Valley in order to work with Council and staff on the budget preparation. He presented a budget to the Town Council that was balanced (revenues were either equal to or exceeded expenditures) for the first time in several years and has had a balance budget every year since.

He is the longest tenured Town Manager since Yucca Valley incorporated in 1991. Under Andy's direction and leadership, the Town has been able to survive during the fiscal challenges of recent years.

Takata came to the Town following a number of turnovers at the Town Manager level and worked with the Town Council to create an excellent work environment for the employees. He was very active in the Community participating with a number of civic groups and non-profit organizations. Some people have credited him with restoring a spirit of cooperation among the Council members. .

Some of the businesses that arrived in Yucca Valley during Takata's tenure include Home Depot, Applebees, the remodeling of the Town Center Mall (old Kmart building) and many more. Additionally, formal planning for parks, public facilities and the "Old Town" area has been accomplished during his time with the Town.

Takata earns \$176,000 per year with the Town, but he has elected not to take any of his automatic increases since 2007 due to the downturn in the economy.

“I never thought I would leave Yucca Valley. My parents had property out here in the 1950’s until they sold it in 2003. It really has felt like home,” Takata said. “The community has been wonderful to me and I can’t thank them enough for making me feel at home. I could not have asked for a better all-around staff and owe them my gratitude. Taking the job in Banning will put me 40 miles closer to my mom, who is 88, as well as my brother and sister. It will also provide me the opportunity to work once again in a full service city.”

Takata reminisced about his work in Yucca Valley. “When I look back over my 5 ½ years in this community, I will remember it fondly. I feel that the Town has matured into a excellent organization during my time here. I will also miss the relationship with the Marine Base. They are one of the important economic engines for this basin. They have been great partners. I am sure who ever the next Manager is, he or she will have a solid staff and fantastic community to work with. It will be one of the more attractive City Manager jobs in Southern California. Even though I will be leaving, I am more then happy to help the Council with any of their needs.”

“I believe Yucca Valley is in the position to get the necessary facilities for our residents. When the nation begins its economic recovery, I believe Yucca Valley will be ready for anything that might happen. None of the successes could have happened with out a supportive Town Council and hard working staff. I thank them for making my stay here enjoyable.” Said Andy.

Regarding Takata, Mayor Chad Mayes said, “Andy has made a tremendous impact on the Town of Yucca Valley. The organization is stronger and the community is a better place because of him. We are thankful for his strong leadership over the last five-plus years and although we are saddened by his departure, we wish him well in his future endeavors.”