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## **Greater Gardner Neighborhood Celebrates Street Improvements**

*Reconstruction Project Will Create Safer Pedestrian-oriented Neighborhood*

*San José* --- The Greater Gardner community will join San José Vice Mayor Cindy Chavez, Councilmember Ken Yeager, and the San Jose Redevelopment Agency on Saturday, Feb. 12 at 11:00 a.m. to celebrate the completion of street and sidewalk improvements on Delmas Avenue, between West Virginia Street and Interstate 280.

The project is part of the Greater Gardner street reconstruction project that will improve seven deteriorated street segments in this neighborhood located south of Downtown San José. Reconstructing Delmas Avenue is the first phase of the project. The Delmas Avenue improvements include the installation of 12 street trees, six wheelchair ramps, and 1,500 feet of new curbs, street repavement, gutters, and sidewalks.

“The Delmas Avenue street reconstruction is much more than a street improvement; it’s an improvement to the everyday lives of San José families,” said Vice Mayor Cindy Chavez, who represents the part of Greater Gardner neighborhood in District 3. “The Greater Gardner Street Project gives our families the ability to feel proud of their neighborhoods, their communities, and the City in which they live.”

The Greater Gardner Coalition, a group comprised of the Gardner Advisory Council, Gregory Plaza Neighborhood Association, and North Willow Glen Neighborhood Association, identified streets and sidewalks reconstruction as its number one priority in its Strong Neighborhoods Initiative (SNI) Neighborhood Improvement Plan.

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“I am so pleased that this work has been completed, and that the future reconstruction work will take place on the other streets that the Greater Gardner Coalition has identified,” said Councilmember Ken Yeager, whose district includes part of the Greater Gardner neighborhood. “The Coalition and its residents should be commended for their hard work to make this a reality.”

“Now we have concrete proof, or in this case concrete and asphalt, of what can be achieved when the Strong Neighborhoods Initiative Program is implemented as it was originally conceived, with different City departments, the Redevelopment Agency, and many dedicated volunteer neighbors pulling together and accomplishing a common goal,” said Kevin Christman, chairman, Greater Gardner Coalition.

The project cost for the reconstruction of the seven streets is estimated to be \$6.5 million. The San Jose Redevelopment Agency is funding \$3.4 million, and \$1.8 million will come from the City of San José General Fund and the Community Development Block Grant. So far, an estimated \$5.2 million has been budgeted for the project.

“We’re very pleased to be able to help improve the safety and attractiveness of Delmas Avenue,” said Harry Mavrogenes, executive director of the San Jose Redevelopment Agency. “Projects like this make a positive difference in San Jose neighborhoods.”

The San Jose Redevelopment Agency is dedicated to creating jobs, building housing, and improving the lives of all who live and work in San José. Governed by the City Council, the Redevelopment Agency partners with business and the community to achieve economic revitalization in the Downtown, our technology parks and industrial areas, and our neighborhoods. For more information, visit <http://www.sjredevelopment.org>.

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