



Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Contact: City of Hemet
Director of Community Investment**

March 2, 2015

Phone: 951-765-2308

City of Hemet and Forest River RV, Inc. Win First Place from Inland Empire Economic Partnership at 2015 “Red Tape to Red Carpet Awards”

HEMET, CA – The City of Hemet and Forest River RV Inc., were recognized by the Inland Empire Economic Partnership (IEEP) as the winner of the second annual “Turning Red Tape into Red Carpet Awards” in the category of Real Estate Redevelopment and Reuse for the Forest River RV Inc. manufacturing plant project in Hemet, CA.

Ty Miller, with Forest River, who is managing the development of the new Hemet plant, which will be Forest River’s 67th facility in the United States said, “the City of Hemet definitely rolled out the red carpet for us, and I’ve been extremely pleased with the proactive and cooperative approach. The City welcomed us with open arms and has consistently exceeded our expectations with their can-do spirit and positive assistance.”

Mayor Linda Krupa and Mayor Pro-Tem Bonnie Wright were on hand last Thursday evening when the awards were presented, with Mayor Krupa accepting the first place award on behalf of the City of Hemet and Forest River. “I was so proud that our Forest River project had been nominated alongside so many good projects in the region, but I was humbled when Hemet and Forest River was announced as the first place winner because I appreciated the IEEP recognizing how significant of a project this is for our city and for how effective our staff was in responding to this opportunity”, said Krupa.

The Forest River RV Inc. plant has been on the fast track toward their scheduled opening later this month, since Forest River officials approached the city Hemet last fall. “From our initial meeting with Forest River, we have worked closely together to pave the way to their opening, remove any obstacles and most importantly keep pace with their aggressive schedule, according to John Jansons, Director of Community Investment for the City.

The IEEP, the region's largest economic development organization, honored the cities, counties and agencies that implement innovative ways to enhance job growth and the local economy despite an often-difficult regulatory environment. The IEEP also honored projects in other categories including Business Retention and Expansion, Sustainable Green Development, Public-Private Partnerships, Leadership in Public Service, and Inter-Agency Cooperation in which the cities of Hemet and San Jacinto were also recognized as a finalist for their cooperative tourism campaign, *Visit San Jacinto Valley*, for which Hemet and San Jacinto also received an award.



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City of Hemet and City of San Jacinto Honored at Inland Empire Economic Partnership 2015 “Red Tape to Red Carpet Awards” for Collaborative Tourism Campaign.

HEMET, CA – On Thursday February 27, the City of Hemet and the City of San Jacinto were recognized by the Inland Empire Economic Partnership (IEEP) as award finalists in the second annual “Turning Red Tape into Red Carpet Awards” in the category of, *Tale of Two Cities: Stories of interagency Cooperation* for their work on the collaborative “Visit San Jacinto Valley” tourism program produced by the two cities.

The award as a finalist recognizes the work by Hemet and San Jacinto to cooperative, share resources, avoid duplication and redundancy and to maximize public funds for a common good, in this case, to jointly market the San Jacinto Valley to visitors, tourists, and snowbirds recognizing the common assets and offerings available to visitors to the San Jacinto Valley and the two cities.

Representatives for Hemet and San Jacinto were on hand to receive the award and Hemet Mayor Linda Krupa accepted on behalf of the tourism collaborative. Mayor Krupa said, “we are very honored to be recognized by the IEEP for the great partnership we enjoy with San Jacinto and the good work that is being done to expand tourism in Hemet and the Valley”.

The IEEP, the region’s largest economic development organization, honored the cities, counties and agencies that implement innovative ways to enhance job growth and the local economy despite an often-difficult regulatory environment. The IEEP also honored projects in other categories including Business Retention and Expansion, Sustainable Green Development, Public-Private Partnerships, Leadership in Public Service, and Real Estate Redevelopment for which the City of Hemet took home grand prize for the Forest River RV manufacturing plant

project. Rancho Cucamonga, Riverside and Ontario won the prize for Inter-Agency Cooperation for their library training program between cities.

The *Visit San Jacinto Valley* tourism program is entering its third year and encourages all business in Hemet and San Jacinto who wish to serve tourists and benefit from their visits to join *Visit San Jacinto Valley* by contacting the City of San Jacinto or the City of Hemet or by visiting the website, www.visitsanjacintovalley.com and “experience the wealth of heritage, health and harmony that awaits visitors to Hemet and San Jacinto.”
