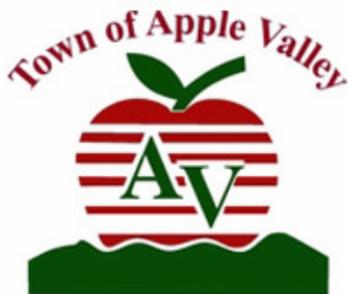




AV laying off 3 people in wake of RDA dissolution

[RENE DE LA CRUZ, Special to the Daily Press](#)

2012-02-07 13:16:00



APPLE VALLEY • The town suffered its first casualty of redevelopment dissolution when officials announced Tuesday that three employees — including Ken Henderson, assistant town manager of Economic and Community Development — are being laid off.

All three positions were funded mainly by redevelopment tax funds. After the state eliminated its 400 redevelopment agencies on Feb. 1, Apple Valley lost \$5.8 million in tax increment for 2012.

“The decision to layoff talented employees is never easy,” Town Manager Frank Robinson said in an email. “As town manager, I was tasked with developing a staffing plan for economic and community development, minus the RDA funds. The decision does not reflect on the quality of work nor the value to the agency of the employees we’ve let go. It simply had to come down to numbers.”

Town spokesperson Kathie Martin said all three layoffs came from Economic and Community Development, including that department’s veteran leader.

“Mr. Henderson has been directly responsible for much of the shopping and services we enjoy today,” Robinson said in a statement.

He credited Henderson with bringing more than 3 million square feet of retail to the town, including the 1.2-million-square-foot Walmart Distribution Center in north Apple Valley.

Henderson, who has been with the town since 1996, was at the helm while the town began the RDA dissolution process, including the legalities of establishing the town as the successor agency. He’ll be laid off effective Feb. 29.

Henderson could not be reached for comment Tuesday.

Funds and staff involved tied to low-income housing programs, such as Down Payment Assistance and Residential Rehabilitation Loans, will remain intact, according to a statement from the town.

But the \$75 million Yucca Loma Bridge project may be in jeopardy as the town waits for the state to recognize tax exempt bonds, which will keep the project alive or void them and end the project.

“Our community is reeling from this latest salvo delivered by Sacramento,” Apple Valley Mayor Barb Stanton said in a statement. “While jobs and tax revenue have been stripped away from our town, we are in the process of reorganizing and looking to the future.”

No other local cities are laying off any employees as a result of the elimination of RDAs, officials said Tuesday.

Hesperia will be taking a look at staffing as it moves into the budget process for the 2012-13 fiscal year,

spokeswoman Kelly Malloy said.

Victorville chose to absorb some 12 positions that were at least partially funded by RDA dollars, according to City Manager Doug Robertson.

City editor Brooke Edwards Staggs contributed to this report.

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