

Merl Abel, Candidate for Yucca Valley Town Council, District 3

What is your vision of the role of rural character in your community as it relates to progress and economic well-being, and how might you attain that vision as a Council member?

My wife and I have enjoyed living in the Morongo Basin for 28 years. People have recently started moving to our area because they have discovered that this area provides a better quality of life. We provide affordable housing, recreation and the opportunity to connect with the environment.

As a council member, I have spearheaded:

- Development impact fees on large developers who don't utilize existing building and develop projects on previously undisturbed land.
- Funding for a Low income senior housing development.
- Supported a shuttle bus program to lower vehicle traffic into the National Park.
- Helping Yucca Valley old town merchants with sidewalks to encourage foot traffic verses vehicles.

I would like to opportunity to continue to work on:

- The Air Quality Board to bring electric vehicle charging stations to the area.
- Address the illegal dumping problem and to also bring back "free dump days"
- Eliminate the Town's minimum square footage requirement for new home construction and allow tiny house builds that have a small impact of the environment.
- Encouraging small start-up companies and better internet for work at home opportunities.