

# Greater Yuma EDC Investors Making News



**August 18, 2016 Issue**

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# Airline Examines Possible Service From Yuma To Monterey, Calif.

By Blake Herzog, @Blake Herzog Updated 23 hrs ago Aug 16, 2016

A small Maine-based airline is surveying Yuma residents and businesses as it explores the possibility of offering scheduled service to and from Monterey, Calif., near the heart of the Salinas vegetable-growing region.

The Yuma Center for Excellence in Desert Agriculture is circulating a survey for Elite Airways, a carrier based in Portland which serves 12 large and small airports across the country, as well as offers for charter flights.

The company operates 50-seat and 70-seat jets made by Canadian manufacturer Bombardier, and is considering placing 50-seaters at the Monterey Regional Airport which could provide service to Yuma International Airport, according to the survey.

Paul Brierley, executive director of the center, said he's gotten a good number of responses back from vegetable growers, but the beneficiaries of the service could go well beyond that.

"It wasn't just farmers, it was shippers, it was growers, it was seed companies, it was researchers, it was people who sell products to the ag industry. And I hope other industries step up too, and evaluate what kind of demand they would have," he said. "There's other private industries, there's the military, there's government.

"The stage it's at now, as far as I know, is feasibility, is there enough demand that they should do it?"

In the survey, companies are being asked how many of their employees would use such a service, how frequently and what schedules would work best for them.



Photo from Yum Int Airport website

Yuma International Airport currently offers scheduled service to one city, Phoenix, by American Airlines. A United Airlines route to Los Angeles was dropped by the carrier in December 2014.

Airport executive director Gladys Wiggins said last week her discussions with Monterey airport's management about the potential for a route are "very preliminary."

"This is really about putting the information together to build a good business case for this and see if it is feasible," she said.

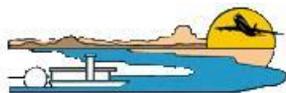
Brierley said that during the ongoing efforts to attract another major airline to the airport, Elite's consideration of service between Monterey and Yuma also emerged, so he contacted Monterey airport officials and ended up doing a little market research for them.

"Our mission is really to assist the desert ag industry, so easier air service between here and Salinas would really help the ag industry because of all the different interactions we have," he said.

The city of Salinas is about half an hour's drive away from the Monterey airport, and the center of a vegetable-growing industry bigger than Yuma's, which produces about \$3 billion annually. Many of this area's growers and workers migrate to the central California coast for the summer, when the work dries up here.

Brierley said since the local desert farming industry extends into northern Mexico and California's Imperial County, so does interest in easy access to the Monterey area. Yuma calls itself "America's Winter Vegetable Capital," but the Salinas Valley proclaims itself the "Salad Bowl of the World."

"You think about it, a lot of companies are doing a lot of the same thing, part of the time here and part of the time there, and they're either based here or based there, so that necessitates a lot of travel back and forth year-round. Even though we may not have the season now but a lot of the people who are here in the winter but there in the summer, but they're based here," he said.



**Yuma International  
Airport**

Elite Airways' website says the company was founded 10 years ago by airline industry veterans, and "their goal was to move away from the discount and legacy carrier services that were focused more on the bottom line than a quality travel experience."

The company touts "routes that serve under-served communities with popular destinations," including Ft. Collins, Colo. with Rockford, Ill. in the Chicago area and Naples, Fla. with the Newark airport just outside New York. It does not currently have any routes to Monterey.

To respond to the survey or get more information about it, contact Susan Sternitzke at [susan@limelightcreativegroup.com](mailto:susan@limelightcreativegroup.com) or (928) 246-9255.



# Council OKs Design Contract Increase

By Matt Harding, Yuma Sun staff writer Updated 17 hrs ago Aug 18, 2016

A \$160,036 design contract increase to Core Engineering Group was approved at Wednesday night's regular Yuma City Council meeting by a 5-1 vote following a half-hour executive session recess.

Mayor Doug Nicholls, who is the founder of Core Engineering, was not at the meeting and has abstained from voting on his firm's contracts in the past. Council member Gary Wright was the lone vote against the contract increase.

The primary reason for the contract increase is for the design of a monument wall that will be placed on all four corners at the 16th Street and 4th Avenue intersection, which is currently undergoing a widening and other improvements and is set for a spring 2017 completion.

City Administrator Greg Wilkinson said the city had previously received "a lot of negative feedback" on a similar project at the intersection of 16th Street and Avenue A around 2008 or 2009 because it didn't have any "aesthetic enhancements" on the corners.

Giving additional background information, Wilkinson said in 2012 or 2013, the council asked the city administration what could be done to enhance the new 16th Street-4th Avenue project. He said he asked Charles Flynn, executive director of the Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area, to begin to work with the community and property owners at the location on forming ideas for the project.



"The idea was to be able to do something that would be a centerpiece, and be kind of a key intersection in the city," said Wilkinson, who added that the intersection, to be known as Center Pointe, is the busiest in the entire county.



Core Engineering Group, PLLC

Civil Engineers. Land Surveyors.

“Also, the idea was that if we did something a little bit special we would be able to attract better stores and better businesses and make it a good place for retail or other buildings to locate.”

He cited the “specialty grocery store” that will be going in on the northwest corner of the intersection as an example.

Wilkinson said the city had “already budgeted \$200,000 in the CIP (capital improvement program) for the monument wall.”

The council also amended the fiscal impact statement of an item on its motion consent agenda, which would authorize cooperative purchase agreements initiated by the State of Arizona and the Yuma Educational Materials Management Consortium for the purchase of Fleet Services warehouse stock items.

The statement had said that funding is available in the fiscal year 2017-18 operating budgets to cover the expenditures from the contract, and was amended to say fiscal year 2016-17 by a 6-0 vote.

The contract’s funds, excluding tax, are estimated at \$500,000.

The motion consent report read, in part: “The City requires that purchases be made as needed for many of these items in support of daily operations of Fleet Services and other city divisions.”

Aside from the vendor Arizona Brake & Clutch of Phoenix, the rest of the vendors in the one-year contract are in Yuma. They include Autozone, Bingham Auto & Truck, Fisher Chevrolet, North End Auto Parts (NAPA), O’Reilly Auto Parts and Rush Truck Center. Purchases will be made as needed.

The contract has a renewal option for four additional one-year periods.

The amended item is expected to be voted on at the next council meeting.

# End Of The Road

Yuma Sun Updated 19 hrs ago Aug 18, 2016

DPE Construction workers (from left) Ernesto Leon, Daniel Gonzalez and Joe Ruiz shovel gravel Wednesday to secure a temporary fence, designed to keep dirt and other debris from spreading into the River Park Apartments property at 2575 West 24th Street, as the long awaited widening of 24th Street between Avenue B and Avenue C got under way Wednesday. DPE Construction is the contractor. The first phase of the 120-day project requires the closure of 24th Street, from Avenue B to approximately Greenwood Avenue. Work will then move west along 24th Street to Avenue C.



Photo by Randy Hoelt/Yuma Sun

# APS Continues Support Of STEM Education Around The State

Anna Chaulk, APS Aug 7, 2016

How can Arizona make sure it stays competitive and ahead of the curve for years to come? It starts with advancing the next generation's emphasis on science, technology, engineering and math education, also known as STEM.

The APS Foundation has been focused on STEM and other education-based programs since 2012, and recently announced that 14 nonprofit organizations located throughout Arizona and the Four Corners area will receive more than \$1.2 million in STEM-supported grants.

STEM careers are rapidly growing in Yuma and around the state, and we are fortunate to have organizations that are determined to make Arizona an emerging and innovative place to live and work. These organizations, including Teach for America and Valley of the Sun YMCA, are known for their impactful work in STEM education throughout Arizona and, more importantly, right here in Yuma.

"These grants will help move their efforts forward, including encouraging and preparing Arizona students to pursue future jobs in technology, clean energy and other STEM-related careers," said Tina Marie Tentori, executive director of the APS Foundation.

Teachers are the most important part of the educational system and have had an influential impact in many young lives. As a result, it makes sense that a majority of the APS Foundation's funding is designated to help teachers integrate STEM curriculum. Several of the grants directly impact Yuma students.

The Arizona Science Center received a grant to support the continuation of their program that supports teachers in rural school districts all over Arizona, including Yuma. This \$385,000 grant will help teachers and students expand their knowledge of STEM with hands-on activities and real world engineering challenges.



The Valley of the Sun YMCA received a grant that will help introduce the Science Thursday program, which will be a weekly one-hour STEM-related project at after-school childcare sites in Yuma and other locations across the state. These organizations directly impact the Yuma and Somerton area with hundreds of students and teachers involved.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, more than half of the 30 fastest-growing occupations require the mastery of STEM subjects. That's one reason why these projects are encouraging limited-income elementary school students to pursue STEM careers.

The APS Foundation has been expanding its investment this year in STEM education in rural areas and in scholarship funds for students pursuing STEM majors. If you're interested in becoming a part of the program, applications and more information on grant eligibility can be found at [www.aps.com/corporategiving](http://www.aps.com/corporategiving). The second round of APS Foundation grant applications for 2016 opened on July 15 with a deadline of Sept. 1, 2016.

Anna Chaulk is the community affairs manager for APS. She can be reached at [anna.chaulk@aps.com](mailto:anna.chaulk@aps.com).



Loaned photo

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Yuma Community

# Career & Education Expo

Expó de Educación y Empleo

September 7, 2016  
9 am - 1 pm

Yuma Civic Center  
1440 W. Desert Hill Drive



Equal Opportunity Employer / Program Auxiliary Aids and Services are Available Upon Request to Individuals with Disabilities.

Empleador con igualdad de oportunidades / servicios y asistencia auxiliares disponibles para personas con discapacidades



Yuma Community Career Expo Contact Numbers