



## Hotel gets permission to start construction

TWENTYNINE PALMS — Sometime this month construction is expected to begin on an 80-room, two-story, free-standing Marriott Fairfield Inn at 6333 Encelia Ave. north of Twenty-nine Palms Highway and across the highway from the Stater Bros. Center.

Representatives from K Partners Hospitality Group, developers of the hotel, gathered at Twenty-nine Palms City Hall on Wednesday, March 5 to pull building permits and discuss the project with city officials.

Later that day, watering of the 10-acre site began with an eye toward breaking ground sometime in March and having the 50,272-square-foot hotel up and open for business sometime in the spring of 2009.

In addition to building the hotel, developers will connect Encelia, which becomes something less than a dirt path south of Gorgonio Drive, to Twenty-nine Palms Highway.

"That should reduce some of the traffic at Lupine," Community Development Director Alex Meyerhoff said Thursday morning.

He noted that some earth will have to be removed from the site and some grading will have to be done before construction can begin.

He also noted that, when the hotel is complet-

ed, the city of Twenty-nine Palms will be home to more than 500 hotel rooms.

"It is no surprise the Marriott has selected the city of Twenty-nine Palms. Tourism is a major element of our local economy," Twenty-nine Palms Mayor Elaine Bernal said.

"We are pleased that another nationally-recognized hotel franchise has decided to locate in our beautiful community," Bernal added.

"Economic development is a key priority for the city," City Manager Michael Tree said.

"Numerous business opportunities exist within the city of Twenty-nine Palms," Meyerhoff said.

"Business opportunities exist in Twenty-nine Palms in the areas of apparel, general merchandise, food stores, eating and drinking places, home furnishings and appliances, building materials, auto dealers, service stations and other retail stores," Meyerhoff added.

A number of commercial projects proposed or in the pipeline include the 81-room La Quinta Inn and Suites, a 14-square-foot Walgreens, a 9,600-square-foot in line center anchored by Kragen Auto Parts, a Fish-A-Licious restaurant, Sam's Grill and a Quiznos restaurant.



**While Twentynine Palms City Council members look on**, Daniel Muzquiz, left, Leonard Young and Mark Crisci from K Partners Hospitality Group pick up building permits which will let them start construction on the Marriott Fairfield Inn at 6333 Encelia Ave. on Twentynine Palms Highway across from the Stater Bros. center.

KURT SCHAUPLNER, The Desert Trail