



You've come a long way, De Anza

Blighted motor lodge undergoing \$9M renovation

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What a difference a year makes. Long abandoned and blighted with a chain-link fence surrounding the property, the De Anza Motor Lodge was clearly an eyesore along Central Avenue when developers broke ground on the project last November, said Jim Trump, construction project manager of the mixed-use development.

Flash forward: The De Anza, which is being rebuilt at a cost of just under \$9 million, looks drastically different, said Trump, who recently provided a progress report.

Nearly all of the buildings have come down; only a couple remain, such as the Turquoise Cafe coffee shop. "Indeed, we've got a very strong prospect there," said Trump about a potential tenant for Turquoise.

One of the challenges at the construction site is that it's a "very tight" workplace in which to maneuver, said Trump. "Our subcontractor did a lot of framing off site" at a fabrication facility and reassembled the structures now in place.

Ninety percent of the infrastructure work is com-



JIM THOMPSON/JOURNAL

The De Anza property, an old Route 66 motor lodge on Central Avenue, is tentatively scheduled to reopen in April, with a hotel and apartment complex, as well as restaurants, retailers and office tenants.

pleted, such as an upgraded electrical system and sewer lines. "We're going to asphalt to the curb in the next 30 days and move the fence back so it's not all the way up on Central" said Trump, speaking on behalf of the development team, which includes HB Construction, TLC Plumbing and Utility and Hartman + Majewski Design.

"You can start to see the 'massing' now taking place" on the property, said Trump.

Purchased by the City of Albuquerque in 2003 for nearly \$891,000, it took three attempts to finally secure a development partner with a vision for the historic landmark in East Nob Hill.

The De Anza will be replaced by a new hotel and apartment complex, restaurants, retailers and