

TUSTIN BRANCH TRAIL TALKING POINTS:

Thank you for the introduction and project information, OC Parks Director Mark Denny

I too would like to thank our OC Parks staff, especially the Project Manager Clay Whisenant who not only worked on the completion of the Trail, but worked with many of the residents that abut this project.

It's not everyday that we get to dedicate new trails in the County. But, this trail is especially important.

Not only is this an extension of the most used trail in North Tustin, but it has unique history to the greater Orange and Tustin areas:

1888- Southern Pacific Railroad builds a line south out from Anaheim

1888- 1969- The Tustin Branch serves agriculture industry for 80 years

1969- The branch is abandoned when floods damage a bridge over Santiago Creek.

1971- The County of Orange creates the Master Plan of Countywide Bikeways

1978- County Board of Supervisors removes the Trail from the Master Plan at the request of the residents

1991- County of Orange, Harbors, Beaches and Parks (HBP) acquires a segment of the right-of-way and develops it as a greenway between Fairhaven and 17th Street, the Esplanade Trail

1996- Knowlton Communities begins development of a residential project south of 17th Street in North Tustin. Knowlton agrees to construct a segment of the trail between 17th Street and Vanderlip.

1997- The County begins the acquisition process for the segment between Vanderlip Avenue and Tustin city limits

Knowlton Communities completes the trail between 17th Street and Vanderlip Avenue.

2004- In December, after 14 years of effort by County staff, the Board of Supervisors, and the public, the County becomes the owner of two vital segments of the right-of-way between Vanderlip and Warren. But then had to acquire small portions of property from homeowners who had purchased segments from Union Pacific Railroad

2009- The Board of Supervisors awards a contract to R. J. Bullard Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$449,600 for the construction of the “Tustin Branch Trail and Greenway” project.

I know that many residents have lived in this area for 20, 30 and even 40 years. You remember discussions of a possible bike and hiking trail.

Today, it is with great pride, that I dedicate the Tustin Branch Trail.