



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Date: Wednesday, March 3, 2010

TUSTIN NAMED TREE CITY USA FOR 14TH YEAR

Arbor Day Celebration March 10th at 9:30 am at Tustin Sports Park

TUSTIN, Calif. – On Wednesday, March 10th from 9:30 to 11:30 am, the City of Tustin will celebrate Arbor Day by being honored Tree City USA for the 14th consecutive year and Tree City USA Growth for the 12th consecutive year. The ceremony will be held near the soccer fields at the Tustin Sports Park, which is located at 12850 Robinson Drive. Mayor Amante will lead the ceremony and special guests will include representatives from the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection as well as students from Tustin Ranch Elementary School. The public is welcome to join the festivities. In case of rain, arrangements have been made to move the ceremony to a classroom at Myford Elementary School, located at 3181 Trevino Drive.

During the Arbor Day Ceremony, a pine tree will be planted. It will be the first of many pine trees to be planted this year to create a canopy along the park walkway near the basketball courts.

Tustin budgets \$440,000 annually to care for the approximately 15,850 trees in Tustin's urban forest. Additionally, each year approximately 6,500 trees are trimmed and 150-200 trees are planted. Arborists estimate

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that a single tree, if it lives for 50 years, can be valued at hundreds of thousands of dollars. Mature trees at homes can raise their value 10-20%. Trees provide invaluable community benefits including adding oxygen and humidity to the air while removing pollution particles, helping to control erosion, saving energy in the summer by cooling buildings, and providing shelter to wildlife. The beauty a tree adds to the community cannot be valued in dollars.

The prestigious Tree City USA Award recognizes environmental improvement and higher levels of tree care in Tree City USA communities. Last fall, the City adopted an Urban Forest Management Plan. The sixteen-page plan serves as a resource for selecting, maintaining, and replacing trees in Tustin's urban forest. The plan sets forth guidelines for the maintenance of the tree inventory, planting and pruning of trees, removal and replacement of trees, and furnishes the necessary considerations to preserve the infrastructure affected by the trees.

The Tree City USA program is sponsored by the National Arbor Day Foundation in cooperation with the National Association of State Foresters and the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service. Although celebrated in many countries, the first Arbor Day occurred in Nebraska when, in 1872. J. Sterling Morton and his pioneer friends encouraged the planting of trees because they missed the beautiful trees they were used to in their former home states. Through his journalistic writings, Morton educated thousands on the benefits of trees in fighting soil erosion, and for acting as windbreaks, fuel, and shade.

In addition to being recognized as a Tree City USA again, the City will also be honored with a Tree City USA Growth designation for the 12th

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consecutive year. This status is granted to cities for environmental improvements as a result of a higher level of tree care. Tustin, over the past several years has demonstrated progress in its community forestry program in several areas including education and public relations, continuing education for tree managers, municipal funding for our urban forest, extensively cataloging the tree inventory, maintaining a computerized tree-management system and developing the Urban Forestry Management Plan.

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