

## **Backgrounder**

July 16, 2007

### **For Immediate Release**

**Contact:**

**Lisa Woolery**

**(714) 573-3330**

**[lwoolery@tustinca.org](mailto:lwoolery@tustinca.org)**



### **CITY OF TUSTIN BEGINS ENGINEERING WORK FOR EXTENSION OF TUSTIN RANCH ROAD**

TUSTIN, California. – For the last several months many who pass by the new Tustin Legacy Development (formerly the Tustin Marine Corp Air Station), or Tustin Legacy, along Edinger Avenue have noticed a massive pile of dirt. This is the beginning of the Tustin Ranch Road Extension project which will extend Tustin Ranch Road from I-5 to connect with Von Karman Avenue in Irvine, just past Barranca Parkway.

Currently, in the south near Barranca Parkway, as part of development at the southeast portion of the base near the District at Tustin Legacy, Tustin Ranch Road has been extended from Irvine (Von Karman Avenue) through to where it will intersect with Warner Avenue. The approximate time of completion of the entire extension of Tustin Ranch Road, from I-5 to Von Karman Avenue is 2009.

“The Tustin Ranch Road extension has been long awaited by both residents of Tustin and those who use North/South routes through Tustin. This new route is greatly needed and essential as Tustin continues to grow,” said Mayor Lou Bone. “Now that Tustin Legacy is being developed, the road will be built to offer the most use to both the new residents in our City and to those that live in the region.”

The road, which has been designated as a Major Arterial in the County's Master Plan of Arterial Highways and in the Circulation Element of the Tustin General Plan, has been in the plans for eventual completion since the 1970s. Prior to the base closure, the plan was just for Tustin Ranch Road to connect to Edinger Avenue. Building the road in conjunction with Tustin Legacy development will be a benefit to the region by providing access to new residents and provide relief to other arterials, such as Red Hill Avenue. The road will be six lanes and will be continued from its current terminus at Walnut Avenue through Tustin Legacy and connect with a new portion of Tustin Ranch Road that was recently constructed which will continue through Irvine as Von Karman Avenue.

As part of the development agreement with Tustin Legacy Community Partners (TLCP), the Master Developer that is developing the largest footprint of Tustin Legacy, will build the road to the interchange at Tustin Ranch Road and Edinger and extend Tustin Ranch Road to Walnut Avenue. Currently the estimated cost will be \$26 million. The City will play an active role in permitting and inspecting the construction.

As part of the engineering process, the dirt has been piled with time for it to settle, a technique called "surcharging" allowing the ground to settle before the road is built. Settlement is expected to be approximately three feet to create a sound base for the road which will bridge over Edinger Avenue, the railroad tracks and the Orange County Flood Control Channel.

The roadway, which is expected to have an average daily traffic rate of approximately 40,000 trips per day, will include a landscaped median, a sidewalk on the east side of the street, a bike lane on both sides of the street, and few driveways to reduce roadway interruption. Additional project improvements include double left turn lanes for all legs of the intersection of Tustin Ranch Road/Walnut Avenue, the addition of street lighting, bus turnouts and right turn lanes for northbound Tustin Ranch Road and westbound Walnut

Avenue. To mitigate traffic noise, a masonry block wall will be built along the western edge of Tustin Ranch Road beginning at Walnut Avenue and ending at the bridge over the three facilities outlined above.

### **About the City of Tustin**

Located in the heart of Orange County, Tustin embraces both the historical past of citrus groves and the promising future of a vibrant 21st Century economy. From rustic Old Town Tustin to vital Tustin Ranch and the emerging Legacy development, Tustin is the place that 72,542 people, many families and businesses choose to call home. Tustin is the most dynamic city in Orange County and a significant contributor to Orange County's world-competitive economy. Families choose to live in Tustin because of its central location and small town feel. Businesses choose to locate in Tustin because of its central location and easy access to transportation. The City is proud of its reputation for sound fiscal management and its progressive, business-friendly atmosphere.

**###**