



COMING UP: Saturday dedication for new tunnel

Stevens Creek Trail now extends to south side of El Camino Real

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For nearly a year, workers tunneled their way beneath El Camino Real while 4,000 cars barreled by overhead every hour.

Now their work is all but complete, and on April 12 the city will hold a ceremony to dedicate the southernmost leg of the Stevens Creek Trail, which now goes from Shoreline Park to the south side of El Camino.

Engineer Bob Kagiya said the \$3.5 million project would not have happened without the city's aggressive efforts to get over \$2 million in grant funding. He added that the city was lucky to have a good contractor.

The biggest challenge: moving numerous utility lines, which were under El Camino Real and are now buried beneath the tunnel. Also, two rundown residential buildings had to be demolished at the end of Yuba Drive.

Among its features, the tunnel has a set of thick glass skylights laid in the middle of El Camino, providing natural light at the midway point.

Last Friday, workers were tiling the mouth of the tunnel and putting the final touches on the extension from Yuba Drive, where Stevens Creek Trail used to terminate. The extension will be lined with 17 different kinds of plants native to the Stevens Creek watershed.

This summer the city hopes to begin on the next extension, which will continue the trail to a bridge at Sleeper Avenue, creating another neighborhood access point.

The April 12 ribbon cutting is scheduled for 10 a.m. Participants are encouraged to park cars at Landels Elementary School and walk or bike to the dedication, which begins at the Yuba Drive trailhead. There will be a short walk to the tunnel for a ceremony, refreshments and entertainment.

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