

Councilman
TONY CARDENAS
6th Council District



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CITY'S LARGEST SINKHOLE SEES ITS
FIRST WEEKEND AS MAJOR THOROUGHFARE

*Councilman Says New Street is a Huge Traffic Relief
To Near-By Communities*

Sun Valley- Councilman Tony Cardenas joined officials from the Los Angeles Department of Public Works in re-opening the newly installed Tujunga Avenue, expected to give major traffic relief to near-by communities starting this weekend. The street was closed in 2005 due to massive flooding that caused a 30-foot deep sinkhole and major accidents including the fatal fall of Public Works employee Rory Shaw. Shaw started his employment with the department in 1992. A video of the re-opening ceremony dedicated to Shaw is attached.

"This work was done by the hands of human beings who rolled up their sleeves and went beyond the call of duty. To me, that is very precious and unfortunately, all too often, we overlook that," said Cardenas.

"It was the biggest sinkhole- wash-out the Bureau of Engineering had ever seen," said City Engineer Gary Moore, LA Bureau of Engineering. "We are proud to dedicate this re-opening to Rory Shaw. He was a hard-working public servant and he was proud of his job."

According to the Bureau of Engineering, the original pavement on Tujunga just north of Strathern was poured over a wash in 1928. Decades of erosion caused the sinkhole measured in size to be about 275-feet long, 80-feet wide, and 30-feet deep. The new street is a relief to many residents and business owners in the area who were heavily impacted.

"Some of these concrete trucks belonging to industrial businesses here couldn't get in and out at all," said Jon Eshback, Sun Valley Neighborhood Council President.

"We can finally walk our dogs up and down this street again and I don't have to take a ten minute detour in morning traffic to get to work anymore," said Sun Valley resident Maria Matsuda.

Before the new street was installed, fire trucks serving the area were driving around the worksite to Vineland in order to respond to calls. Officials expect response time to be much better now. Tujunga Avenue serves Sun Valley and North Hollywood.

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