



During the 1880's, the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railroad rushed to compete with the Southern Pacific for southern California traffic. The AT&SF's first objective was to reach a Pacific Coast port, when the SP was already in Los Angeles and the Central Pacific was already in the San Francisco Bay Area. The AT&SF first reached tidewater at Guaymas, Sonora, Mexico, in 1882, via its New Mexico & Arizona and Sonora railroads. But the AT&SF lost no time continuing toward the only major California port without rail service, San Diego. The AT&SF formed the California Southern Railroad to build north from San Diego up Temecula Canyon and over Cajon Pass to reach the SP-built, AT&SF-leased mainline at Barstow. AT&SF trains first arrived in San Diego in 1885, and by 1888 the difficult Temecula Canyon portion of the CS line, which was subject to repeated washouts, was circumvented by the AT&SF's coastal route to San Diego, built by the Riverside, Santa Ana & Los Angeles and the San Bernardino & San Diego railroads.

Here at San Clemente, the SB&SD was built right on the beach.





Another view of the SB&SD at San Clemente.



Amtrak now plies the rails first graded at the base of the sea cliffs at San Clemente by the SB&SD in 1888.