

**LA PATA AVENUE GAP CLOSURE AND CAMINO DEL RIO EXTENSION PROJECT
NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY/PUBLIC MEETING
FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT**

This notice is intended to inform interested parties of the availability of the Final Environmental Impact Report (Final EIR) for the proposed La Pata Gap Closure and Camino Del Rio Extension Project (proposed project).

The proposed project is located in the City of San Clemente and unincorporated Orange County (County). The proposed project will widen La Pata Avenue from three to five lanes, from approximately 2,700 feet south of Ortega Highway (State Route 74 [SR-74]) in the County to the existing road terminus at the County's Prima Deshecha Landfill, and implement a gap closure by constructing four new lanes from the existing terminus to Calle Saluda and Avenida La Pata in the City of San Clemente, and the extension of Camino Del Rio from its existing terminus in the Forster Ranch community of San Clemente to the proposed Avenida La Pata. Environmental analysis for each section of La Pata Avenue, from SR-74 to 2,700 feet south, was completed as part of the proposed Antonio Parkway widening project. The purpose of the proposed project is to eliminate an existing gap in the County arterial highway system and establish a connection between SR-74 to the north and Calle Saluda to the south.

The EIR was prepared to analyze the environmental impacts associated with implementation of the proposed project; to discuss alternatives; and to propose mitigation measures for identified potentially significant impacts that will minimize, offset, or otherwise reduce or avoid those environmental impacts. Pursuant to the Guidelines for the California Environmental Quality Act Section 15088, the County has evaluated comments on environmental issues received from persons who received the Draft EIR and prepared a written response. Volume IV of the Final EIR considers and responds to the comments received on the Draft EIR (State Clearinghouse No. 2005061051) for the proposed project, which was issued November 3, 2010.

The Final EIR examines the potential impacts generated by the proposed project in relation to the following Environmental Analysis Checklist categories: Land Use, Traffic, Air Quality, Noise, Aesthetics, Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Geology and Soils, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Population and Housing, Hydrology and Water Quality, Public Services and Utilities, Recreation, Agricultural Resources, Mineral Resources, and Global Climate Change. The project site is not listed as a hazardous waste site under Government Code Section 65962.5. The proposed project would result in significant unavoidable adverse impacts related to construction air quality, long-term traffic circulation, and long-term noise.

Public Meeting: The County Planning Commission will hold a public meeting on Wednesday, April 27, at 1:30 p.m., in the Planning Commission Hearing Room, on the first floor of the County Hall of Administration, located at 333 W. Santa Ana Blvd., Santa Ana. The Planning Commission will be adopting a resolution to recommend the County Board of Supervisors select both the proposed project as the preferred alignment and certify the EIR.

Copies of Final EIR for Review:

County of Orange Department of Public Works
300 North Flower Street
Santa Ana, CA 92703

San Clemente Library
242 Avenida Del Mar
San Clemente, CA 92672

City of San Clemente
100 Avenida Presidio
San Clemente, CA 92673

San Juan Capistrano Regional Library
31495 El Camino Real
San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675

City of San Juan Capistrano
32400 Paseo Adelanto
San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675

County of Orange Public Works website: www.ocpublicworks.com

Hardcopies and/or CDs of the Final EIR may be purchased for the cost of reproduction at the County Department of Public Works. For more information, please contact Harry Persaud, Division Manager, Planned Communities, at the County Department of Public Works, 300 North Flower Street, Santa Ana, CA 92703, or at Lapataproject@ocpw.ocgov.com.