

November 3, 2010

**Subject: La Pata Gap Closure/Camino del Rio Extension Project
Draft EIR Released for Public Review**

Dear Interested Party:

I am writing to provide you with an update on the status of the proposed La Pata Gap Closure and Camino del Rio Extension in your community to complete the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and establishment of a final road alignment. This is the fourth of several letters that have been sent in an effort to keep you apprised of current activities, upcoming meetings, schedules and important information.

Preparation of the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) has been completed and the document was released for a 45-day public review period on November 3, 2010. The Notice of Availability is attached for your information. The DEIR examines the proposed project that would extend and widen the existing 1.8-mile portion of La Pata Avenue south of Ortega Highway, outside the City of San Juan Capistrano, roughly two miles to connect with La Pata Avenue in San Clemente at Calle Saluda. The project would close the "gap" between the two roadway segments – providing an essential link in the local roadway network. The project also includes the Camino del Rio quarter-mile extension to the future La Pata Avenue from where it ends, just east of Camino de Los Mares. Both highways are proposed as four-lane roadways. The attached exhibit illustrates the proposed project.

Along with the release of the DEIR, the second of two public meetings will be held:

**November 18, 2010 at 7:30 p.m.
San Clemente Community Center-Auditorium
100 North Calle Seville
San Clemente, California 92672**

The first public meeting in the City of San Clemente was held on December 2, 2009 and gave interested parties an opportunity to comment on the proposed scope and content of the environmental information to be included in the draft EIR. The November 18 public meeting will give the community and interested parties the chance to provide input on the draft EIR document.

The DEIR is available for public review until December 17, 2010. If you would like to provide input to the County regarding the Draft EIR, you can do so through the County's

website, by sending an e-mail to the address at the end of this letter or by mailing comments to the address provided. The Draft EIR is available for review at the following locations:

- County of Orange
Department of Public Works
300 North Flower Street, Room 622
Santa Ana, CA 92703
- San Juan Capistrano Regional Library
31495 El Camino Real
San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675
- San Clemente Library
242 Avenida Del Mar
San Clemente, CA 92672
- City of San Juan Capistrano
32400 Paseo Adelanto
San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675
- City of San Clemente
100 Avenida Presidio
San Clemente, CA 92673

Your participation and input throughout this process is key to ensuring that all environmental issues are properly addressed in the EIR and that the alignment selected for the proposed project will relieve traffic congestion, improve access to neighboring communities, minimize environmental impacts and maintain the area's high quality of life.

You can obtain additional information through the County's website by clicking on the La Pata Gap Closure and Camino del Rio Extension link at www.ocpublicworks.com/pcpw/projects/lapata.aspx. The link contains substantial information regarding the project and upcoming events. Written comments regarding the Draft EIR may be sent to the following address:

County of Orange, Public Works Division
Attn: Mr. Harry Persaud
300 North Flower Street, Room 622
Santa Ana, CA. 92703

You can also contact Project Manager Harry Persaud for information at 714-834-2694 or e-mail LaPataProject@ocpw.ocgov.com.

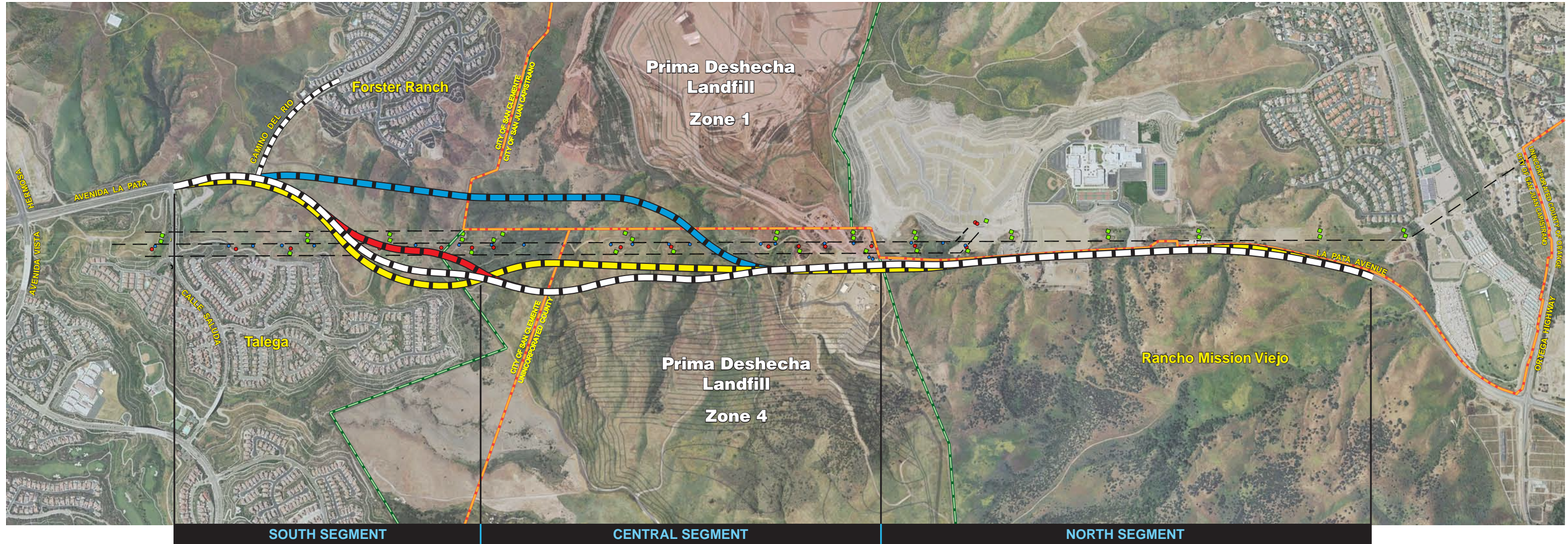
Sincerely,



Harry Persaud
Division Manager, Planned Communities/Public Works
E-mail Address: Harry.Persaud@ocpw.ocgov.com

HP/mmc

Attachment: Project alignment alternatives
Notice of Availability



- Westerly Alignment
- Easterly Alignment
- Proposed Project Alignment
- Proposed Project Variation



COUNTY OF ORANGE
300 N. FLOWER ST.
SANTA ANA, CA. 92703

La Pata Gap Closure and Camino Del Rio Extension

Fact Sheet No. 2

NOVEMBER 2010

- Current effort is for preparation of an Environmental Impact Report.
- Environmental work will take about 15 months to complete.
- The "Proposed Project" is a minimum of 350 feet from the nearest Talega property.
- Camino del Rio extension will connect with future La Pata
- Environmental Review will analyze both roadways as 4-lane facilities.
- La Pata Gap Closure is about 2 miles in length.
- Camino Del Rio Extension is about 1/4-mile in length.



Overview/Public Meeting

The County of Orange has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact (DEIR) Report for the La Pata Gap Closure and Camino del Rio Extension projects. **The DEIR was released for a 45-day public review/comment period November 3, 2010. The public may comment on the DEIR until December 17, 2010.**

The process includes studying environmental impacts for a proposed project and reviewing several previously studied alignments. The proposed project provides a minimum separation of 350 feet from the nearest residence in the Talega development. Proposed im-

provements will ease local traffic and improve travel options among neighboring communities while minimizing environmental impacts.

A public meeting will take place at 7:30 p.m. November 18, 2010 at the San Clemente Community Center, which is located at 100 N. Calle Seville, to review the Draft EIR and provide critical project information.

The DEIR is available at San Clemente and San Juan Capistrano Libraries and both City Halls. It is also available at the County offices in Santa Ana and on the web site provided below.

Project

The project proposes to extend the 1.8-mile existing section of La Pata Avenue south of Ortega Highway, roughly two miles south to connect with existing La Pata Avenue in San Clemente at Calle Saluda. The project would close the "gap" between the two roadway segments and provide a critical link in the regional roadway network. The proposed project will also consider the Camino Del Rio quarter-mile extension to future La Pata Avenue, from where it currently ends east of Camino de Los Mares. Both roadways are proposed as four-lane facilities. All trail connections will be maintained.



Project Schedule

Public Scoping Meeting.....December 2, 2009
Release Draft EIR.....November 3, 2010
Public Comment Period....Nov 3-Dec 17, 2010
Public Meeting.....November 18, 2010
Final Environmental Report.....1st Qtr, 2011
Certify Environmental.....1st Qtr, 2011

Stay Connected

On the Web

www.ocpublicworks.com/pcpw/projects/lapata.aspx

Or Contact

Harry Persaud-Project Manager
300 N. Flower, 5th Fl. #509
Santa Ana, Ca. 92703-5000
(714) 834-2694
LaPataProject@ocpw.ocgov.com