

Draft Environmental Impact Report Review and Public Meeting in November Regarding Proposed La Pata Gap Closure, Camino del Rio Extension

A Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the proposed La Pata Gap Closure and Camino del Rio Extension is available for a 45-day public review period on November 3. The County of Orange on November 18 will host a public meeting to obtain community input on the proposed project that is intended to relieve traffic congestion, minimize environmental impacts and maintain and improve south Orange County's quality of life.

The November 18 public meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. in the City of San Clemente, Community Center Auditorium located at 100 North Calle Seville in San Clemente. The meeting will give residents and interested parties the opportunity to ask questions and raise any issues about potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed La Pata Gap Closure project between Ortega Highway, just outside of San Juan Capistrano, and Calle Saluda in San Clemente. The project also includes extending Camino del Rio from where it currently ends to connect with the proposed La Pata extension. This is the second public meeting the County has hosted on the proposed project. On December 2, 2009, a scoping meeting gave residents and interested parties the opportunity to comment on the proposed scope and content of the environmental information to be included in the DEIR.

The DEIR evaluates potential environmental impacts of the proposed project that would widen La Pata Avenue from three to five lanes from about 2,700 feet south of Ortega Highway to the County's Prima Deshecha Landfill and extend it by constructing four new lanes from the landfill south to Calle Saluda and Avenida La Pata in San Clemente. The DEIR also evaluates potential environmental impacts of the extension of Camino del Rio Street from its current terminus to its future connection with La Pata Avenue.

The Draft EIR is available at the following locations for review and on the County web site provided below:

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

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The public has until December 17, 2010 to comment on the DEIR. Public comments can be submitted through the County's website at www.ocpublicworks.com/pcpw/projects/lapata.aspx; e-mailed to LaPataProject@ocpw.ocgov.com; or mailed to:

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

For more information, contact Harry Persaud at 714-834-2694 or
LaPataProject@ocpw.ocgov.com.