

April 18, 2011

**Subject: La Pata Gap Closure/Camino del Rio Extension Project  
County Planning Commission Meeting to Certify Final Environmental  
Impact Report**

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 to complete the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and establish a final road alignment. This is the fifth of several letters that are being sent in an effort to keep you apprised of current activities, upcoming meetings, schedules and important information.

Preparation of the Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR) includes examining 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 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 Final EIR further takes into consideration and addresses all written comments received on the project from the scoping sessions and public meetings through the Draft EIR phases. The Final EIR will be presented to the County Planning Commission for consideration and recommendation to the County Board of Supervisors. A copy of the legal Notice of Availability/Public Meeting is attached for your information. The County Planning Commission is expected to make a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors to adopt a preferred alignment and certify the final EIR document. The meeting date and time is as follows:

**County Hall of Administration  
Planning Commission Hearing Room, First Floor  
333 W. Santa Ana Blvd., 10 Civic Center Plaza  
Santa Ana, California 92703  
Wednesday, April 27, 2011  
1:30 PM**

The Final EIR is available for public review at the following addresses:

- 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

The document is also available via the county website at [www.ocpublicworks.com/pcpw/projects/lapata.aspx](http://www.ocpublicworks.com/pcpw/projects/lapata.aspx). The website also contains substantial information regarding the project. For more information you can also contact Project Manager, Harry Persaud at (714) 834-2694 or via e-mail at [LaPataProject@ocpw.gov.com](mailto:LaPataProject@ocpw.gov.com)

Public participation and input throughout this process has been essential to ensuring that all environmental issues are properly addressed in the Final EIR. Thank you for your time and valuable participation throughout this process.

Sincerely,



Harry Persaud, AICP, PMP  
Manager, Planned Communities/Public Works  
E-mail Address: [Harry.Persaud@ocpw.ocgov.com](mailto:Harry.Persaud@ocpw.ocgov.com)

Attachment: Notice of Availability/Public Meeting

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

This notice is intended to inform interested parties of the availability of the Draft 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 900 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 900 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 Draft 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 Draft 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 Draft 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](http://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](mailto:Lapataproject@ocpw.ocgov.com).