

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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OC PUBLIC WORKS LAUNCHES CAMINO DEL RIO EXTENSION PHASE OF ITS LA PATA EXTENSION PROJECT

With the La Pata “Gap Connector” phase now open for public use, construction begins on the project’s Camino Del Rio Extension phase in San Clemente, in addition to La Pata widening south of Ortega Highway

With the County of Orange recently hosting public celebration for completing the first phase of its La Pata Extension Project, a new 2.3-mile road extension that opened on August 14 to directly connect San Clemente, San Juan Capistrano and other neighboring communities, the County’s OC Public Works is now launching a project phase this month that will also extend the existing Camino Del Rio roadway in the Forster Ranch community in San Clemente to the newly connected La Pata Avenue.



As part of the overall La Pata Extension project, the Camino Del Rio Extension is scheduled to be completed in eight months and will add approximately 0.5 mile in length to the existing road. The Camino Del Rio improvements will also accommodate pedestrians and bicyclists by constructing streetlights, bike lanes and sidewalks. Immediate activities will include fencing, clearing and grubbing and earthwork. Completion of the Camino Del Rio Extension phase is anticipated to be in April 2017.

Construction updates about the Camino Del Rio Extension with expected activities and other information will be posted on the project web site and distributed to nearby and interested residents as the project progresses. Sukut Construction is the County’s general contractor performing the construction of all project phases.

OC Public Works is also underway on a project phase of widening approximately 1.4 miles of the existing La Pata Avenue with an additional lane in each direction between Ortega Highway and Stallion Ridge (formerly Vista Montana). The improvements will include a dedicated southbound turn lane toward San Juan Hills High School to enhance the flow of traffic. Completion of the La Pata widening phase between Ortega Highway and Stallion Ridge is anticipated to be in February 2018.

The La Pata Extension Project is increasing regional mobility in south Orange County and connecting communities by eliminating the existing gap between Ortega Highway near San Juan Capistrano and Avenida Vista Hermosa in San Clemente. For many drivers, it cut commute times to those areas by 20 minutes by serving as a north-south alternative to Interstate 5.

OC Public Works broke ground on the first phase, the “gap connector” portion that extended La Pata Avenue, in April of 2014 and completed earlier this month. The newly connected La Pata Avenue opened for public use on August 14, adding four new travel lanes and extending the existing La Pata Avenue from Stallion Ridge in the north to the La Pata-Calle Saluda intersection in the south.

For additional project information, visit the project web site at lapata.ocpublicworks.com, call the project hotline at **844-4-LAPATA (452-7282)** or visit the OC Public Works Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/ocpublicworks>

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