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WELCOME

INTERSTATE 5

EL TORO RD. INTERCHANGE PROJECT

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING
OPEN HOUSE FORUM

Wednesday, July 26 , 2023
Doors Open: From 4- 7 p.m.

Lake Forest Community Center
Public Event, Free Parking

VIRTUAL SCOPING MEETING
OPEN HOUSE FORUM

Thursday, August 3, 2023
4 - 7 p.m.

visit bit.ly/ETRopenhouse to register

Caltrans OCTA OCGO Local Tax Dollars at Work City of Lake Forest December 20, 1991 City of Laguna Hills 1991

INTRODUCTION

The proposed project is in the early stages of the Project Approval/Environmental Document (PA/ED) phase, commonly referred to as the environmental review and preliminary design phase.

In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the proposed project is undergoing environmental analysis to:

- Determine what effect, if any, the proposed project would have on the environment;
- Develop measures to avoid, minimize and/or mitigate these effects; and
- Identify potential travel benefits of the proposed project within the study limits.

The results will be incorporated into the project's Draft Environmental Document (DED), called an Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Assessment (EIR/EA).

PURPOSE OF PUBLIC MEETING

INFORM
the public of the I-5/El Toro Road Interchange Project

PROVIDE
a forum for public discussion

LISTEN
to public concerns

RECAP
the existing and future project need

HIGHLIGHT
significance of the I-5/El Toro Road Interchange locally and regionally

SUMMARIZE
the environmental study process

OUTLINE
the project schedule

INVITE
the public to stay connected with the project

Caltrans OCTA OC GO

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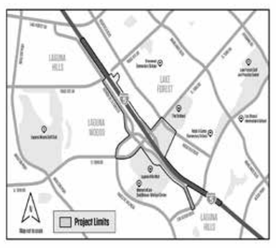
OUTREACH

NOTICE OF PREPARATION

PUBLIC SCOPING NOTICE

I-5/El Toro Road Interchange Project

Notice of Public Scoping Meetings (Open Forum) for an Environmental Impact Report (EIR)/ Environmental Assessment (EA) and Availability of Notice of Preparation (NOP) for an EIR



WHAT'S BEING PLANNED?

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), in partnership with the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) proposes to modify the interstate 5 (I-5)/El Toro Road interchange (PM 17.8/19.7) within the cities of Lake Forest, Laguna Woods, and Laguna Hills. The purpose of the project is to improve traffic flow, optimize traffic signalization, improve traffic mobility through adjacent local street intersections, reduce freeway ramp queuing and apply technology to help manage traffic demand. Currently, the project is in the environmental review and preliminary engineering process. Three preliminary alternatives, including two Build Alternatives and the No Build Alternative are under consideration.

WHY THIS AD?

This notice is to inform you that Caltrans is re-initiating the environmental and engineering studies for this project. An Environmental Impact Report (ER) and Environmental Assessment (EA) will be prepared to evaluate potential effects that could result from the proposed project. In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the environmental document will be prepared as a joint environmental document. This is the Caltrans Project Approval and Environmental Document (PA&ED) phase for this Project.

We are engaging in a scoping process to consider input from the public, resource agencies, and stakeholders on the depth and breadth of issues that should be addressed in the environmental document. In-person and virtual public scoping meetings will be held to inform you about the project, and to give you an opportunity to provide comments or concerns. Your comments during the scoping period will become part of the public record and will be considered in developing the environmental document and defining the project scope. A purpose and need statement for the project, preliminary alternative concepts, an overview of the environmental process, schedule, and other information will be available for viewing at these meetings.

WHAT'S AVAILABLE?

The Notice of Preparation and additional project materials will be available for public review and comment at **dot.ca.gov/caltrans-near-me/district-12/district-12-programs/district-12-environmental/i-5-el-toro-road-interchange-improvement-project**. The NOP will also be available at the following locations for viewing during normal business hours:

- **Caltrans District 12**, 1750 E. 4th St. #100, Santa Ana, CA 92705
- **El Toro Library**, 24672 Raymond Way, Lake Forest, CA 92630
- **Laguna Woods Village Library**, 24266 Calle Aragon, Laguna Woods, CA 92637
- **Laguna Hills Technology Library**, 25555 Alicia Pkwy, Laguna Hills, CA 92653

WHERE YOU COME IN?

Comments can be submitted during the public scoping period **(July 11, 2023 – August 25, 2023)** in any of the following formats:

- Online comment form at the Caltrans website: **dot.ca.gov/caltrans-near-me/district-12/district-12-programs/district-12-environmental/i-5-el-toro-road-interchange-improvement-project**
- Email comments to **D12.ELToro@dot.ca.gov** with the subject line "**I-5 El Toro Road Interchange Project**".
- Regular mail to **Emily Czaban, ICF**, 49 Discovery, Suite 250, Irvine, California 92618.
- Court reporter during our scoping meetings.

Please submit comments **no later than 5:00 PM on Monday, August 25, 2023.**

WHEN AND WHERE?

You will have the opportunity to ask questions and provide comments about the proposed project to OCTA and Caltrans staff

MEETING:	**In-person** Public Scoping Meeting (Open House Forum)	**Virtual** Public Scoping Meeting on Zoom (Open House Forum)
DATE:	Wednesday, **July 26**, 2023	Thursday, **August 3**, 2023
TIME:	**4 - 7 p.m.**	**4 - 7 p.m.**
LOCATION:	**Lake Forest Community Center** 100 Civic Center Drive Lake Forest, CA 92630	**bit.ly/ETRopenhouse**

CONTACT

To request alternative accommodations for accessing project information or for attending public scoping meetings please contact the Caltrans District 12 Public Information Office at (657) 328-6000. TDD users may contact the California Relay Service line at 1 (800) 735-2929 or Voice Line at 1(800) 735-2922. Requests for alternative accommodations to attend scoping meetings must be made 15 days prior to the scoping meeting.

For more information about this study, please call Fernando Chavarria, Community Relations Officer, at (714) 560-5306, or visit the project webpage www.octa.net/EIToroInterchange.

OC Register
Tuesday, July 11, 2023

AVISO DE ALCANCE PÚBLICO

Proyecto de Paso a Desnivel I-5/El Toro Road

Aviso de Reunión de Alcance Público (Foro Abierto) para un Informe de Impacto Ambiental (EIR)/ Evaluación Ambiental (EA) y Disponibilidad de Notificación de Preparación (NOP) para un EIR

¿QUÉ SE ESTÁ PLANIFICANDO?

El Departamento de Transporte de California (Caltrans) en sociedad con la Autoridad de Transporte del Condado de Orange (OCTA) propone modificar el Paso a desnivel de la autopista Interestatal 5 (I-5)/El Toro Road (PM 17.8/19.7) dentro de las ciudades de Lake Forest, Laguna Woods y Laguna Hills. El propósito de este proyecto es mejorar el flujo del tránsito y la optimización de señales de tránsito, mejorar la movilidad del tránsito a través de intersecciones de calles locales adyacentes, reducir las filas en las rampas hacia las autopistas, y aplicar tecnología para ayudar a manejar la demanda de tránsito. El proyecto está actualmente en la revisión del estudio ambiental y el proceso preliminar de ingeniería. Tres alternativas preliminares, incluso dos de Construcción y una alternativa de No construcción están bajo consideración.

¿POR QUÉ SE HACE ESTE AVISO PÚBLICO?

Este aviso es para informarle que Caltrans está reiniciando los estudios ambientales y de ingeniería para este proyecto. Se preparará un Informe de Impacto Ambiental (EIR, por sus siglas en inglés) y una Evaluación Ambiental (EA) para evaluar potenciales efectos que podrían resultar del proyecto propuesto. De acuerdo con la Ley de Calidad Ambiental de California (CEQA, por sus siglas en inglés) y la Ley de Política Ambiental Nacional, (NEPA, por sus siglas en inglés), el documento ambiental se preparará como un documento ambiental conjunto. Esta es la fase de Aprobación de Proyecto y Documento Ambiental de Caltrans (PA&ED, por sus siglas en inglés) para este Proyecto.

Nosotros estamos participando en un proceso de alcance público para considerar aportes del público, agencias de recursos, grupos interesados sobre la profundidad y extensión de los temas que se deberán tratar en el documento ambiental. Se llevarán a cabo reuniones de alcance público en persona y virtuales para informarle sobre el proyecto, y para darle una oportunidad de hacer comentarios o expresar inquietudes. Sus comentarios durante el periodo de alcance público, formarán parte de documentos públicos y serán considerados para elaborar el documento ambiental y definir el alcance del proyecto. En estas reuniones estarás a la vista una declaración de propósito y necesidad del proyecto, conceptos preliminares alternativos, un resumen del proceso ambiental, cronograma, e información adicional.

¿QUÉ INFORMACIÓN ESTÁ DISPONIBLE?

La Notificación de Preparación y materiales relacionados del proyecto estarán disponibles para revisión y comentarios del público en **dot.ca.gov/caltrans-near-me/district-12/district-12-programs/district-12-environmental/i-5-el-toro-road-interchange-improvement-project**. La NOP también estará disponible para ver en los siguientes lugares durante horas hábiles normales:

- **Distrito 12 de Caltrans**, 1750 E. 4th St. #100, Santa Ana, CA 92705
- **Biblioteca El Toro**, 24672 Raymond Way, Lake Forest, CA 92630
- **Biblioteca Laguna Woods Village**, 24266 Calle Aragón, Laguna Woods, CA 92637
- **Biblioteca Tecnológica de Laguna Hills**, 25555 Alicia Pkwy, Laguna Hills, CA 92653

¿CÓMO PUEDE PARTICIPAR?

Se puede escribir comentarios durante el período de alcance público **(11 de julio, 2023 – 25 de agosto, 2023)** en cualquiera de los siguiente formatos:

- Formulario de comentarios en línea en el sitio web de Caltrans: **dot.ca.gov/caltrans-near-me/district-12/district-12-programs/district-12-environmental/i-5-el-toro-road-interchange-improvement-project**
- Correo electrónico a **D12.ELToro@dot.ca.gov** con el asunto "**I-5 El Toro Road Interchange Project**".
- Correo regular a **Emily Czaban, ICF**, 49 Discovery, Suite 250, Irvine, California 92618.
- Registro del reportero judicial durante nuestras reuniones de alcance público.

Favor entregar los comentarios **a más tardar hasta las 5 p.m. el lunes, 25 de agosto, 2023.**

¿CUÁNDO Y DÓNDE?

Usted tendrá la oportunidad de hacer preguntas y comentarios sobre el proyecto propuesto a personal de OCTA y Caltrans.

REUNIÓN:	Reunión de Alcance Público (Foro Abierto) **en-persona**	Reunión de Alcance Público **en Zoom** (Foro Abierto) **virtual**
FECHA:	miércoles, 26 de julio, 2023	jueves, 3 de agosto, 2023
HORA:	**4 - 7 p.m.**	**4 - 7 p.m.**
LUGAR:	**Centro Comunitario de Lake Forest** 100 Civic Center Drive Lake Forest, CA 92630	**bit.ly/ETRopenhouse**

CONTACTO

Para oír o leer las declaraciones alternativas para acceder a la información del proyecto o para asistir a las reuniones de alcance públicos, comuníquese con la Oficina de Información Pública del Distrito 12 de Caltrans, llamando al (657) 328-6000. Los usuarios de TDD pueden comunicarse con la línea de servicio de retransmisión de California al 1(800) 735-2929 o a la línea de voz al 1(800) 735-2922. Las solicitudes de adaptaciones alternativas para asistir a las reuniones públicas deben realizarse 15 días antes de las reuniones.

Para obtener más información acerca este estudio, por favor llame a Fernando Chavarria, Oficial de Relaciones Comunitarias, al (714) 560-5306, o vaya a la página web del proyecto: www.octa.net/EIToroInterchange.

Excelsior
viernes, 21 de julio de 2023

WEBSITES

Caltrans project website

OCTA project website

NEWSPAPERS

THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

Tuesday, July 11, 2023 $2.50 FOUNDED IN 1905 FACEBOOK.COM/OCREGISTER TWITTER.COM/OCREGISTER ocregister.com

Laguna Woods Globe — ocregister.com/lagunawoods

SADDLEBACK VALLEY NEWS — INCLUDES THE CAPISTRANO VALLEY NEWS — ocregister.com/local-news

OC Register
- Wednesday, July 12, 2023
- Sunday, July 23, 2023

Laguna Woods Globe
- Thursday, July 13, 2023
- Thursday, July 20, 2023

Saddleback Valley News
- Thursday, July 13, 2023
- Thursday, July 20, 2023

Semana del 14 de julio de 2023 — excelsiorcalifornia.com

Excélsior — Condado de Orange

2023 OC FAIR REGRESA

Los funcionarios de la feria han optado por mantener un límite diario de asistencia de 45,000 personas. Habrán atracciones nuevas y las ya conocidas. Página 3

Excelsior
- viernes, 14 de julio de 2023
- viernes, 21 de julio de 2023

MAILERS

30,000 mailers

Orange County Transportation Authority
Public Outreach RM 738
550 S. Main St.
P.O. Box 14184
Orange, CA 92863-1584

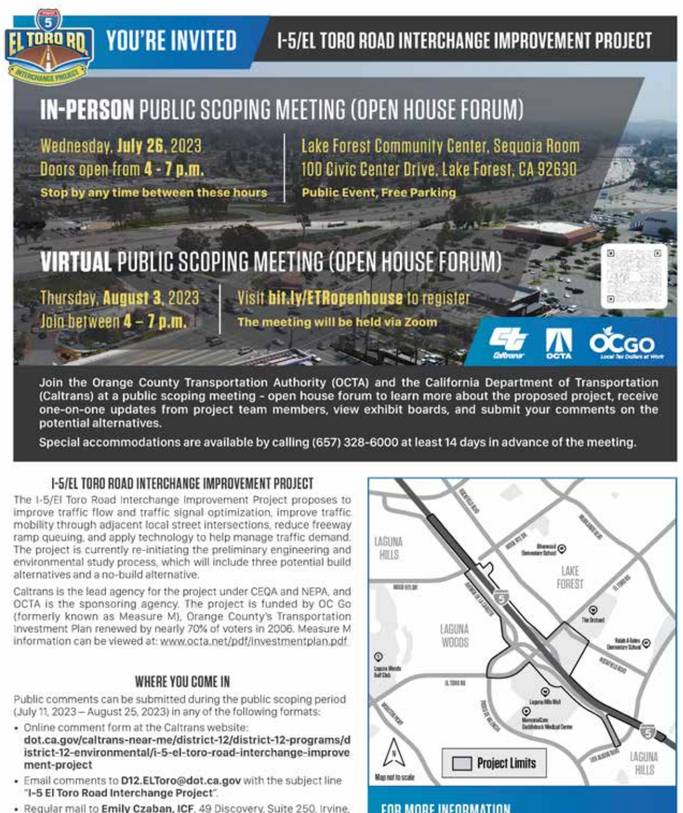
CITY BRIEFINGS

June 13, 2023

June 14, 2023

July 18, 2023

BUSINESS CANVASSING



Caltrans
OCTA
OC GO
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PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The California Department of Transportation District 12 (Caltrans D12), Implementing Agency, in cooperation with the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA), Sponsor, are proposing to: modify Interstate 5 (I-5)/ El Toro Road Interchange. The project limits extend from I-5 Post Mile (PM) 17.8 to PM 19.7 in the north-south direction, and includes El Toro Road from Rockfield Boulevard to Paseo de Valencia in the east-west direction. During this phase, three build alternatives (including Transportation System Management (TSM) and Transportation Demand Management (TDM)) and a no-build alternative will be studied.

(Previously, Alternatives 2 and 4 were studied and presented to the public. However, Alternatives 2 and 4 are no longer being considered due to lack of local support.)

PROJECT STATUS

The project is currently in the preliminary engineering and environmental review process, which began in early 2023 and is expected to be completed in late 2025.

Measure M information can be viewed at: www.octa.net/pdf/ investmentplan.pdf

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PROJECT DEVELOPMENT TEAM

LEAD AGENCY AND FACILITY OWNER

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA); Ensures compliance with CEQA and NEPA, and approves the Final Environmental Document and Project Report.

www.dot.ca.gov

PROJECT SPONSOR

ORANGE COUNTY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

Funds and manages the PA/ED process, consistent with OC Go (also known as Measure M)

www.octa.net

NEIGHBORING CITIES

CITY OF LAKE FOREST

Provides input and feedback during the PA/ED phase.

www.lakeforestca.gov/

CITY OF LAGUNA WOODS

Provides input and feedback during the PA/ED Phase

www.cityoflagunawoods.org/

CITY OF LAGUNA HILLS

Provides input and feedback during the PA/ED Phase

www.ci.laguna-hills.ca.us

octa.net/ElToroInterchange

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ABOUT THE PROJECT

THE I-5 IS A VITAL PART OF ORANGE COUNTY'S TRANSPORTATION NETWORK

- Enhances quality of life by connecting residents and visitors, major local and regional commercial, entertainment, educational, and employment centers
- Provides essential access as an interregional link between Orange County, Los Angeles County and San Diego County
- Fuels the economy as a key component of regional and national goods movement

THE NEED

- Traffic delays due to the high traffic volumes
- Geometric deficiencies related to inadequate signal operations and intersection spacing
- Major delays due to traffic queueing at the intersections of the on- and off-ramps and local streets

THE PURPOSE

Improve existing and future mobility on the I-5/El Toro Road Interchange by:

- Improving traffic flow and traffic signal optimization
- Improve traffic mobility at and through adjacent local street intersections
- Reduce freeway ramp queueing
- Applying technology to help manage traffic demand

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ESTIMATED COST AND SCHEDULE

TOTAL ESTIMATED COST

Approximately $152 million - $247 million*, depending on the alternative.

*2019 dollars

ESTIMATED PROJECT SCHEDULE

• PROJECT INITIATION	EARLY 2023
• NOTICING AND PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING	JULY/AUGUST 2023
• TECHNICAL STUDIES & DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT PREPARATION	LATE 2023 - LATE 2024
• CIRCULATION & PUBLIC HEARING	EARLY 2025
• IDENTIFY PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE	MID 2025
• PROJECT APPROVAL	LATE 2025

NOTE: Schedule for Final Design, Right of Way or Construction will be finalized as we progress through PAED.

FUNDING SOURCES

OCGO Local Tax Dollars at Work

OCTA

Caltrans

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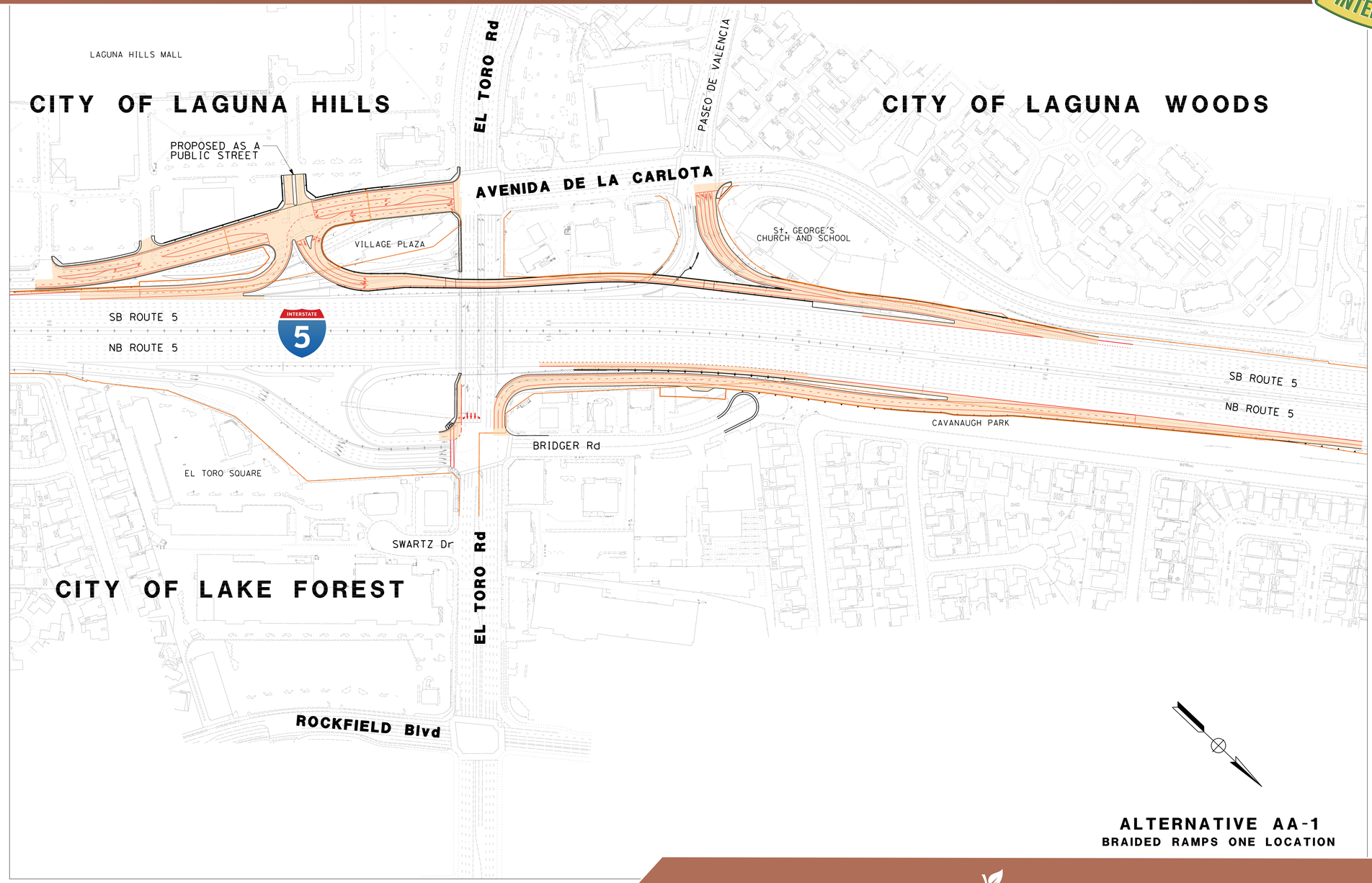
ALTERNATIVE AA-1

RECOMMENDED TO MOVE FORWARD

EL TORO RD. INTERCHANGE PROJECT



ALTERNATIVE AA-1
BRAIDED RAMPS ONE LOCATION

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ALTERNATIVE AA-5

RECOMMENDED TO MOVE FORWARD

EL TORO RD. INTERCHANGE PROJECT

ALTERNATIVE AA-5
FLYOVER WITH ROUNDABOUT
CLOSE TO ROCKFIELD BOULEVARD

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ALTERNATIVE Transportation System Management (TSM) and Transportation Demand Management (TDM)

A STANDALONE TSM/TDM ALTERNATIVE WILL BE EVALUATED AS PART OF THIS STUDY.

Transportation System Management

TSM strategies focus on increasing the efficiency of existing facilities, increasing the vehicle trips a facility can carry without increasing the number of through lanes.

TSM examples may include:

- Ramp metering
- Signal coordination
- Signal timing
- Intersection technology

Transportation Demand Management

TDM focuses on regional means of reducing the number of vehicle trips and vehicle miles traveled as well as increasing vehicle occupancy.

TDM examples may include:

- Promoting rideshare
- Providing rideshare services to employer and individuals
- Maintaining and utilizing rideshare databases

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDY MILESTONES

2023

INITIATE PROJECT
OCTA and Caltrans District 12 partnered to re-initiate the development of the proposed project.

WE ARE HERE

NOTICING AND PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING (OPEN HOUSE FORMAT)
Public Scoping Meetings will be held in July and August 2023 for members of the community and stakeholders to discuss the project with project representatives.

2024

TECHNICAL STUDIES & DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT PREPARATION
Subsequent to the Public Scoping Meetings, technical experts will conduct preliminary design and supplemental technical studies for the Draft Environmental Document (DED) through late 2024.

CIRCULATION AND PUBLIC HEARING (OPEN HOUSE FORMAT)
The supplemental technical studies will be compiled into the DED, available for public review and comment during a circulation period. During circulation, a Public Hearing will be held.

2025

IDENTIFY PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE
The Project Development Team will recommend a preferred alternative based on the result of the DED and public input. Caltrans is responsible for the ultimate approval of the preferred alternatives and Final Environmental Document (FED).

PROJECT APPROVAL
The DED will be revised to include identification and support of the preferred alternative and to document public review, including comments received during the circulation period. The FED is anticipated to be an Environmental Impact Report (EIR)/ Environmental Assessment (EA) leading to a Notice of Determination (NOD)/Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), under CEQA and NEPA respectively.

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ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES TO BE CONDUCTED - CEQA/NEPA

Per CEQA and NEPA, the following environmental topics will be studied.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

- Air Quality
- Geology & Soils
- Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology & Floodplains
- Noise
- Paleontology
- Water Quality & Stormwater Runoff
- Energy Study

BIOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENT

- Animal Species
- Invasive Species
- Natural Communities
- Plant Species
- Threatened & Endangered Species
- Wetlands & Other Waters

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

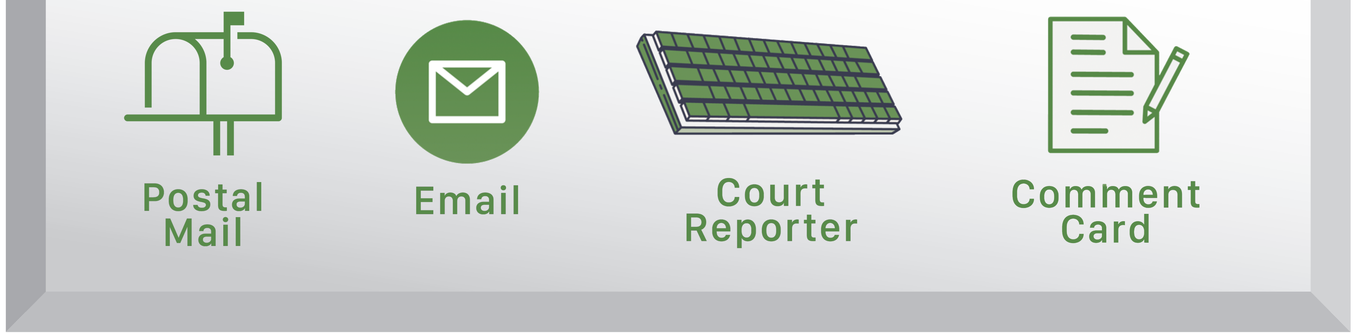
- Community Impacts
- Cultural Resources
- Farmlands/ Timberland
- Population Growth
- Tribal Cultural Resources
- Traffic
- Utilities/Services Systems
- Visuals Aesthetics
- Climate Change

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Members of the public will be able to submit comments for 45 days beginning July 11, 2023.

PUBLIC COMMENT PLATFORMS



> Public participation is an essential part of the CEQA and NEPA process and reflects a belief that community members can make important contributions to environmental protections and notions of balanced decision-making through wide public involvement.
>
> -California Department of Transportation

Caltrans OCTA OC GO

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STAY CONNECTED

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MANAGER OF PROJECT OUTREACH

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OCTA PROJECT MANAGER

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CALTRANS PROJECT MANAGER

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jared.lindo@dot.ca.gov

LEARN MORE ONLINE
OCTA.NET/ELTOROINTERCHANGE

CALL THE PROJECT TEAM
(714)-560-5306

SIGN UP TO RECEIVE EMAIL ALERTS
OCTA.NET/ELTOROINTERCHANGE

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PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

PLEASE SHARE YOUR COMMENTS WITH US

Public comments can be submitted during the public scoping period (July 11, 2023 – August 25, 2023) in any of the following formats:

- Online comment form at: https://dot.ca.gov/caltrans-near-me/district-12/district-12-programs/district-12-environmental/i-5-el-toro-road-interchange-improvement-project

Caltrans website

- Email comments to: D12.ELToro@dot.ca.gov with the subject line "I-5 El Toro Road Interchange Project".
- Regular mail to: Emily Czaban, ICF
  49 Discovery, Suite 250
  Irvine, California 92618.
- Court reporter during our in-person and virtual scoping meetings.

Please submit comments no later than 5:00 PM on Friday, August 25, 2023.

OCTA PUBLIC COMMENT CARD / CALTRANS TITLE VI PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SURVEY

Your comments will be considered in the development of the Draft Environmental Document. By taking this survey, you are helping OCTA and Caltrans identify potential discriminatory impacts early which will minimize and reduce negative impacts to minority and low-income populations, as well as delays to project delivery.

- Participation is voluntary and anonymous.
- Includes a short series of multiple choice questions.
- Takes less than 1 minute to complete.

Comment/Survey

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