

Chapter 4
Comments and Coordination

Chapter 4 Comments and Coordination

Early and continuing coordination with the general public and appropriate public agencies is an essential part of the environmental process to determine the scope of environmental documentation, the level of analysis, potential impacts and mitigation measures, and related environmental requirements. Agency consultation and public participation for this project have been accomplished through a variety of formal and informal methods, including Project Development Team (PDT) meetings, PDT workshops, interagency coordination meetings, site reviews, public hearings, and open houses. This chapter summarizes the results of the City and the Department's efforts to fully identify, address, and resolve project-related issues through early and continuing coordination.

4.1 Project Scoping Process During Preparation of the Draft EIR/EA

4.1.1 Summary of the Draft EIR/EA Scoping Process

The project scoping process for the I-5/Ortega Highway interchange improvement project was implemented throughout various stages of project development, starting with initiation of the Project Study Report (PSR) efforts in July 2000, through the public open house that was held on June 8, 2006. The scoping process for the project is expected to continue until project completion.

The general objectives of the scoping process for this project are as follows:

- To identify the concerns of the general public that has a stake in the effects of the project
- To identify the concerns and requirements of public or private agencies that have a fiduciary responsibility on resources that may be affected by the project
- To identify critical project constraints
- To develop and screen alternatives that will be evaluated in further detail
- To ensure that the environmental document focuses on relevant issues

The scoping process for the project was also used to ensure that coordination occurred between all of the project stakeholders. The following groups are considered to be stakeholders for the project:

- The agencies represented by the PDT, which includes the project proponent, facility owners and managers such as the Department, the City, and OCTA, and all responsible and cooperating agencies. The PDT is considered the core project team with a broad membership made up of staff from various agencies and technical disciplines.
- Agencies that are either public or private organizations, bureaus, or companies that have a fiduciary stake in the effects of the project on a particular resource.

Examples of resources that are managed by these agencies may include wildlife, conservation areas, and utilities.

- The general public, which includes local residents, business owners, and other groups or individuals who have a stake in the effects of the proposed project.

Scoping for the project was conducted through two general methods – agency scoping and public scoping. These methods are described in further detail in this section.

4.1.2 History of the Project Scoping Process

Project studies were initiated in July 2000 by the City in coordination with the Department, FHWA, and OCTA to develop a range of alternatives for the project. Fifteen (15) conceptual build alternatives were developed during the early Project Study Report (Project Development Support) (PSR[PDS]) efforts.

Between July 2000 and December 2000, the initial 15 conceptual build alternatives were assessed for viability during the recurring PDT meetings. The PDT staff was comprised of representatives from the City, the Department, FHWA, and OCTA. The PDT directs the course of the project by making decisions based on the assessment of all project-related data and comments received. As a result of ongoing screening of project alternatives by the PDT, the initial set of conceptual alternatives was narrowed down to two viable build alternatives and the no build alternative for a total of three project alternatives to be considered.

These three alternatives were reviewed at a public workshop held December 11, 2000. In addition to reviewing the presented alternatives the workshop also assessed the feasibility of providing offsite improvements to adjacent interchanges as a potential alternative to the project. Based on the comments received, and further analysis, a determination was made that there would be no significant reduction in traffic for the Ortega Highway interchange as a result of improving adjacent intersections.

Later that month a Value Analysis (VA) study was conducted to assess the three alternatives for the project and to determine if other interchange configurations that had not been previously discussed would address the purpose and need of the project. In April 2001, the Final VA report which recommended two additional alternatives, was completed. Based on the recommendations of the study, and on the public comments received at the December 11, 2000, workshop, the two additional alternatives were accepted by the PDT for further analysis.

The City began work on the development of a Strategic Transportation Plan (STP) in mid 2001 to consider the impacts of regional growth on the City and as a result, the project was placed on hold until completion of the STP.

The project was revived after completion of the City STP in early 2003. Subsequently, a second public workshop was held in October 2003 that introduced the two additional alternatives that resulted from comments from the December 2000 public workshop and the VA study report.

Between October 2003 and March 2004, a series of City Council, City Transportation Commission, City Planning Commission, and City Blue Ribbon Panel meetings were held to assess the four alternatives under consideration. Based on input and information resulting from these meetings, the October 2003 public workshop, and direction from the City Council and staff, these five build alternatives and one no build alternative were carried forward for further study in the PSR(PDS).

On May 31, 2006, a Notice of Preparation/Notice of Initiation of Studies (NOP/NOIS) was submitted to the State Clearinghouse (SCH) and circulated to the public. The notice served as an invitation to a public open house that was held on June 8, 2006.

Based upon an evaluation of the performance, benefits, limitations, cost, anticipated impacts, and other factors concerning each of the five alternatives documented by the PDT as part of the PSR(PDS) evaluative process, two of the build alternatives were selected for detailed environmental evaluation in this Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Assessment (EIR/EA). The remaining three build alternatives that were studied in the PSR(PDS) phase were removed from further consideration and are not analyzed as viable build alternatives in this EIR/EA.

Nineteen PDT meetings, including focused meetings with other project stakeholders, have been held since the Project Approval/Environmental Document (PA/ED) kickoff meeting with the City on October 11, 2005. PDT meetings will continue to be held on a regular basis until project completion.

4.2 Agency Scoping During Preparation of the Draft EIR/EA

Agency scoping was conducted early during the project development process to solicit agency comments and identify regulatory requirements. The list of agencies contacted for scoping was identified through consideration of the resources that may be affected by the project. A summary of project coordination that has occurred is provided in the following section. Coordination with these agencies is expected to continue until project completion.

4.2.1 Agency Notification – NOP/NOIS

An NOP/NOIS was submitted to the SCH on May 31, 2006 (see Figure 4-1). The SCH circulates the NOP/NOIS to and solicits comments from appropriate state agencies during a 30-day comment period. During this review period, the NOP/NOIS was posted on the Office of Planning and Research CEQAnet online database. No comments were received from any state agencies during the NOP/NOIS review period.

4.2.2 Agency Notification – Correspondence

Notification letters and letters requesting specific information from certain agencies were sent out as part of the project's scoping process. Table 4-1 provides a summary of the correspondence with these agencies. See Appendix E for copies of agency correspondence and responses.

**Table 4-1
Summary of Agency Correspondence During Preparation of Draft EIR/EA**

Agency	Addressee or Respondent (and title if available)	Transmittal Date	Summary of the Correspondence
California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG)	Mr. Curt Taucher, (Regional Manager)	November 30, 2005	Requested a list of special-status species in the project area.
United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)	Ms. Doreen Stadtlander, (Area Division Chief)	November 30, 2005	Requested a list of special-status species in the project area.
California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS)	Margaret Lopez (Coordinator)	November 30, 2005	Requested a literature search list of cultural resources in the project area.
USFWS	Response from Ms. Karen A. Geobel (Assistant Field Supervisor)	December 2, 2005	Provided a list of federal status species and description of requirements for compliance with the Federal Endangered Species Act (FESA).
CHRIS	Response from Mr. Thomas Shackford (Staff Researcher)	December 8, 2005	Provided a list of archaeological and historic resources in the area. Note that correspondence is not available as an appendix since it contains sensitive and confidential information.
SBC/Pac Bell	Mr. Patrick McDonnell	February 13, 2006	Requested a verification if utilities were present in the project area.
Cox Communications	None Identified	February 13, 2006	Requested a verification if utilities were present in the project area.
Southern California Gas	Mr. Paul Simonoff	February 13, 2006	Requested a verification if utilities were present in the project area.
San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E)	Mr. Anthony Maduska	February 13, 2006	Requested a verification if utilities were present in the project area.
San Juan Capistrano Engineering and Building	Mr. Brian Perry	February 13, 2006	Requested a verification if any city properties or infrastructure were present in the project area.
San Juan Capistrano Public Works Department	Mr. Craig Harris	February 13, 2006	Requested a verification if any city properties or infrastructure were present in the project area.
Santa Margarita Water District	Mr. Clay Hutter	February 13, 2006	Requested a determination if utilities were present in the project area.
SDG&E	Ms. Iisha Cummings	March 2, 2006	Requested a determination if utilities were present in the project area.
Capistrano Unified School District (CUSD)	(None Specified)	March 3, 2006	Requested responses for a specific list of questions regarding San Juan Elementary School.
CUSD	Response from Ms. Peggy Ward (Facilities Planning)	March 24, 2006	Provided responses to the specific list of questions transmitted related to information about San Juan Elementary School.
Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC)	Mr. Rob Wood (Environmental Specialist)	March 28, 2006	Requested a review of a Native American resources database and a list of Native American contacts for the project.

**Table 4-1
Summary of Agency Correspondence During Preparation of Draft EIR/EA**

Agency	Addressee or Respondent (and title if available)	Transmittal Date	Summary of the Correspondence
NAHC	Response from Mr. Rob Wood (Environmental Specialist)	April 21, 2006	Indicated that record searches did not reveal previous records of cultural sites in the project area. Also provided a contact list of Native American tribes in the area.
Mission Museum, San Juan Capistrano	(Museum Director)	July 13, 2006	Informed the museum about the project and solicited comments about the proposed project.
Orange County Historical Society, Historic Howe-Waffle House	(None Identified)	July 13, 2006	Informed the society about the project and solicited comments about the proposed project.
Historical Society of Southern California	(None Identified)	July 13, 2006	Informed the society about the project and solicited comments about the proposed project.
San Juan Capistrano Historical Society	(None Identified)	July 13, 2006	Informed the society about the project and solicited comments about the proposed project.
CUSD	Response from Mr. David Doormey (District Superintendent)	October 11, 2006	Provided the district's comment on the project and summary of concerns.
State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)	Chris Flynn, Chief of Environmental Planning Branch C, Caltrans District 12	August 20, 2007	Provided concurrence that Spring Street and San Juan Elementary School are not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

4.2.3 Native American Coordination

Notification letters were sent to the Juaneño Band of Mission Indians, Acjachemen Nation, and the Juaneño Band of Mission Indians. These letters informed the tribal representatives about the project and also solicited comments on the project. Table 4-2 summarizes the correspondence with both tribes. See Appendix F for copies of Native American correspondence and responses.

4.2.4 Summary of Agency and Native American Responses

Responses to the agency and tribal notification letters were received in the form of letters and verbal communication and are summarized below.

United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) – Provided a response letter that included a list of threatened and endangered species pursuant to Federal Endangered Species Act (FESA). USFWS also provided a list of sensitive habitat types that may occur in the project area and guidance on the process for compliance under FESA.

**Table 4-2
Summary of Native American Tribe Correspondence**

Agency	Addressee or Respondent (and title if available)	Transmittal Date	Summary of the Correspondence
Juaneño Band of Mission Indians, Acjachemen Nation	Mr. Anthony Rivera (Chairman)	May 26, 2006	Informed the tribe about the project and solicited comments about the proposed project.
Juaneño Band of Mission Indians, Acjachemen Nation	Joyce Perry (Tribal Manager)	May 26, 2006	Informed the tribe about the project and solicited comments about the proposed project.
Juaneño Band of Mission Indians, Acjachemen Nation	David Belardes (Chairperson)	May 26, 2006	Informed the tribe about the project and solicited comments about the proposed project.
Juaneño Band of Mission Indians	Alfred Cruz (Cultural Resources Coordinator)	May 26, 2006	Informed the tribe about the project and solicited comments about the proposed project.
Juaneño Band of Mission Indians	Sonia Johnston (Chairperson)	May 26, 2006	Informed the tribe about the project and solicited comments about the proposed project.
Juaneño Band of Mission Indians	Kristen Rivers (Tribal Administrator)	May 26, 2006	Informed the tribe about the project and solicited comments about the proposed project.
Juaneño Band of Mission Indians	Mike Aguiar (Environmental Coordinator)	May 26, 2006	Informed the tribe about the project and solicited comments about the proposed project.
Juaneño Band of Mission Indians	Anita Espinoza	May 26, 2006	Informed the tribe about the project and solicited comments about the proposed project.
Juaneño Band of Mission Indians, Acjachemen Nation	Response from Mr. Anthony Rivera (Chairman)	April 14, 2006	Provided response to requests for comments on the project and to request participation in the Section 106 process.
Juaneño Band of Mission Indians, Acjachemen	Response from Sonia Johnston (Chairperson)	November 1, 2006	Provided response to requests for comments on the project and informed of the sensitive cultural nature of the area adjacent to the project site.

Juaneño Band of Mission Indians, Acjachemen Nation – Provided a response letter indicating that the tribe would like to participate in the Section 106 process of the National Historic Preservation Act. The tribe also stated in telephone conversations with project staff (Mr. Roger Mason on June 20 and 22, 2006) that portions of San Juan Elementary School are considered sensitive cultural resource areas and requested archaeological monitoring during construction.

Juaneño Band of Mission Indians – Provided a response letter indicating that the project area contains sensitive tribal resources and that measures to preserve these resources should be considered. The tribe also stated in phone conversation with project staff (Mr. Roger Mason on August 3, 2006) that portions of San Juan Elementary School may be considered sensitive cultural resource areas and requested archaeological monitoring during construction.

Capistrano Unified School District (CUSD) – Provided a response letter stating that the district had concerns related to potential air quality, noise, and usable site acreage impacts to San Juan Elementary School.

4.2.5 Permits and Approvals Needed

Regulatory requirements have been identified through a review of environmental laws and regulations, existing guidance, and correspondence with appropriate regulatory agencies. Table 4-3 summarizes the probably permits and approvals that are necessary for the project as regulatory requirements.

**Table 4-3
 Probable Permit Requirements**

Agency	Permit/Approval	Purpose	Authority
California Department of Fish and Game	1602 Agreement	Regulates work within channel of Horno Creek	California Fish and Game Code, Section 1602
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	Nationwide Permit	Required for work within “waters of the United States”	Federal Clean Water Act, Section 404
San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board	Water Quality Certification	Required to ensure consistency with federal clean water requirements	Federal Clean Water Act, Section 401
State Water Resources Control Board	General Construction Stormwater Permit	Entails preparation of a Storm Water Pollution Control Plan to control discharges	Caltrans’ Statewide National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit
Orange County, Certified Unified Program Agency, Environmental Health Division	Underground Storage Tank Permit	Review and approval for removal of underground storage tanks	California Code of Regulations, Title 23
Orange County, Certified Unified Program Agency, Environmental Health Division	Well Permit	The County issues permits for wells and certain test borings as specified	County Ordinance No. 2607

4.3 Public Scoping

Several public scoping meetings have been held since project initiation in July 2000. Public meetings were used as valuable tools in the project decision-making process. These meetings were conducted according to guidance provided in Chapters 11 and 22 of the Department’s Project Development Procedures Manual. Consideration of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act and the Department’s policy on Environmental Justice were made during preparation of all of the public meetings conducted for this project. A summary of the scoping meetings and reviews that were made available to the public are provided in the sections below.

4.3.1 PSR Public Scoping Meeting (December 2000)

On December 11, 2000, a public workshop was held at the San Juan Capistrano Community Center. Community feedback received during this workshop focused on:

- Traffic congestion on the Ortega Highway interchange
- The interchange is visually unattractive
- Existing interchange is a barrier for pedestrians and cyclists
- Concerns for impacts on the west side of I-5
- Traffic in front of the San Juan Capistrano Mission

4.3.2 PSR Public Scoping Meeting (October 2003)

On September 23, 2003, a notice was released informing the public about the proposed project. The notice also served as an invitation to a public meeting and provided a summary of the project, anticipated environmental document, and contact information to provide comments.

A community meeting was held on October 8, 2003, which presented the proposed alignments for the project to the public. The meeting was held at the San Juan Capistrano Community Center. Attendees were provided a set of handouts describing the project and a comment card that members of the public could use to provide comments. Staff from the City and the Department was present to facilitate the meeting.

A formal presentation describing the project history, alternatives, and schedule was presented. After the presentation, attendees were encouraged to visit each of the three stations (i.e., Process and Schedule, Engineering, and Right-of-Way) and were asked specific questions.

Seventy-six comments were received from local residents and business owners during the comment period. Community feedback received during this period focused on:

- Requests for further information about the project
- Investigate possibilities for improvements along adjacent interchanges, such as Stonehill Drive
- Maintaining the character of the city/neighborhood

4.3.3 NOP/NOIS Circulation and Public Open House (June 2006)

On May 31, 2006, an NOP/NOIS was circulated to the public (see Figure 4-1 for a copy of the NOP/NOIS). The notice provided a brief description of the project, including a summary of each alternative being considered. The notice also provided contact information for comments, including an e-mail address.

Local residents and business owners in the circulation list were identified through a list provided by the City and through a search for addresses within a 1/2-mile radius from the project area. Other parties who have shown interest by providing comments during earlier scoping meetings or through other forms of correspondence were included in the NOP/NOIS distribution list. Comment cards were attached to notices that were distributed to the recipients on the mailing list.

A newspaper advertisement announcing the public open house was also published on June 5, 2006, in local newspapers. The advertisement was available in both English and Spanish (see Figure 4-2 for a copy of the newspaper advertisement).



**NOTICE OF PREPARATION/
NOTICE OF INITIATION OF STUDIES**
Caltrans District 12, Orange County, California

DATE: May 31, 2006

TO: The State Clearinghouse
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

FROM: Caltrans, District 12
3337 Michelson Drive, Suite 380
Irvine, CA 92612

SUBJECT: Interstate 5 (I-5)/State Route 74 (Ortega Highway) Notice of Preparation (NOP)/Notice of Initiation of Studies (NOIS)

This NOP/NOIS is to inform you that the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) will act as the lead agency pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), as well as the liaison on behalf of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The City of San Juan Capistrano (the City) is a responsible agency under CEQA as one of the funding agencies as the interchange is within their jurisdiction. A combined Environmental Impact Report (EIR)/Environmental Assessment (EA) will be prepared for the project. Your participation as a responsible/trustee/cooperating agency/interested party is requested in the preparation and review of this document.

Caltrans and FHWA, in cooperation with the City, propose to reconfigure the existing I-5/Ortega Highway interchange in the City. The project would help facilitate traffic movement and alleviate congestion along I-5/Ortega Highway on- and off-ramps. It would also accommodate an expected increase in local traffic and traffic generated by planned development to the east of the interchange along Ortega Highway. Five improvement alternatives are under consideration in addition to the No Build Alternative. See the attachment for a layout of the existing interchange and the five improvement alternatives. The potential interchange improvement alternatives are as follows:

Alternative 1 – Widened Diamond Interchange: This alternative would widen and restripe Ortega Highway from El Camino Real to immediately east of Los Cerritos Avenue and widen the existing bridge structure to accommodate an additional lane and shoulders. Also, the I-5 northbound and southbound off-ramps would be widened by one additional lane, and an additional right-turn lane on Del Obispo Street would be provided.

Alternative 2 – Reconfigured Del Obispo Street Intersection and Widened Diamond Interchange: This alternative would realign the Del Obispo Street and Ortega Highway roadways so that Ortega Highway west of I-5 curves into Del Obispo Street forming a new intersection south of the existing intersection. A new curved roadway would also connect the current El Camino Real/Ortega Highway intersection with this new intersection.

Alternative 3 – Relocated Del Obispo Street Intersection and Single Cloverleaf Interchange: This alternative realigns Ortega Highway west of the I-5 southbound ramps and widens the I-5 southbound off-ramp similar to Alternative 2. Proposed improvements would relocate the Del Obispo Street and Ortega Highway intersections so that the eastern branch of Ortega Highway curves into Del Obispo Street forming a new intersection south of the existing intersection. A new curved roadway would also be constructed connecting the current El Camino Real/Ortega Highway intersection with this new intersection. In addition, Ortega Highway would be widened and restriped east of the proposed northbound I-5 freeway ramps to accommodate the eastbound and westbound through/turn lanes and to allow for lane widening to current design standards. The east side of the interchange would feature a partial cloverleaf

Figure 4-1
May 31, 2006 NOP/NOIS (page 1 of 2)

ramp configuration. The current I-5 northbound off-ramp would be relocated to the east to provide room for a loop ramp in the southeast corner of the interchange.

Alternative 4 – Realigned Del Obispo Intersection and Single Cloverleaf Interchange: Del Obispo Street would be widened and realigned to connect with the modified southbound off-ramp configuration. Ortega Highway would be widened and/or restriped to accommodate the additional eastbound and westbound through/turn lanes and to allow for lane widening to current design standards. This alternative provides a single cloverleaf configuration with a dual-lane northbound loop on-ramp located in the southeast corner of the interchange identical to Alternative 3. The southbound and northbound off-ramps would be realigned to terminate at the intersections of Del Obispo Street and Los Cerritos Avenue, respectively.

Alternative 5 – Double Cloverleaf Interchange: Del Obispo Street would be widened and realigned to meet the modified southbound off-ramp configuration. Ortega Highway would be widened and/or restriped to accommodate the additional eastbound and westbound through/turn lanes and to allow for lane widening to current design standards. This alternative provides a double cloverleaf design with dual-lane loop on-ramps located in the northwest and southeast corners of the interchange for southbound and northbound freeway access, respectively. The existing southbound and northbound off-ramps would be realigned to terminate at the intersections of Del Obispo Street and Los Cerritos Avenue, respectively.

This Notice is to inform you that the environmental document will analyze factors that include, but are not limited to the following: aesthetics, cultural resources, biological resources, hazardous wastes and materials, public services and facilities (including San Juan Elementary School), floodplain, noise, air quality, recreation, land use planning, and transportation/traffic. Furthermore, some of these alternatives may have socioeconomic impacts including relocation of businesses.

A Scoping Meeting will be held to provide interested parties the opportunity to learn about the proposed project alternatives and to submit written comments to assist the project team in preparing the environmental document. The meeting will be held on **June 8, 2006**, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the San Juan Capistrano Community Center, located at 25925 Camino del Avion, San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675.

We welcome your input on this project. Please provide any comments or suggestions that you may have concerning alternatives to be studied or potential social, economic, or environmental impacts resulting from this project.

Submit your comments, questions, and contact information by **June 30, 2006**. Comments may be submitted to the City contact: Nasser Abbaszadeh, P.E., Project Liaison, City of San Juan Capistrano, 32400 Paseo Adelanto, San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675.

If you have any questions, please contact Praveen Gupta, Chief, Environmental Planning Branch A, Caltrans District 12 at (949) 724-2243, or Nasser Abbaszadeh (email: NAbbaszadeh@sanjuancapistrano.org).

Sincerely,

 Sylvia Vega
 Office Chief, Environmental Planning
 Caltrans, District 12

Figure 4-1
May 31, 2006 NOP/NOIS (page 2 of 2)



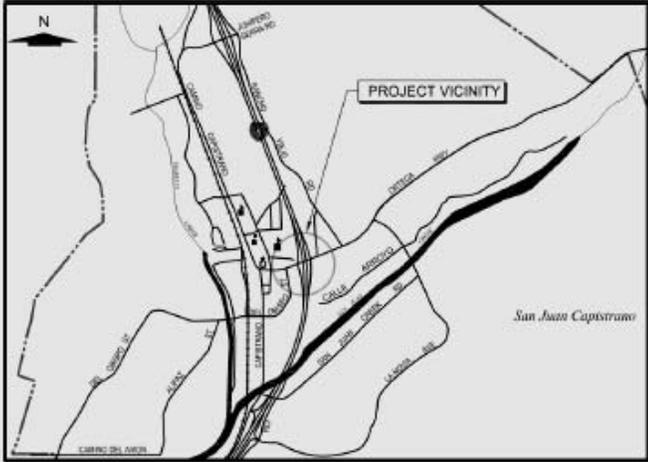
Public Notice

**INTERSTATE 5 (I-5)/STATE ROUTE 74 (ORTEGA HIGHWAY)
 INTERCHANGE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT**

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the City of San Juan Capistrano

This is an announcement for I-5/Ortega Highway Interchange Improvement Project scoping meeting
 City of San Juan Capistrano, Thursday, June 8, 2006





<p>WHAT IS BEING PLANNED</p>	<p>Caltrans and FHWA, in cooperation with the City of San Juan Capistrano, are proposing to reconfigure the existing I-5/Ortega Highway interchange. The project would help facilitate traffic movement and alleviate congestion along the I-5/Ortega Highway on- and off-ramps. It would also accommodate an expected increase in local traffic and traffic generated by planned development to the east of the interchange around Ortega Highway.</p> <p>This Notice is to inform you that the environmental document will analyze factors that include, but are not limited to the following: aesthetics, cultural resources, biological resources, hazardous wastes and materials, public services and facilities (including San Juan Elementary School), floodplain, noise, air quality, recreation, land use planning, and transportation/traffic. Furthermore, some of these alternatives may have socioeconomic impacts including relocation of businesses.</p> <p>The proposed project is located in an urbanized area with historic and prehistoric resources. Given the cultural sensitivity of the project area, there is potential for encountering cultural resources. As part of the planning process further research will be conducted within the project area and the appropriate agencies will be consulted.</p>
<p>WHY THIS AD</p>	<p>The purpose of this ad is to inform you of the scoping meeting being held to give you an opportunity to talk about certain design features of the project with Caltrans and the City of San Juan Capistrano staff before the final design is selected. The tentative schedule for the purchase of land for right-of-way and construction will be discussed.</p>
<p>WHAT'S AVAILABLE</p>	<p>Maps and descriptions of the proposed alternatives for this project will be available at the Scoping Meeting or by contacting the City via e-mail at: NAbbaszadeh@sanjuancapistrano.org.</p>

**Figure 4-2
 Notice of Public Open House and Scoping Meeting
 (page 1 of 4)**

<p>WHERE YOU COME IN</p>	<p>Would you care to make any comments on the proposed project? Please submit your comments in writing no later Friday, June 30, 2006. Comments may be submitted one of the following ways: to a project representative at the Scoping Meeting; at the main counter at City Hall; at the utility bill drop-box at City Hall; via email at NAbbaszadeh@sanjuancapistrano.org; or mail to the following address c/o I-5/Ortega Highway Interchange Improvement Project:</p>
<p>WHEN AND WHERE IS THE SCOPING MEETING</p>	<p>City of San Juan Capistrano Nasser Abbaszadeh, Project Liaison 32400 Paseo Adelanto San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675</p>
<p>ACCESSIBILITY/ ACCOMMODATION</p>	<p>The Scoping Meeting is being held to provide interested parties the opportunity to learn about the proposed project alternatives and to submit written comments to assist the project team in preparing the environmental document. The meeting will be held on Thursday, June 8, 2006, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the San Juan Capistrano Community Center, located at 25925 Camino del Avion, San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675.</p>
	<p>Under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City and Caltrans do not discriminate on the basis of disability and, upon request, will provide reasonable accommodations to ensure equal access to its facilities and services. For individuals who require special accommodations such as translation to another language, sign language interpreters, assistive listening devices, or other auxiliary aids and/or services, contact Praveen Gupta, Chief of Environmental Planning, Branch A, Caltrans at (949) 724-2243. The request must be made by 5:00 p.m., Pacific Daylight Time, Friday, June 2, 2006. The Scoping Meeting and parking facilities are wheelchair accessible.</p>

Figure 4-2
Notice of Public Open House and Scoping Meeting
(page 2 of 4)



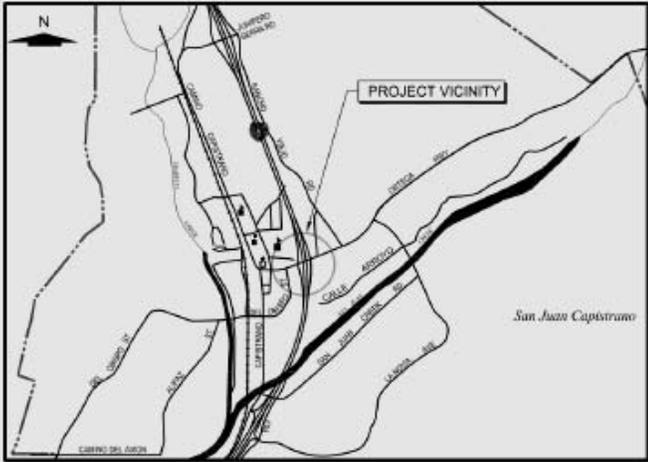
Aviso público

PROYECTO DE MEJORA DEL ENLACE ENTRE LA INTERESTATAL 5
(I-5) Y LA CARRETERA ESTATAL 74 (ORTEGA HIGHWAY)



El Departamento de Transporte de California (*Caltrans*), la Administración Federal de Carreteras (*Federal Highway Administration* o FHWA) y la ciudad de San Juan Capistrano

A través de este aviso se informa sobre la reunión de evaluación del Proyecto de mejora del enlace entre la I-5 y Ortega Highway Ciudad de San Juan Capistrano, jueves 8 de junio de 2006



<p>CUÁLES SON LOS PLANES</p>	<p>Caltrans y la FHWA, en cooperación con la ciudad de San Juan Capistrano, proponen reconfigurar el enlace actual de la I-5 y Ortega Highway. El proyecto ayudará a facilitar el movimiento del tráfico y aliviar la congestión a lo largo de las rampas de acceso y salida de la I-5 y Ortega Highway. También permitirá dar cabida a un incremento previsto en el tráfico local y el tráfico generado por el desarrollo planificado hacia el este del enlace alrededor de Ortega Highway.</p>
<p>POR QUÉ SE PUBLICA ESTE AVISO</p>	<p>Este Aviso es para informarle que el documento ambiental analizará factores que incluyen, pero no se limitan a los siguientes: estética, recursos culturales, recursos biológicos, residuos y materiales peligrosos e instalaciones (incluye la Escuela Primaria San Juan), planos, ruido, calidad del aire, recreación, planificación del uso de la tierra y transporte/tráfico. Además, algunas de estas alternativas pueden tener impactos socioeconómicos que incluyen la reubicación de ciertos negocios.</p>
<p>CUÁLES SON LOS MATERIALES DISPONIBLES</p>	<p>El proyecto propuesto se encuentra ubicado en un área urbanizada con recursos históricos y prehistóricos. Dada la sensibilidad cultural del área del proyecto, existe la posibilidad de encontrar recursos culturales. Como parte del proceso de planificación se realizarán más investigaciones dentro del área del proyecto y se consultará a las agencias que correspondan.</p> <p>El objetivo de este aviso es informarle sobre la reunión de evaluación que se realizará para brindarle la oportunidad de hablar con el personal de CALTRANS sobre ciertas características del diseño del proyecto antes de que se seleccione el diseño final. Se analizará el programa tentativo para la compra de tierra para la construcción y el derecho de vía.</p> <p>En la reunión de evaluación podrá encontrar mapas y descripciones de las alternativas propuestas para este proyecto. También puede solicitar estos materiales a la Ciudad a la siguiente dirección de correo electrónico: NAbbaszadeh@sanjuancapistrano.org.</p>

Figure 4-2
Notice of Public Open House and Scoping Meeting
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<p>QUÉ PARTICIPACIÓN PUEDE TENER USTED</p>	<p>¿Le interesaría realizar algún comentario sobre el proyecto propuesto? Envíe sus comentarios por escrito antes del viernes 30 de junio de 2006 de alguna de las maneras siguientes: entregue sus comentarios a un representante del proyecto en la reunión de evaluación; preséntelos en el mostrador principal de la Municipalidad; colóquelos en el buzón de facturas de la Municipalidad; envíelos por correo electrónico a NAbbaszadeh@sanjuancapistrano.org o bien por correo a la siguiente dirección, para entregar a I-5/Ortega</p> <p>A DÓNDE PUEDE ENCONTRARNOS</p>
<p>CUÁNDO Y DÓNDE SE REALIZA LA REUNIÓN DE EVALUACIÓN</p>	<p>City of San Juan Capistrano Nasser Abbaszadeh, Project Liaison 32400 Paseo Adelanto San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675</p>
<p>ACCESIBILIDAD/ CAPACIDAD</p>	<p>La reunión de evaluación se realiza a fin de brindarles a las partes interesadas la oportunidad de aprender sobre las alternativas propuestas del proyecto y presentar comentarios por escrito para colaborar con el equipo del proyecto en la preparación del documento sobre el medio ambiente. La reunión se llevará a cabo el jueves 8 de junio de 2006, de 5:00 p.m. a 7:00 p.m. en el Centro Comunitario San Juan Capistrano, ubicado en 25925 Camino del Avion, San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675.</p>
	<p>De acuerdo con la Sección II de la Ley para Estadounidenses con Discapacidades (<i>Americans with Disabilities Act</i>), la Ciudad y Caltrans no discriminan por cuestiones de discapacidad y, a pedido, proporcionarán prestaciones razonables para asegurar el acceso equitativo a sus instalaciones y servicios. Aquellas personas que requieran prestaciones especiales como traducciones a otro idioma, intérpretes de lenguaje de señas, dispositivos de asistencia auditiva u otros dispositivos o servicios auxiliares deberán comunicarse con Praveen Gupta, Director de Planificación Ambiental, Sector A, Caltrans, al teléfono (949) 724-2243. La solicitud deberá realizarse antes de las 5:00 p.m. (horario de verano del Pacífico) del viernes 2 de junio de 2006. La sede de la reunión de evaluación y las instalaciones del estacionamiento permiten el acceso con sillas de ruedas.</p>

Figure 4-2
Notice of Public Open House and Scoping Meeting
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On June 8, 2006, an open house public meeting was held at the San Juan Capistrano Community Center. Displays about the project were available for public review, and staff from the City and the Department was present to answer questions. A brief presentation of the project was made, and a looping video was available. Comments from the public were solicited through comment cards and through the availability of a court reporter who received verbal comments.

Eighty-nine comments were received through comment cards, postal mail, and e-mail regarding the project. Nineteen verbal comments were received from the public during the open house.

A range of concerns and questions were raised during this public review period. Public concerns during this open house were focused on:

- Investigating additional alternatives or modification of current alternatives
- Opposition to the proposed alternatives
- Support of the proposed alternatives
- Right-of-way (acquisition of adjacent properties and businesses)

As a result of the comments received at the June 8, 2006, open house, and subsequent PDT meetings, two of the five original project build alternatives have been carried forward in this EIR/EA for final consideration.

4.4 Agency and Public Notices Regarding the Draft EIR/EA

The public review period for the Draft EIR/EA began on March 28, 2008 and was originally scheduled to end after a 45-day duration on May 12, 2008. At the request of the City of San Juan Capistrano, the Department extended the Draft EIR/EA public review period by an additional thirty days, to end on June 12, 2008.

A Notice of Completion (NOC) & Environmental Document Transmittal Form, along with a NOA of the Draft EIR/EA and notice of public hearing was transmitted to the California SCH on March 26, 2008. A revised NOC and NOA were transmitted to the California SCH on May 12, 2008, indicating that the public review period for the Draft EIR/EA had been extended by thirty days to close on June 12, 2008. The California SCH distributed the original and revised NOC forms and NOAs for the Draft EIR/EA to all state agencies with potential jurisdiction in or interest in the project area.

The NOA of the Draft EIR/EA and notice of public hearing was mailed to all residents and property owners in the City of San Juan Capistrano, as well as other interested parties. The NOA of the Draft EIR/EA and notice of public hearing was transmitted to the Orange County Clerk for public display also advertised in regional and local newspapers including *The Orange County Register*, *The Capistrano Dispatch*, and *La Opinión* (Spanish language newspaper).

Refer to Appendix G for copies of all public and agency notices concerning the Draft EIR/EA public review period and public hearing.

4.5 Public Meetings Conducted for the Draft EIR/EA

4.5.1 Public Open House and Draft EIR/EA Public Hearing (April 29, 2008)

A public hearing regarding the Draft EIR/EA was held on April 29, 2008 in conjunction with the City of San Juan Capistrano Transportation Commission and Planning Commission joint meeting. The public hearing was preceded by a public open house during which attendees were able to peruse project information, exhibits, and copies of the Draft EIR/EA, ask questions of City of San Juan Capistrano and Department staff, and provide written and oral comments (oral comments were transcribed by a court reporter). The proceedings of the public hearing were transcribed by a court reporter. Refer to Appendix H for handout materials and all information related to the public hearing.

There were 61 attendees that registered on the meeting sign-in sheets, as well as additional meeting attendees representing the Department, City, and consultant team. During the course of the open house and public hearing, a total 12 individuals gave verbal comments that were recoded by the a court reporter, and a total of nine written comments were received on comment card forms.

A range of concerns and questions were raised during the public hearing that focused on:

- Support of and opposition to the proposed alternatives;
- Right-of-way (acquisition of adjacent properties and business);
- Requests for investigation of additional alternatives or modifications to proposed alternatives; and
- The safety and well-being of the students and staff at San Juan Elementary School.

4.5.2 City of San Juan Capistrano City Council Public Meeting (May 6, 2008)

A presentation regarding the project and the Draft EIR/EA was given at the City of San Juan Capistrano City Council public meeting on May 6, 2008. Members of the public were given the opportunity to provide verbal and written comments on the Draft EIR/EA at the City Council meeting. Refer to Appendix I for handout materials and a copy of the presentation given at the City Council meeting.

4.6 Comments Received During the Draft EIR/EA Public Review Period and Responses to Comments

Comments were received from seven agencies and 43 individuals during the Draft EIR/EA public review period. All agency and public comments received during the Draft EIR/EA public review period are included in Appendix J. Written responses to the comments are included in Appendix K.