1.0 INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this document is to respond to all comments received by the County of Orange (County) regarding the environmental information and analyses contained in the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

As required by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines, 14 California Code of Regulations (CCR) Section 15087, a public notice of availability of the Draft EIR for the La Pata Avenue Gap Closure and Camino Del Rio Extension Project (proposed project) was published in the Orange County Register, and a Notice of Availability (NOA) and Notice of Completion (NOC) of the Draft EIR for the project were filed with the State Clearinghouse.

The Draft EIR was circulated for public review for a period of 45 days, from November 3, 2010, to December 17, 2010. Copies of the Draft EIR were distributed to the State Clearinghouse, the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (15 copies), and other federal, State, and local agencies. Copies of the Draft EIR were available for public review at the Cities of San Clemente and San Juan Capistrano, and at the San Juan Capistrano Regional Library, San Clemente Library, and Dana Point Library. A copy of the distribution list for the Draft EIR is provided in Appendix D to this document.

Nine Community Outreach meetings were held during the public review period, and an additional meeting was held in January 2011. A list of the meetings, dates, and times are provided below.

Meeting	Date	Time of Meeting
San Juan Capistrano Transportation Commission	November 10, 2010	6:00 p.m.
Mission Viejo City Council Briefing	November 15, 2010	6:00 p.m.
San Juan Capistrano City Council Briefing	November 16, 2010	6:30 p.m.
San Clemente Planning Commission Briefing	November 17, 2010	7:00 p.m.
Public Meeting	November 18, 2010	7:30 p.m.
Ladera Ranch Civic Council Briefing	November 22, 2010	7:00 p.m.
Forster Ranch Homeowners Association Meeting	December 7, 2010	6:00 p.m.
Rancho Santa Margarita City Council Briefing	December 8, 2010	7:00 p.m.
San Clemente Planning Commission Hearing	December 8, 2010	7:00 p.m.
Forster Highlands Homeowners Association Meeting	January 19, 2011	7:00 p.m.

The County held a public meeting on November 18, 2010, to present the Draft EIR and to address questions from the general public regarding the Draft EIR. This meeting was held from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at the San Clemente Community Center located at 100 North Calle Seville in San Clemente, California. Issues and concerns raised at the public meeting included:

- Noise impacts associated with increased traffic through the project area, especially for residents residing in the community of Talega;
- Concern regarding the selection of the preferred alternative;

- Concern about the potential increase in traffic on Vista Hermosa as a result of the proposed project;
- Concern that the Draft EIR did not evaluate each alternative to the maximum extent feasible;
- Concern that the project will not be sufficiently funded by the time construction is anticipated;
- Consideration of cumulative noise in the project area;
- Support for the La Pata gap closure, but not for the Camino Del Rio extension; and
- Suggestion of a bridge over Camino Del Rio to connect the Forster Ranch Ridgeline Trail.

A total of 90 comment letters on the Draft EIR were received during the public review period. Comments were received from State agencies, regional and local agencies, organizations, and private citizens. The 90 comments also included public comments that were recorded during the monthly City of San Clemente Planning Commission meeting held on December 8, 2010. Substantive comments that relate to environmental issues are thoroughly addressed. In some cases, corrections to the Draft EIR are required or additional information is provided for clarification purposes. However, some of the comments do not present significant environmental issues, or they request the incorporation of additional information in the Draft EIR that is not relevant to environmental issues. Such comments do not require a response, pursuant to CEQA Guidelines CCR Section 15088(a).

CEQA Guidelines CCR Section 15088, Evaluation of and Response to Comments, states

a. The lead agency shall evaluate comments on environmental issues received from persons who reviewed the draft EIR and shall prepare a written response. The lead agency shall respond to comments received during the noticed comment period and any extensions and may respond to late comments.

b. The lead agency shall provide a written proposed response to a public agency on comments made by that public agency at least 10 days prior to certifying an environmental impact report.

c. The written response shall describe the disposition of significant environmental issues raised (e.g., revisions to the proposed project to mitigate anticipated impacts or objections). In particular, major environmental issues raised when the lead agency's position is at variance with recommendations and objections raised in the comments must be addressed in detail, giving the reasons that specific comments and suggestions were not accepted. There must be good faith, reasoned analysis in response. Conclusory statements unsupported by factual information will not suffice.

d. The Response to Comments may take the form of a revision to the Draft EIR or may be a separate section in the final EIR. Where the Response to Comments makes important changes in the information contained in the text of the Draft EIR, the lead agency should either:

   1. Revise the text in the body of the EIR; or

   2. Include marginal notes showing that the information is revised in the Responses to Comments.

Information provided in this Response to Comments document clarifies, amplifies, or makes minor modifications to the Draft EIR. Many comments raised a similar or identical issue relating to support or lack of support of a particular proposed build alternative or project variation. To address these comments, a single master response regarding the topic of alternatives is provided and subsequent

responses refer to the master response. No significant changes have been made to the information contained in the Draft EIR as a result of the responses to comments, and no significant new information has been added that would require recirculation of the document. An errata has been prepared to make minor corrections and clarifications to the Draft EIR as a result of comments received during the public review period (see Appendix B). Therefore, this Response to Comments document, along with the Errata, is being prepared as a separate section of the EIR and is included as part of the Final EIR (Volume IV) for consideration by the County prior to a vote to certify the Final EIR.

1.1 INDEX OF COMMENTS

The following is an index list of the agencies, interested parties, and members of the public that commented on the Draft EIR prior to the close of the public comment period or immediately thereafter. The comments received have been organized in a manner that facilitates finding a particular comment or set of comments. Each comment letter received is indexed with a number below. Please see Chapter 2 of this document for copies of these letters.

Letter	Name	Date
State Agencies Comments		
S-1	Native American Heritage Commission	December 7, 2010
S-2	California Department of Fish and Game	December 17, 2010
S-3	State Clearinghouse cover letter with attached California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecyle) comment letter, and duplicate California Department of Fish and Game comment letter	December 17, 2010
Regional Agencies Comments		
R-1	California Regional Water Quality Control Board – San Diego Region	December 3, 2010
R-2	State Clearinghouse cover letter with attached South Coast Air Quality Management District comment letter	December 17, 2010
Local Agencies Comments		
L-1	Orange County Waste and Recycling	November 9, 2010
L-2	City of Rancho Santa Margarita	December 8, 2010
L-3	Orange County Transportation Authority	December 10, 2010
L-4	City of Mission Viejo	December 13, 2010
L-5	Capistrano Unified School District	December 14, 2010
L-6	City of San Clemente Community Development	December 17, 2010
L-7	Transportation Corridor Agencies	December 17, 2010
Service and Utility Providers Comments		
U-1	San Diego Gas and Electric Company and Southern California Gas Company	December 17, 2010
Organizations Comments		
O-1	Rancho Mission Viejo	December 14, 2010
O-2	San Clemente Green	November 11, 2010

Letter	Name	Date
	General Public Comments	
P-1	Michael Blackwell	November 4, 2010
P-2	Michael Blackwell	November 5, 2010
P-3	Ken Lockwood	November 17, 2010
P-4	Janice Krause	November 17, 2010
P-5	R. K. Dickey	November 17, 2010
P-6	Jenna Chandler	November 18, 2010
P-7	John Tilton	November 18, 2010
P-8	Matt and Sepi Forstie	November 20, 2010
P-9	Marieek@hotmail.com	November 23, 2010
P-10	Ken Goldstone	November 23, 2010
P-11	Tom Hawkins	November 28, 2010
P-12	Laurie Gooch	November 28, 2010
P-13	Steph and Madge DeSales	November 29, 2010
P-14	Michele Atkinson	November 30, 2010
P-15	Brad Gates	December 1, 2010
P-16	Elizabeth Morrison	December 4, 2010
P-17	John Christl	December 5, 2010
P-18	Denise and Brett Kacura	December 5, 2010
P-19	Tom and Kati Bennett	December 5, 2010
P-20	James Gaddie	December 5, 2010
P-21	Dean Zibas	December 5, 2010
P-22	Amy Gray	December 5, 2010
P-23	Cynthia Vikan	December 6, 2010
P-24	David Baba	December 6, 2010
P-25	Anthony Bradish	December 6, 2010
P-26	Ron Grace	December 6, 2010
P-27	Leanne Mudge	December 6, 2010
P-28	Diane Lyttle	December 6, 2010
P-29	Fred and Margo Martin	December 6, 2010
P-30	Don Campbell	December 6, 2010
P-31	Karen Grace	December 6, 2010
P-32	Lynn Moore	December 6, 2010
P-33	Ken Royal	December 8, 2010
P-34	Larry Kramer	December 8, 2010
P-35	Dave and Kathy Hall	December 7, 2010
P-36	Corri Roe	December 7, 2010
P-37	Tina Taylor	December 7, 2010
P-38	Kim and Debbie Zetterberg	December 7, 2010
P-39	Sandy and Rich Marquez	December 7, 2010
P-40	William C. Sheperd III	December 7, 2010
P-41	Don and Jill Eslick	December 7, 2010
P-42	Eric Kowalski	December 7, 2010
P-43	Robyne Maffia	December 8, 2010
P-44	Susan Mills	December 8, 2010
P-45	Dan and Connie Mueller	December 8, 2010
P-46	Gloria Weinberg	December 7, 2010
P-47	Mark Tookey	December 8, 2010
P-48	Moira Graff	December 8, 2010

Letter	Name	Date
P-49	Mr. and Mrs. Michael Whaley	December 8, 2010
P-50	Rachel Lickley	December 8, 2010
P-51	James Keany, MD	December 8, 2010
P-52	Amy Rhodes	December 8, 2010
P-53	John Mairs	December 8, 2010
P-54	Shawn Teske	December 8, 2010
P-55	Dave Schultz	December 8, 2010
P-56	Jerry Collamer	December 8, 2010
P-57	Chuck and Julie Ranson	December 8, 2010
P-58	Melinda Stone	December 8, 2010
P-59	Donna Vecchiarelli	December 9, 2010
P-60	Thomas Kearns	December 13, 2010
P-61	Paul and Cindy Henry	December 10, 2010
P-62	Rick Colia	December 9, 2010
P-63	Jay Reale	December 13, 2010
P-64	Rich Hougland	December 11, 2010
P-65	Valentin Ignat	December 12, 2010
P-66	Michael Anthony	December 15, 2010
P-67	Laurie Manning	December 16, 2010
P-68	Matthew Sweany	December 16, 2010
P-69	Donald Kunze	December 16, 2010
P-70	Sheila Ross	December 16, 2010
P-71	Allan Siposs	December 17, 2010
P-72	Charles Fernald	December 17, 2010
P-73	Jeff Hamilton	December 20, 2010
P-74	Dr. George and Debra Grant	December 20, 2010
P-75	David Hall	January 5, 2011
City of San Clemente Planning Commission Meeting Minutes		
M-1	General Meeting Agenda Items	December 8, 2010
M-2	Review of the Draft EIR for the La Pata Project	–
M-3	Written Communications Discussion	–
M-4	Public Testimony: Tom Rimillard	–
M-5	Public Testimony: Ken and Sandy Goldstone	–
M-6	Public Testimony: John Tengdin	–
M-7	Public Testimony: Don Kunzie	–
M-8	Public Testimony: Robin Rutherford	–
M-9	Public Testimony: Alan Siposs	–
M-10	Public Testimony: Jill Eslick	–
M-11	Public Testimony: Mark Briggs	–
M-12	Public Testimony: Rob Provencio	–
M-13	Response to Comments Discussion	–
M-14	Action Items and Comments	–
M-15	Non-project related Commission Meeting Topics	–

1.2 FORMAT OF RESPONSES TO COMMENTS

Copies of the comment letters are provided in Chapter 2. Responses to each of the comment letters are provided in Chapter 3 of this document. The number of each comment letter is positioned in the upper right-hand corner of the first page, and individual points within each letter are numbered along the right-hand margin of each letter. The County's responses to each comment letter are included in Chapter 3 of this document and are referenced by the index numbers in the margins. As noted in some of the responses, an errata has been prepared to provide corrections and clarifications to the Draft EIR (see Appendix B for the Errata).