

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **ALTON PARKWAY EXTENSION RIBBON CUTTING MARKS OPENING OF NEW ROADWAY**

LAKE FOREST, CA—The County of Orange and the City of Lake Forest will host a ribbon cutting on June 20, 2012 to announce the opening of the Alton Parkway Extension. The ribbon cutting will be held at the end of Commercentre Drive west of Bake Parkway from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The event includes a ribbon cutting and messages from Orange County Board Supervisor Patricia C. Bates and Supervisor Bill Campbell along with Lake Forest City Manager Robert C. Dunek, Lake Forest Mayor Kathryn McCullough, Orange County Sheriff Sandra Hutchens, President of Shea Homes, Bob Yoder and the President of Sukut Construction, Mike Crawford.

This highly-anticipated project closes the gap in Alton Parkway with the construction of a 2.1 mile, divided roadway from Irvine Boulevard in Irvine to Towne Centre Drive in the Foothill Ranch community of Lake Forest. The County constructed a six-lane, divided highway from Irvine Boulevard in Irvine to Commercentre Drive in Lake Forest. The City of Lake Forest constructed a four-lane divided highway from Commercentre Drive to Towne Centre Drive with grading to accommodate a six-lane highway which will be developed later, in conjunction with future private development.

"It is always exciting to be at events such as today's to celebrate the collaborative effort between the County and two local cities, Lake Forest and Irvine, along with many other jurisdictions and community partners. The closure of the 2.1 mile gap in this major arterial will reduce commute times for many residents and allow them more time with their families," commented Supervisor Bill Campbell.

(more)

Alton Opening  
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Supervisor Pat Bates echoed his sentiment by stating, "The completion of the extension creates a vital linkage in South Orange County, connecting communities and improving overall regional mobility." Supervisor Bates added, "I would like to thank all the stakeholders that have worked so very hard for so long to move this project forward."

The 2.1 mile segment of roadway is a component of the 1988 Foothill Circulation Phase Plan (FCPP). The FCPP was developed by the County in partnership with major landowners in southeastern Orange County to ensure the timely completion of regional transportation improvements.

In addition to the City of Lake Forest and the County of Orange, other agencies involved in the project include: the City of Irvine, Shea/Baker Ranch Associates, the United States Navy, the Orange County Sheriff's Department and the Irvine Ranch Water District.

Construction costs for the total 2.1 mile extension were \$7.7 million for the City of Lake Forest and \$20,200,000 for the County. Most of the funding came from revenue of nearby developments through the Foothill Circulation Phasing Plan (FCPP) Fee Program.

The roadway serves as a connection between SR-241 and Interstate 5 (I-5) and will improve traffic conditions in these well-traveled areas. The extension will open for traffic mid-afternoon on June 20, 2012.

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