

PRESS RELEASE

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LA PATA EXTENSION PROJECT – Transportation Relief Coming to Orange County

SOUTH ORANGE COUNTY – OC Public Works broke ground today on the La Pata Extension Project; the project will increase Orange County's regional mobility by providing a north-south alternative to Interstate 5 and eliminating the existing gap between Ortega Highway to the north and Avenida Vista Hermosa to the south.

"The La Pata Extension Project is the most significant County roadway improvement remaining in South Orange County. Breaking ground on this project today fulfills a vision that I have pursued passionately. I am pleased to see construction get underway," said Patricia C. Bates, Vice Chairman and Fifth District Supervisor.

The La Pata Gap Connector (Initial Phase) will add four new travel lanes and extend the existing La Pata Avenue from just south of Vista Montana to the intersection of Calle Saluda. The La Pata Widening (Subsequent Phase) will widen the existing La Pata Avenue with one additional travel lane in each direction between Ortega Highway and just south of Vista Montana. The Camino Del Rio Extension (Subsequent Phase) will extend the existing roadway from its current terminus to the newly extended La Pata Avenue.

The project's improvements will also accommodate pedestrians and bicyclists by constructing streetlights, raised medians, bike lanes and sidewalks.

"Major transportation projects like the La Pata Extension represent the best of what Public Works can achieve. This is an exciting milestone for a long anticipated project," said Shane Silsby, Director of Orange County Public Works.

Trail connectivity will be maintained through the construction of a pedestrian bridge that links the Prima Deshecha Trail and Forster Ridgeline Trail. "The La Pata Extension will complete a critical link in the County's Master Plan of Regional Riding and Hiking Trails which will connect two major South County communities, San Clemente and San Juan Capistrano," said Ken Agid from the County of Orange Regional Recreational Trails Advisory Committee.

The project is funded by state and local financing including OCTA's Renewed Measure M (M2), Ladera Ranch and The Ranch Community Facilities Districts, State Proposition 1B Funds, La Pata Road Fee Program, OC Waste and Recycling, OC Public Works Road Fund (State Gas Tax), the City of San Juan Capistrano and the City of San Clemente.

"Sukut Construction, LLC. is proud to be in partnership with the County of Orange to build this extension of La Pata. Our goal is to work in coordination with the other affiliated stakeholders in the area, including the City of San Juan Capistrano, the City of San Clemente, OC Waste and Recycling, and Rancho Mission Viejo, to make this a successful project," said Mike Crawford, President and CEO of Sukut Construction, LLC.

For additional project information, please visit the project website, lapata.ocpublicworks.com or call the hotline number, **844-4-LAPATA (452-7282)**.

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