

SR 74/ Ortega Highway



Safety Improvements Project

EA 043200

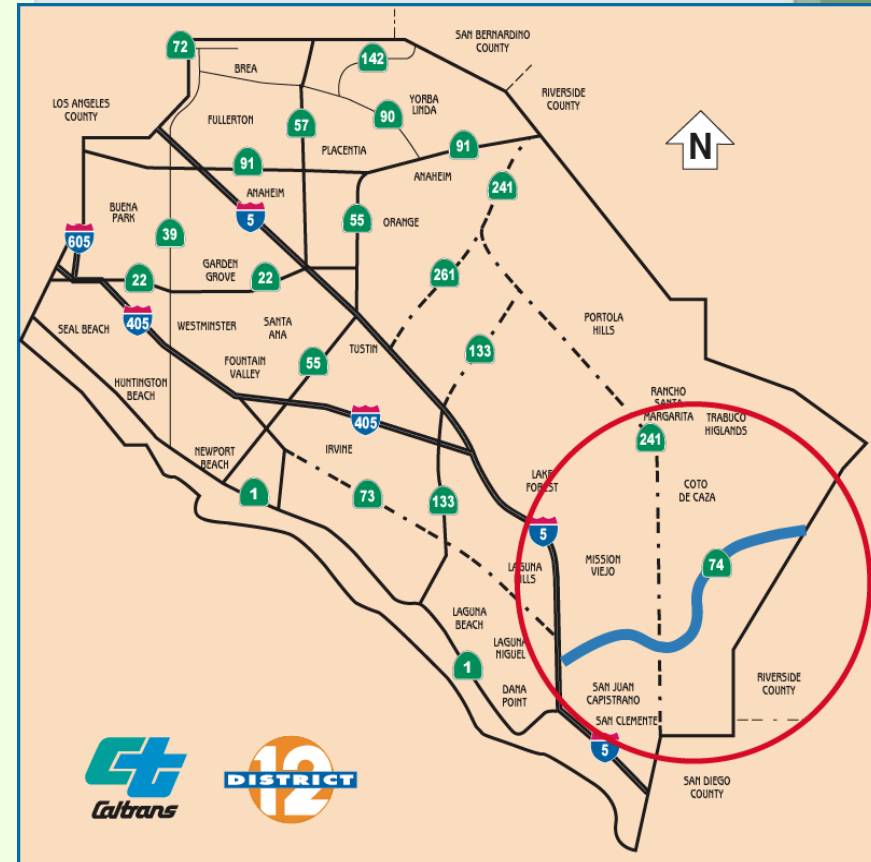


DISTRICT 12 – ORA – 74, KP 21.4/26.7 (PM 13.3/16.6)

SR 74/ Ortega Highway



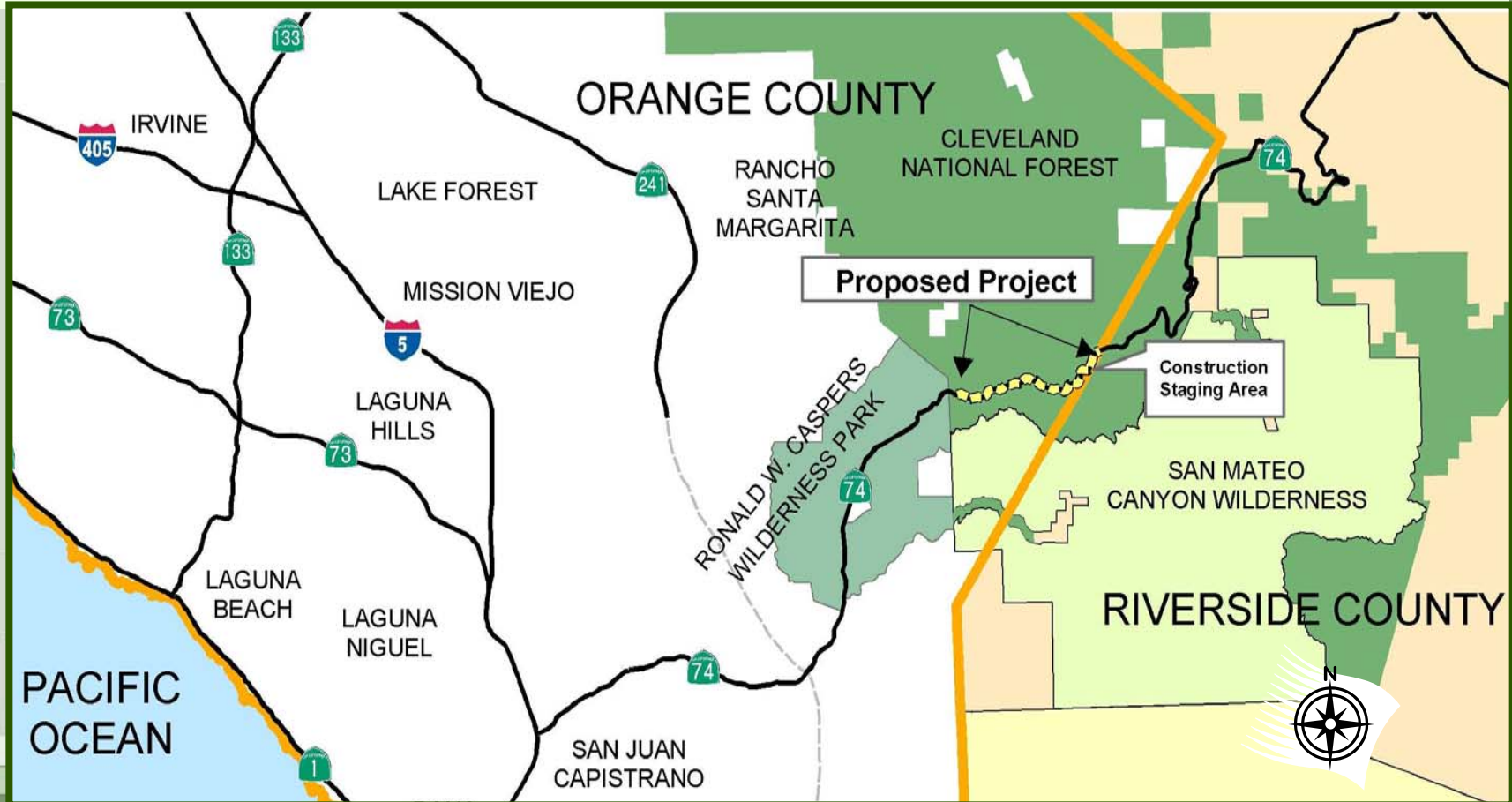
- Constructed in 1930.
- Connects Riverside County, Orange County & the coast.
- 2-Lane, mountainous road w/ sharp curves & steep slopes.
- Parallel to San Juan Creek.
- Travels through San Juan Capistrano, San Juan Hot Springs, Lake Elsinore & Perris.
- Runs through Caspers Regional Park & the Cleveland National Forest.



Project Location



The project is located on a section of SR 74/ Ortega Highway within Orange County & the Cleveland National Forest, between the San Juan Canyon Bridge & Orange/ Riverside County line.



District 12-ORA-74, Kilopost 21.4/26.7 (Post Mile 13.3/16.6).



What Is The Proposal?

- The Department and FHWA propose a safety improvement on SR-74 from San Juan Canyon Bridge to the Riverside County Line
- The project is funded by the State Highway Operation and Protection Program (SHOPP)

Why Are We Proposing This Project?



- Accident rate is higher than the average for similar facilities
- Existing lane widths are 10 to 11 feet
- No shoulders except at turnouts
- Limited Sight distance

What was done to minimize accidents



- Double fine zone
- Guard rails
- Speed checked by Radar
- CHP Enforcement
- New pavement with more visible delineation and markers
- Daytime Headlight Area

Purpose and Need



The proposed project aims to Improve traffic safety by:

- Providing more room to maneuver and recover on the winding highway
- Improving sight distance



Project Work

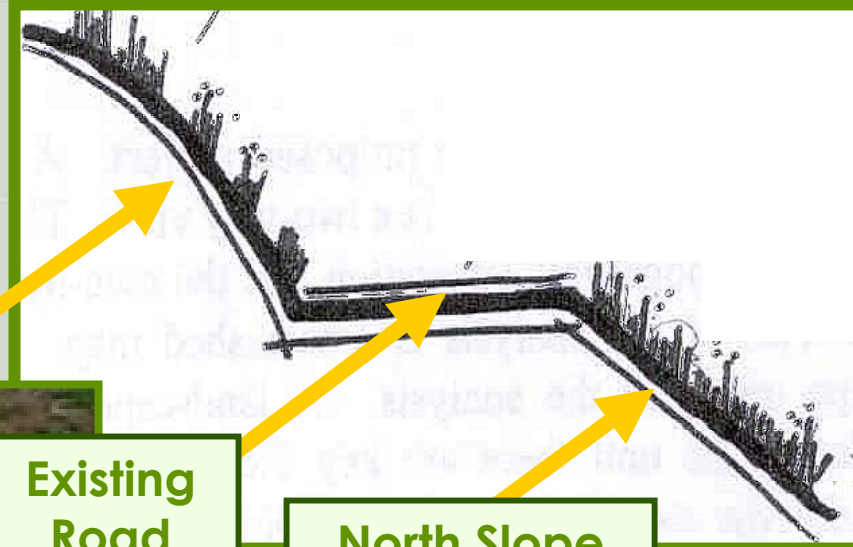
The project would widen lanes and add shoulders by cutting into South Slopes or placing fill on North Slopes.



South Slope
(possible cut)

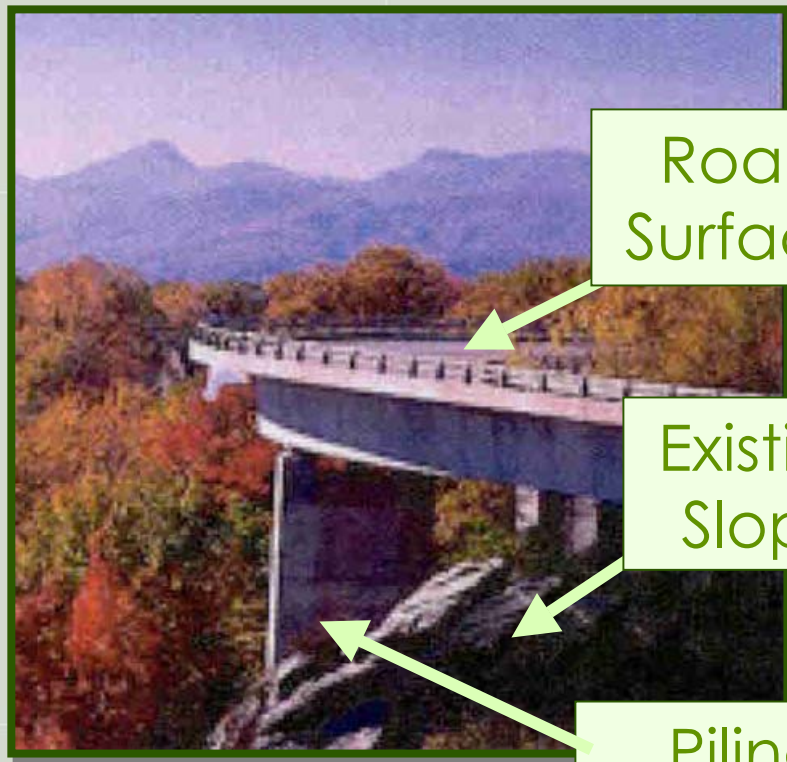
Existing
Road

North Slope
(possible fill)



View of Ortega Highway travelling West.

Project Structures



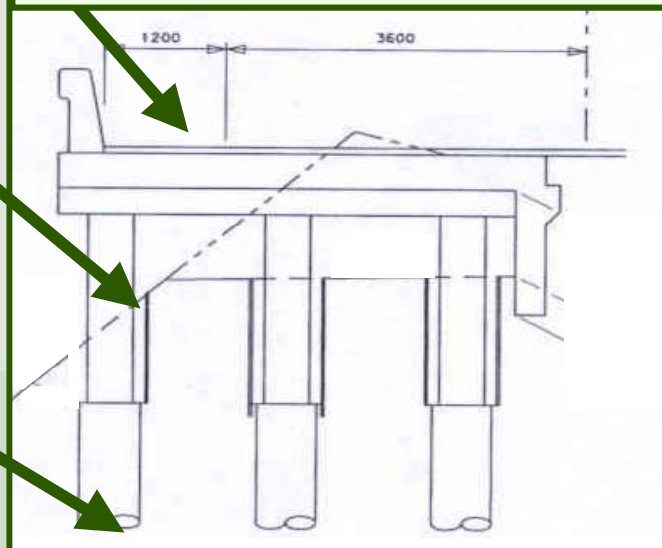
Road Surface

Existing Slope

Pilings (Supports)

The project includes construction of viaducts and barrier slabs.

Example Viaduct



Issues affecting SR-74



The project examines the potential environmental impacts of the proposed improvement.

Issues affecting SR-74 include:

- Biological Resources
- Visual & Aesthetics
- Cultural Resources
- Traffic & Circulation
- Water Quality



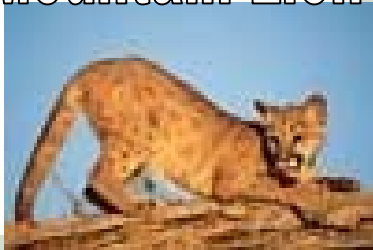
Examples of Sensitive Species

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Sticky Dudleya



Mountain Lion



Red Tailed Hawk



Least Bell's Vireo



Arroyo Toad



Courtesy of Dan C. Holland, Ph.D.

Many-Stemmed Dudleya



Project Benefits



- Wider lanes and new shoulders
- Improved sight distance
- Better maneuverability
- Better traffic flow
- Audible median (Rumble Strip)

Better Visibility = Safety



Better Visibility = Safety



Environmental Process

74

Project Scoping

January 2002

Draft Environmental Document

Initial Study/ Environmental Assessment
(IS/EA)

Released in March 2005

Public Review and Comment

on the IS/EA

Begins on March 9, 2005

Ends on April 11, 2005

Draft Environmental Document

Initial Study/Environmental Assessment
IS/EA

Anticipated in Summer 2005?

**We
are
here**



Outreach To Date

- Community Open House was held on 3/30/05 in Lake Elsinore
- Project presentation during Riverside/Orange County MIS Policy Committee on 4/29/05
- Agency Scoping Meeting was held on 1/14/02

Where Are We Today?



- We received overwhelming public response. A total of 615 comments. 25% were from Lake Elsinore, and 54% of the total comments were from Riverside County.
- Most comments are regarding traffic impacts during construction.

Where Are We Today?



- We are modifying the Draft TMP
- A Community Information Meeting at Lake Elsinore will be held on 5/9/05
- We will continue to look for technical options to reduce traffic impacts.
- Public outreach forums will be used to develop consensus on options in the next couple of months.

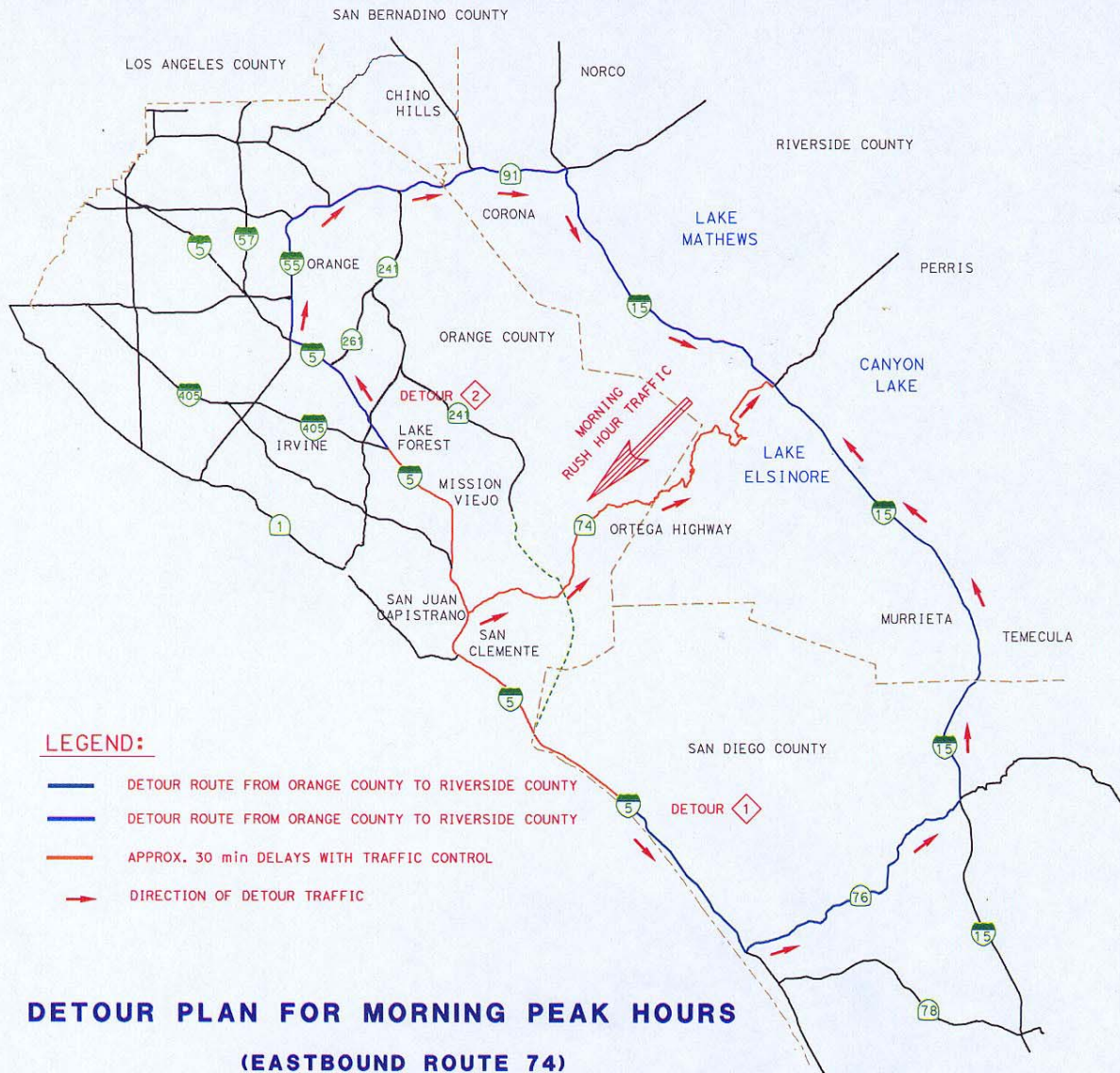
Modified Draft Traffic Management Plan



- Directional traffic is planned to remain open in peak direction and peak hours. Allowing non peak direction is being studied.
- Full closures will only be in off peak hours to accommodate blasting and heavy construction.
- Flagging operation is planned with max. 30 minute delay in off peak hours.

Morning Peak Detour Plan

74



Afternoon Peak Detour Plan

74



DETOUR PLAN FOR AFTERNOON PEAK HOURS

(WESTBOUND ROUTE 74)

Non Peak Traffic Hours



- Traffic Open both direction using one lane with Flagging/Stop Control and Pilot Car operation
- Full closure will be allowed during heavy construction or blasting activities

Proposed Project Schedule



Other Safety Improvements on SR-74



- Safety project in Riverside County with similar improvements at localized areas completed construction in May 1997.
- Accidents rates dropped 40% after the improvement.

SR 74/ Ortega Highway



Thank you
for the
opportunity
to share this
information.

