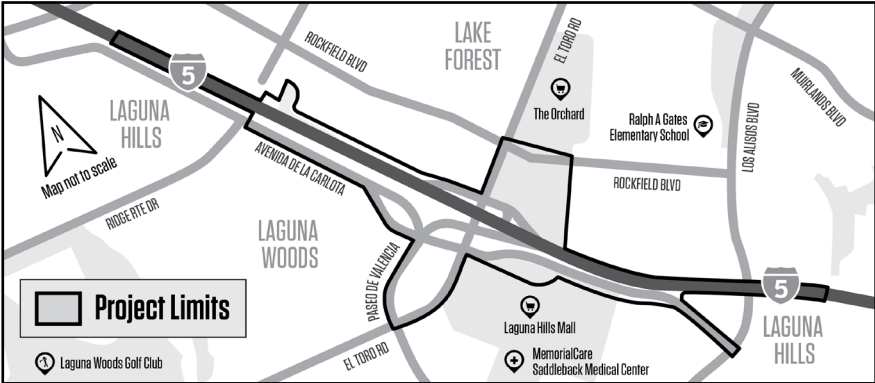


I-5/El Toro Road Interchange Project

Notice of Availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) / Environmental Assessment (EA)



WHAT'S BEING PLANNED?

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), in cooperation with the Orange County Transportation Authority, (OCTA) proposes to modify the Interstate 5 (I-5)/El Toro Road Interchange (Post Mile 17.8/19.7) within the cities of Lake Forest, Laguna Woods, and Laguna Hills. The purpose of the project is to improve traffic flow, optimize traffic signalization, improve traffic mobility through adjacent local street intersections, reduce freeway ramp queuing, and apply technology to help manage traffic demand. Currently, the project is in the environmental review and preliminary engineering process. Two Build Alternatives and one No Build Alternative are under consideration.

Project-level conformity analysis shows that the project will conform to the State Implementation Plan, including localized impact analysis with interagency consultation for particulate matter (PM10 and PM2.5)) and Carbon Monoxide (CO) required by 40 CFR 93.116 and 93.123. This project is not considered a Project of Concern regarding particulate matter (PM10 and PM2.5) as defined in 40 CFR 93.123(b)(1). A detailed PM10 and PM2.5 hot-spot analysis was not completed because Clean Air Act and 40 CFR 93.116 requirements are met without an explicit hot-spot analysis. The project comes from a conforming Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Comment is requested regarding the project-level conformity analysis.

WHY THIS AD?

Caltrans has studied the potential effects that could result from this project and our studies have shown it will not significantly affect the quality of the environment. We have prepared a joint environmental document that explains why this is, called the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR)/ Environmental Assessment (EA). This notice is to inform you of the preparation of the DEIR/EA and of its availability for you to read. Virtual and in-person public hearings (open house format) will be held to give the public an opportunity to learn about the proposed project and potential impacts before the final design is selected. The tentative schedule for right of way activities and construction will be discussed, and CALTRANS' staff will explain the Department's relocation assistance.

WHAT'S AVAILABLE?

The Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) and Environmental Assessment (EA) will be available for public review and comment at bit.ly/ETRimprovement. The document will also be available for review and comment at the following locations during business hours:



- **Caltrans District 12**, 1750 E. 4th Street, Suite 100, Santa Ana, CA 92705 (8am-5pm Monday-Friday)
- **Laguna Woods Library**, 24264 El Toro Road, Laguna Woods, CA 92637 (9am-5pm Monday-Friday)
- **El Toro Library**, 24672 Raymond Way, Lake Forest, CA 92630 (10am-7pm Monday-Thursday) ; (9am-5pm Friday & Saturday)
- **Laguna Hills Library**, 25555 Alicia Parkway, Laguna Hills, CA 92653 (10am-7pm Monday-Thursday) ; (9am-5pm Saturday)

WHERE YOU COME IN?

Have the potential impacts been addressed? Do you have information that should be included? Your comments will be part of the public record. The public will have the opportunity to ask questions, receive information, and share comments with Caltrans about the proposed project and the findings. Please submit written comments no later than 5 p.m. September 14, 2026. Caltrans will begin accepting comments on July 31, 2026. Written comments can be submitted in the following ways:

- **Email**: Send comments to D12.ELToro@dot.ca.gov
- **Comment Card**: Complete a comment card at the in-person public hearing
- **Court Reporter**: Offer verbal comments with the court reporter at the in-person and virtual public hearing
- **Mail**: Mail comments to Caltrans District 12, Division of Environmental Analysis, 1750 E. 4th Street, Suite 100, Santa Ana, CA 92705. Must be postmarked by Monday, September 14, 2026.

WHEN AND WHERE?

MEETING:	In-person Public Meeting (Open House Forum)	Zoom Public Meeting (Open House Forum)
DATE:	Wednesday, Aug. 26, 2026	Wednesday, Sept. 2, 2026
TIME:	5 to 7 p.m.	5 to 7 p.m.
LOCATION:	Laguna Hills Community Center 25555 Alicia Parkway Laguna Hills, CA 92653	Register Here bit.ly/ ETROpenhouse 

CONTACT

For more information about this study or to request special accommodations (American Sign Language interpreter, accessible seating at public hearing, documentation in alternate formats, etc.), please contact Caltrans District 12 Public Information Office at (657) 328-6000 at least 21 days prior to the scheduled public hearing. TDD users may contact the California Relay Service line at 1 (800) 735-2929 or Voice Line at 1(800) 735-2922.

For general information, please contact OCTA Public Outreach at **(800)724-0353** or visit the project webpage at www.octa.net/i5eltoro.