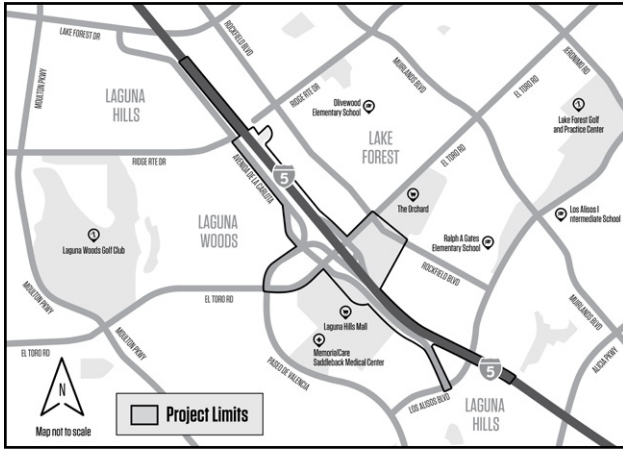


PUBLIC SCOPING NOTICE



I-5/El Toro Road Interchange Project

Notice of Public Scoping Meetings (Open Forum) for an Environmental Impact Report (EIR)/ Environmental Assessment (EA) and Availability of Notice of Preparation (NOP) for an EIR



WHAT'S AVAILABLE?

The Notice of Preparation and additional project materials will be available for public review and comment at dot.ca.gov/caltrans-near-me/district-12/district-12-programs/district-12-environmental/i-5-el-toro-road-interchange-improvement-project. The NOP will also be available at the following locations for viewing during normal business hours:

- **Caltrans District 12**, 1750 E. 4th St. #100, Santa Ana, CA 92705
- **El Toro Library**, 24672 Raymond Way, Lake Forest, CA 92630
- **Laguna Woods Village Library**, 24266 Calle Aragon, Laguna Woods, CA 92637
- **Laguna Hills Technology Library**, 25555 Alicia Pkwy, Laguna Hills, CA 92653

WHERE YOU COME IN?

Comments can be submitted during the public scoping period (**July 11, 2023 – August 25, 2023**) in any of the following formats:

- Online comment form at the Caltrans website: dot.ca.gov/caltrans-near-me/district-12/district-12-programs/district-12-environmental/i-5-el-toro-road-interchange-improvement-project
- Email comments to D12.ELToro@dot.ca.gov with the subject line “**I-5 El Toro Road Interchange Project**”.
- Regular mail to **Emily Czaban, ICF**, 49 Discovery, Suite 250, Irvine, California 92618.
- Court reporter during our scoping meetings.

Please submit comments **no later than 5:00 PM on Monday, August 25, 2023**.

WHEN AND WHERE?

You will have the opportunity to ask questions and provide comments about the proposed project to OCTA and Caltrans staff.

MEETING:	In-person Public Scoping Meeting (Open House Forum)	Virtual Public Scoping Meeting on Zoom (Open House Forum)
DATE:	Wednesday, July 26 , 2023	Thursday, August 3 , 2023
TIME:	4 - 7 p.m.	4 - 7 p.m.
LOCATION:	Lake Forest Community Center 100 Civic Center Drive Lake Forest, CA 92630	bit.ly/ETROpenhouse

CONTACT

To request alternative accommodations for accessing project information or for attending public scoping meetings please contact the Caltrans District 12 Public Information Office at (657) 328-6000. TDD users may contact the California Relay Service line at 1 (800) 735-2929 or Voice Line at 1(800) 735-2922. Requests for alternative accommodations to attend scoping meetings must be made 15 days prior to the scoping meeting.

For more information about this study, please call Fernando Chavarria, Community Relations Officer, at (714) 560-5306, or visit the project webpage www.octa.net/ElToroInterchange.

WHAT'S BEING PLANNED?

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), in partnership with the Orange County Transportation Authority, (OCTA) proposes to modify the Interstate 5 (I-5)/El Toro Road Interchange (PM 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. Three preliminary alternatives, including two Build Alternatives and the No Build Alternative are under consideration.

WHY THIS AD?

This notice is to inform you that Caltrans is re-initiating the environmental and engineering studies for this project. An Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and Environmental Assessment (EA) will be prepared to evaluate potential effects that could result from the proposed project. In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the environmental document will be prepared as a joint environmental document. This is the Caltrans Project Approval and Environmental Document (PA&ED) phase for this Project

We are engaging in a scoping process to consider input from the public, resource agencies, and stakeholders on the depth and breadth of issues that should be addressed in the environmental document. In-person and virtual public scoping meetings will be held to inform you about the project, and to give you an opportunity to provide comments or concerns. Your comments during the scoping period will become part of the public record and will be considered in developing the environmental document and defining the project scope. A purpose and need statement for the project, preliminary alternative concepts, an overview of the environmental process, schedule, and other information will be available for viewing at these meetings.