



**(Letter Sent Via Email)**

February 21, 2020

Scott Shelley, Branch Chief, Regional-IGR-Transit Planning  
California Department of Transportation, District 12  
1750 E. Fourth Street, Suite 100  
Santa Ana, CA 92705

**Subject: OC Waste & Recycling Responses to Caltrans Comments on MND for Proposed Capistrano Greenery Composting Operation at the Prima Deshecha Landfill (SCH No. 2020019030)**

Dear Mr. Shelley:

The County of Orange, OC Waste & Recycling department (OCWR) has the following responses to Caltrans, comment letter dated February 10, 2020 regarding the Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the proposed Capistrano Greenery Composting Operation at the Prima Deshecha Landfill.

**Traffic Operations**

**Response 1:**

Page 4 of the TIA has been revised to include the weekday a.m. peak hour (between 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m.) and the weekday p.m. peak hour (between 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.).

**Response 2:**

Page 8 of the TIA has been revised to clarify the locations of the divided and undivided segments of Ortega Highway. Because Gateway Place is not a part of the study area, Antonio Parkway–Avenida La Pata has been noted as the roadway that separates the divided and undivided segments of Ortega Highway. In addition, between the I-5 northbound ramps and Antonio Parkway–Avenida La Pata, the number of Ortega Highway lanes vary between two lanes and six lanes. Lastly, the speed limit along Ortega Highway west of Antonio Parkway–Avenida La Pata is 35–45 miles per hour (mph).

**Response 3:**

Page 8 of the TIA has been revised to state that La Novia Avenue is undivided. The source of the roadway designation is the City of San Juan Capistrano Circulation Element (adopted December 14, 1999), as noted on this page and detailed in the References section on page 19. The speed limit along La Novia Avenue is 35 mph (25 mph adjacent to the St. Margaret's Episcopal School when children are present).

**Response 4:**

Page 8 of the TIA has been revised to clarify that Rancho Viejo Road is generally divided with a raised median (and left-turn lanes for access to local streets) north of Ortega Highway and undivided south of Ortega Highway. The source of the roadway designation is the City of San Juan Capistrano Circulation Element (adopted December 14, 1999), as noted on this page and detailed in the References section on page 19.

**Permits**

**Response 5:**

The proposed project is not anticipated to require any work within or in the immediate vicinity of the State right-of-way (e.g., State Route 74 [Ortega Highway]). Therefore, an encroachment permit should not be required.

Please let me know if you would like to discuss any of the responses above. I can be reached at (714) 834-4107 or by email at [john.arnau@ocwr.ocgov.com](mailto:john.arnau@ocwr.ocgov.com).

Sincerely,



John J. Arnau  
CEQA Manager

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
DISTRICT 12**

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*Making Conservation  
a California Way of Life.*

February 10, 2020

John Amau  
OC Waste and Recycling  
601 N. Ross Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Santa Ana, CA. 92701

File: IGR/CEQA  
SCH: #2020019030  
12-ORA-2020-01308  
SR 74; PM 2.594

Dear Mr. Amau,

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the review of the Initial Study (IS) for the proposed Prima Deshecha Landfill Project. The mission of Caltrans is to provide a safe, sustainable, integrated and efficient transportation system to enhance California's economy and livability.

OCWR proposes to implement a composting operation at the Prima Deshecha Landfill called the Capistrano Greenery Composting Operation. The Capistrano Greenery Composting Operation will receive a maximum of 204 tons per day (TPD) of processed green material, processed agricultural material and manure. The project will allow OCWR to assist Orange County cities and the County unincorporated area in meeting State recycling mandates for the recycling of organic waste materials.

The 1,530-acre Prima Deshecha Landfill site is located in San Juan Capistrano, unincorporated Orange County, and San Clemente. The street address for the Prima Deshecha Landfill is: 32250 Avenida La Pata, San Juan Capistrano. The project site is within 1.8 miles to State Route (SR) 74. State Route 74 is overseen by Caltrans. Caltrans is the responsible agency and has the following comments:

**Traffic Operations:**

1. Include the weekday a.m. and p.m. peak hours in the report (page 4).

2. Page 8- "Ortega Highway: Ortega Highway is a **divided** (only between west of Reata Road to Gateway) east-west roadway located north of the project site. It extends east from Camino Capistrano west of I-5 to Interstate 215 in Perris. Ortega Highway is designated as a Primary Arterial in the City's Circulation Element. Ortega Highway is a CMP facility and is designated as a hot-spot location west of the I-5 northbound ramps. Between the I-5 northbound and southbound ramps, Ortega Highway functions as an eight-lane facility due to the dual left-turn lanes at the signalized I-5 southbound ramps/Ortega Highway intersection. East of the I-5 northbound ramps, Ortega Highway is built as a two-lane to **six-lane facility** (identify the end point). The speed limit along Ortega Highway is **35-45 miles per hour** (mph) (only up to Gateway Pl.). Curbside parking is not permitted."
3. La Novia Avenue: La Novia Avenue is a **divided** (not divided) four-lane, north-south roadway located northwest of the project site. La Novia Avenue is designated as a **Primary Arterial** in the City's Circulation Element (identify the source of information). The speed limit along La Novia Avenue is **35** (25) mph. Curbside parking is not permitted on either side of La Novia Avenue.
4. Rancho Viejo Road: Rancho Viejo Road is a **divided** (only a very small portion is divided) four-lane, north-south roadway located northwest of the project site. Rancho Viejo Road is designated as a **Secondary Arterial** (identify the source of information). north of Ortega Highway and a Collector south of Ortega Highway in the City's Circulation Element. The speed limit along Rancho Viejo Road north and south of Ortega Highway is 45 mph and 30 mph, respectively. Curbside parking is not permitted on either side of Rancho Viejo Road.

#### **Permits:**

1. Any project work proposed in the vicinity of the State right of way will require an encroachment permit, and all environmental concerns must be adequately addressed. Please coordinate with Caltrans in order to meet the requirements for any work within or near State Right-of-Way. A fee may apply. If the cost of work within the State right of way is below one Million Dollars, the Encroachment Permit process will be handled by our Permits Branch; otherwise the permit should be authorized through the Caltrans's Project Development Department. When applying for Encroachment Permit, please incorporate all Environmental

Documentation, SWPPP/ WPCP, NPDES, Hydraulic Calculations, R/W certification and all relevant design details including design exception approvals. For specific details for Encroachment Permits procedure, please refer to the Caltrans's Encroachment Permits Manual. The latest edition of the Manual is available on the web site:  
<http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/traffops/developserv/permits/>

Please continue to coordinate with Caltrans for any future developments that could potentially impact State transportation facilities. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Julie Lugaro at 657-328-6368 or [Julie.lugaro@dot.ca.gov](mailto:Julie.lugaro@dot.ca.gov).

Sincerely,



SCOTT SHELLEY  
Branch Chief, Regional-IGR-Transit Planning  
District 12