

# City Manager Weekly Update

**TO:** Mayor and City Council Members  
City Commissioners

**FROM:** Benjamin Siegel, City Manager

**DATE:** September 9, 2021

**SUBJECT:** Weekly Update

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**Gateway Landscape Project Completed:** We were very pleased to remove the construction fencing and unveil the completed Gateway Landscape Project! Located at the intersection of Ortega Highway and Del Obispo Street, the project significantly improves the appearance of a key entry to our community. The project included the construction of hardscape and landscape improvements at the southwest and northeast corners of the intersection, as well as a new raised median just west of the I-5 Freeway on Ortega Highway. The southeast corner of the intersection was not included in the project; however, the private property owner intends to match the planting materials with the City's landscaping theme as part of improvements planned later this month.



**High Heat Event Energy Conservation:** The California Independent Systems Operator (CAISO), the nonprofit public benefit corporation that manages the high-voltage electric grid for 80 percent of California, has issued a Flex Alert due to the increased energy demand caused by high temperatures. During a Flex Alert, residents are encouraged to take three simple actions: set air conditioners to 78 degrees or higher, use major appliances before 3:00 p.m., and turn off all unnecessary lights to avoid the need for rotating power outages. The Flex Alert is currently in effect through 9:00 p.m. tonight, but residents are encouraged to continue conservation efforts as high heat events are likely to continue and the Flex Alert may be extended, if necessary. Many thanks to the community for your cooperation in conserving energy while the Flex Alert is in effect.

**OCFA to Commemorate 9/11 Anniversary:** Each year in commemoration of 9/11, the Orange County Fire Authority hosts an annual remembrance ceremony paying tribute to victims of the attacks of September 11, 2001, as well as observe the rescue and recovery efforts in the aftermath. This year's commemoration will be particularly meaningful as OCFA honors the 20th anniversary of September 11, 2001. This year, a brief ceremony will be held on Saturday, September 11, 2021, at 8:30 a.m. at the OCFA Regional Fire Operations and Training Center located at 1 Fire Authority Road in Irvine. Commemorations will include a moment of silence to mark the time when the first tower was struck, and OCFA Honor Guard members will lead the bell-ringing ceremony. For more information, please visit the OCFA website at [www.OCFA.org](http://www.OCFA.org).

**Goin Native Free Workshop:** This Saturday, September 11, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., Goin Native will host a free workshop on creating a remembrance garden in memory of a family member, friend, or a cherished pet companion. Following the presentation, Goin Native volunteers will be available to work with attendees on your own remembrance garden. There is no cost to attend the presentation, though materials and samples of items discussed will be available for purchase. To register, please visit the Goin Native [website](#).

**San Juan Summer Nites – September 15:** The second and final concert of the summer, featuring classic rock group *Tijuana Dogs*, will take place Wednesday, September 15, from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. at Historic Town Center Park (31872 El Camino Real). There will be food and drink provided by local restaurants, business expo vendors and free activities for kids. This year's concert series also includes special event trolley services from 4:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. on concert evenings with a convenient trolley stop located just outside the park at Yorba Street. Please visit the [trolley service](#) webpage on the City's website for route details.

**Ortega Highway Road Closure:** The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) maintenance crews will be performing a paving project which will require a full closure (east and west bound) of Ortega Highway between Rancho Mission Viejo and Lake Elsinore on Saturday, September 11 and Sunday, September 12 from 6:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. each day. For additional details and contact information for questions, please see the attached Caltrans press release.

**Toilet Rebate Program Discontinued Effective November 1:** Since it began in 2010, the City's local toilet rebate program has assisted residents and businesses in replacing over 600 aging toilets with more water efficient units. The City's rebate program will come to an end effective November 1, 2021. All completed rebate forms must be submitted to the City's Water Conservation Division prior to the effective date. Regional toilet rebates, as well as other water-saving device rebates, will continue to be available through the Municipal Water District of Orange County and submittal information is available at [www.ocwatersmart.com](http://www.ocwatersmart.com). For questions, please contact the City's Water Conservation Division at (949) 487-4304 or [sjcconserve@sanjuancapistrano.org](mailto:sjcconserve@sanjuancapistrano.org).

**American Red Cross Blood Drive Series:** In partnership with the American Red Cross, the City is hosting a monthly blood drive through the end of the year. Appointments will be available on October 19, November 9 and December 14 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., at the San Juan Capistrano Community Center located at 25925 Camino Del Avion. Sign up for an appointment at the American Red Cross [website](#) using sponsor code *CityofSJC*. For questions, please contact Lindsey Stigall at (949) 443-6380.

#### **UPCOMING CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEMS (*Tentative and Subject to Change*)**

##### **September 21, 2021**

- Presentations of Riding Park Proposals (Capistrano Experience, Frontier Real Estate Investments, and The Ridland Group)
- Contract Award for Traffic Signal Cabinet Replacement Project

# Commuter Alert



**Date:** September 3, 2021

**Alert #:** 21-684

**District:** 8 Riverside/San Bernardino

**Project ID:** Maintenance

**Contact:** [Eric.Dionne@dot.ca.gov](mailto:Eric.Dionne@dot.ca.gov)

**Phone:** (909) 383-6799

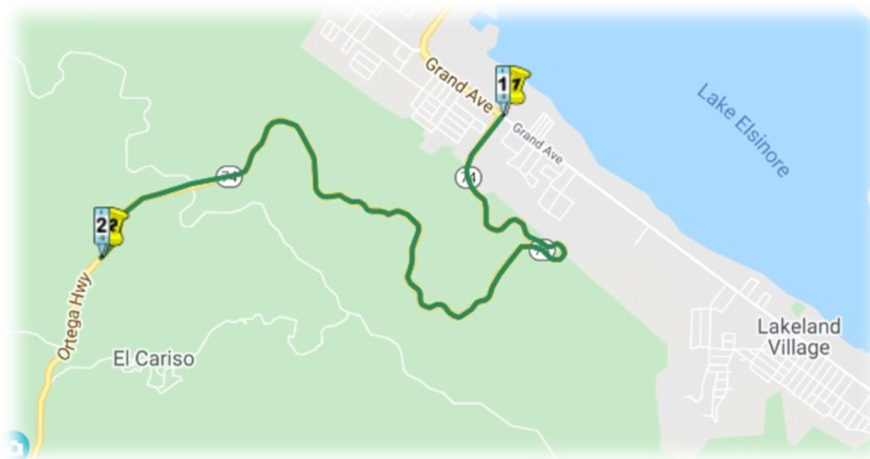
**For Immediate Release**

## **FULL CLOSURE OF STATE ROUTE 74 (ORTEGA HIGHWAY) Maintenance Paving Project East of Rancho Mission Viejo**

**RIVERSIDE** – The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) Lake Elsinore Maintenance crew will be performing a paving project which will require a full closure for two days on State Route 74 (SR-74) near Rancho Mission Viejo.

The work will take place Saturday September 11<sup>th</sup> and Sunday September 12<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., each day.

This operation will require the **full closure of SR-74** Ortega Highway in both EB and WB directions between the Candy Store (Post Mile 2.87) and Grand Avenue (Post Mile 11.825). During the closure hours, crews will only allow residents access with proof of residency. Commuters will need to provide a valid driver license or I.D. to be escorted through the closure.



Know before you go! To stay on top of roadwork in the Inland Empire go to [Caltrans District 8](#) and sign up for commuter alerts. Follow us for the latest information on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#). To assist in planning your commute, view live traffic conditions using [QuickMap](#) and [planned lane closures](#).

For those with sensory disabilities requiring alternate formats (i.e. Braille, large print, sign language interpreter, etc.) and those needing information in a language other than English, please contact Caltrans Public Affairs at 909-383-4631 or TTY 711.

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