

Rancho San Clemente

Community Association

Spring
2020
Newsletter

www.rsgca.com

Toll Road Update • Option 14 Eliminated

14

Congratulations! On March 12, 2020, the Transportation Corridor Agency (TCA) unanimously voted against moving forward with South Orange County toll road extensions through San Clemente (13,14,17). Instead, the agency has recommended "Alt 22" an extension of Los Patrones Pkwy which connects to the Toll Road 241 at the north end at Oso Pkwy, and ends at Cow Camp Rd. Alt 22, the southern addition to Los Patrones Pkwy, will extend from Cow Camp Rd. to Avenida La Pata about 2/3 mile north of Camino Del Rio in San Clemente.

As Los Patrones Pkwy is not a toll road, the \$ 330 M project will be constructed and funded by the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) with oversight from Caltrans. County funding for Alt 22 is not in the approved budget for the County's 7 year Capital Improvement Program, and it may be a number of years before funding is available.

In 2014, RSCCA, armed with a Resolution against any toll road extensions through San Clemente, focused on Route 14, which had the most negative impacts on RSCCA, San Clemente High School, St. Andrew's Church, and homes that would be taken by eminent domain along what would become a widened I-5 with 4 raised toll road lanes running down the middle to San Diego.

While residents banded together at rallies and TCA events, RSCCA presented powerpoints at City Council and TCA board meetings of findings from the 1982 Irvine Soils Engineering Report and 2003-2005 TCA Environmental Impact Reports, which indicated that grading into the unstable slopes could trigger landslides.

The landslide @ Pico & the I-5, that occurred during the I-5 & Pico widening project with retaining wall, supported the findings. RSCCA supplemented the findings with powerpoint photographs of the worsening landslide conditions over time from 2017 - 2020.

To review comments of TCA's CEO Mike Kraman, Mayor Dan Bane, Councilmember Kathy Ward, and Public Comments, log onto: <https://thetollroads.com/about/meetings-agendas>, and select the media icon by the San Joaquin Hills and Foothill Eastern Board of Directors Meeting. RSCCA's powerpoint was presented by Board President Vonne Barnes and Tom Barnes at the beginning of Public Comment, Part II.

Sincere appreciation to all of the RSCCA residents who appeared at rallies, wrote letters, attended town meetings, posted signs, and spoke out at City Council and TCA meetings to protect the quality of life in our Spanish Village by the Sea.

Homeless Shelter

The Rancho San Clemente Business Park (RSCBP) sold two lots on the north side of Pico across from the intersection of Calle Del Cerro & Pico to the Emergency Shelter Coalition, for the purpose of building a large regional homeless shelter. A group of RSCBP business owners who have sued the RSCBP Association alleging that the sale was illegal is attempting to void the sale.

The City Council has also voted to use the Dog Park at the south end of La Pata for an emergency temporary homeless shelter similar to the dismantled shelter on Pico near El Camino Real. The Dog Park is adjacent to the north entrance to San Mateo State Park in Cal Fire's Very Severe High Fire Hazard Zone Area. RSCCA Board President Vonne Barnes has shown powerpoint slides at City Council protesting the site.

Homeowners Insurance

Due to the \$16 B costs of fires in northern California, many Standard Insurance Carriers such as AAA have canceled coverage in zip codes that are near Cal Fire's High Fire Zone Areas. Notices are being sent out with annual policy renewals. RSCCA members are encouraged to shop for other Insurance Providers, and to share information with neighbors and RSCCA at Curtis Management.

5G Cell Tower Antenna

RSCCA residents Kortney Motrow and others have implemented safety measures in the City's Ordinance— now small cell antennas are required to be 500 feet away from residences instead of 100 feet. The new Ordinance is posted on the city website.

Coronavirus

Please follow CDC guidelines to control the spread of the pandemic. Stay well.

Vector Control

After rain events please remember to drain water from outdoor items such as unused garden pots, to reduce habitats for mosquitos that transmit disease.

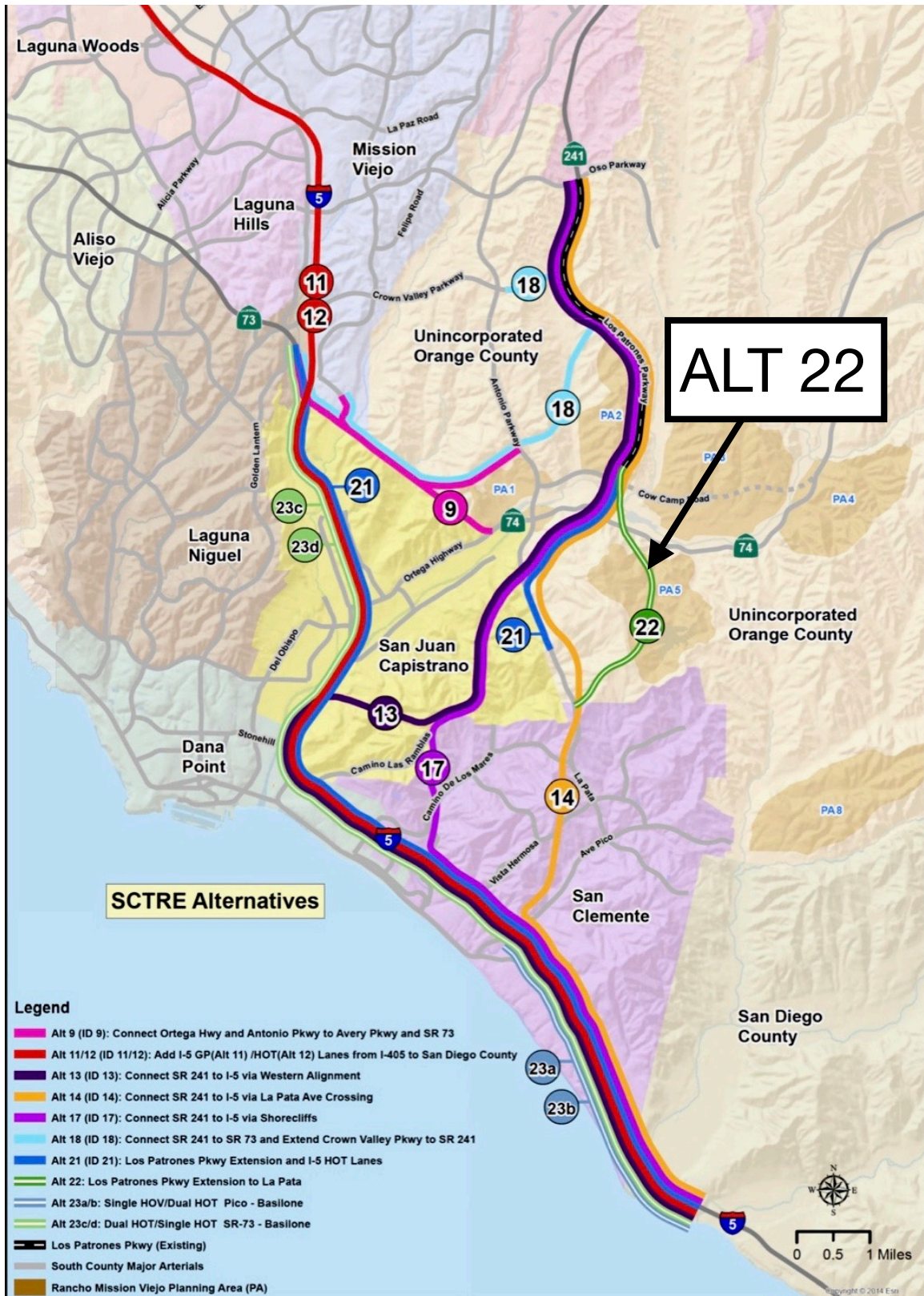
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Meetings are on the second Thursday each month at 6:00 pm at St. Andrews Church, 2001 Calle Frontera, San Clemente, CA 92672

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Eliminated Toll Road Extensions: 13, 14, 17.
 Alt 22 is a “No Toll” County Road Extension
 of Los Patrones Pkwy from Cow Camp to La Pata.



STATE POLICY CHANGES

Wildfires causing turmoil for property insurance

OCR 12.19.19 By Ken Sweet and Sarah Skidmore Sell

The Associated Press (Edited)

Thousands of homeowners I have lost their insurance policies in the past few years as insurers pull out of areas that are at risk of fire damage or stop insuring homes altogether. They've been forced to scramble to find coverage from regular insurance providers or to turn as a last resort to a government-sanctioned plan that at the moment provides only fire coverage.

State Farm, the largest insurer in the state; Allstate; and other insurers declined to renew roughly 350,000 policies in areas at high risk for wildfires since 2015, the California Department of Insurance said in August, and the department has gotten "record numbers" of requests this year from insurers to increase the rates they charge property owners. The data also shows 33,000 policies were not renewed by insurers in ZIP codes affected by the major wildfires.

Though the insurance industry says the California property insurance market is resilient, state lawmakers and officials have had to scramble to keep the market from grinding to a halt from the unexpected additional risk. The Legislature passed a law this year giving the Department of Insurance emergency powers to keep policies in effect for those in fire-prone areas. This month, state Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara put a one-year moratorium on nonrenewals in hopes that lawmakers, insurance companies and other stakeholders can reach a more substantial solution for the roughly 1 million homeowners in ZIP codes adjacent to previous wildfires.

"This wildfire insurance crisis has been years in the making, but it is an emergency we must deal with now if we are going to keep the California dream of homeownership from becoming the California nightmare, as an increasing number of homeowners struggle to find coverage," Lara said in a statement.

The fires of 2017-18 caused a combined \$25.3 billion in damages, according to the California Department of Insurance. That's exponentially higher than the previous wildfires in 2015 and 2008, which caused \$1.1 billion and \$719 million in damages, respectively.

The insurance industry has yet to release an estimate of damages from this year's wildfire season, but the costs are expected to be high. The most significant wildfire this year was the Kincadee fire, which started Oct. 23 and burned 78,000 acres in Sonoma County. It destroyed 374 buildings and damaged an additional 60, according to the California Department of Forestry & Fire Protection.

"The wildfires in California will likely make it more difficult for California homeowners to buy insurance," said Stu Ryland, senior vice president of the Pacific Region at Sedgwick, an insurance claims management company. "Premiums are likely to go up, particularly in areas that are prone to wildfires, and in some cases, it may be difficult for consumers to find an insurer willing to write their insurance."

Although some insurers are pulling out and others are reconsidering how they price property insurance, it is still available in one form or another to every homeowner, according to the Insurance Information Institute.

However, those not insurable by regular insurance providers are having to turn to what's known as the California FAIR Plan, which is a government-sanctioned association of insurers who pool together to cover the highest risk properties. In April, FAIR Plan insurance will cover \$3 M of fire damage and California regulators have announced that FAIR Plan insurers may start offering comprehensive coverage.