

**DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL**

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November 2, 2023

File No.: 690.18109.15606

City of San Juan Capistrano  
30448 Rancho Viejo Road  
San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675

RE: SCH 2023100025

The California Highway Patrol, Capistrano Area received the Notice of Preparation (NOP) of a Draft Environmental Impact Report for the El Camino Specific Plan Amendment, State Clearing House (SCH) number 2023100025. After review, we have some concerns with the traffic congestion that could result along Interstate 5 at State Route 74 (Ortega Highway)/Del Obispo Street.

Our concern relates to Interstate 5, which is identified in the NOP as providing “regional access” to the project site and is located “568 feet northwest,” at intersection with State Route 74/Del Obispo Street. Interstate 5 serves as the primary link connecting Orange County to San Diego and Los Angeles Counties, while State Route 74 serves as the primary link between south Orange County and several Riverside County commuter cities/communities. The project plans include a 95-unit apartment complex, several commercial businesses, and an event center with a total of 452-seats. Collectively, these facilities will increase traffic volumes in the immediate area, to include Interstate 5 at State Route 74/Del Obispo Street, and dependent on event times, create an additive effect on congestion during peak commute hours. Increased traffic congestion results in an increase in crashes and slower emergency response times. Efforts to mitigate the potential increase in congestion, crashes, and response times could include optimally timing events for off-peak periods and/or additional traffic control measures.

Should you have any questions regarding these concerns, please contact Lieutenant Noel Coady at (949) 670-7030.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "B. A. PALMER".

B. A. PALMER, Captain  
Commander

Enclosure(s)

cc: Border Division

