

TCA Board Meeting- Coalition Statement (5/10/2018)

The Coalition to Stop 9 and 18 has prepared a very detailed summary of the numerous reasons why Options 9 and 18, currently being studied as part of the TCA's Get Moving OC project, should be removed from further consideration. We are submitting this summary as a public comment to be entered into the minutes of today's meeting.

The Coalition to Stop 9 and 18 was formed approximately a year ago to advocate, on the merits, against Options 9 and 18 on behalf of the residents in San Juan Capistrano, Ladera Ranch, Rancho Mission Viejo, and Mission Viejo. Since its inception, the goal of the Coalition has been to educate our neighbors, elected officials, and others about the myriad of issues related to Options 9 and 18, and to advocate for their removal.

To that end, members of the Coalition have attended numerous city council meetings, meetings with various elected officials, meetings with resident groups/homeowner associations as well as public TCA board meetings. We have communicated to our neighbors the agenda items and the positions taken by all parties. Early on, the Coalition determined that to be the most effective, we must communicate with all entities and individuals in a professional, fact-based, and cordial manner, and we have conducted ourselves accordingly. Additionally, the Coalition has contributed positively to the discourse that was encouraged by the public input process and continues to do so. Our intent, first and foremost, is to advocate to the extent we possibly can for our neighbors and the concerns we all have about Options 9 and 18.

The overarching summary as to why the Coalition is opposed to Options 9 and 18 is simple and straightforward. Options 9 and 18 are the least effective by any measure, the most expensive, requires the greatest exercise of eminent domain, is the most destructive in terms of lost homes and recreational space, faces the most legal, engineering, and other practical challenges, is subject to heavily restrictive open space conservation easements, and is highly unlikely to ever be permitted. Additionally, Options 9 and 18 are an East/West Corridor that does not address the goal of the Get Moving OC project, which is to alleviate North/South traffic on the I-5.

The Coalition's findings set forth within this summary, together with the TCA's statements as to the circumstances under which Options 9 and 18 were even

selected for consideration despite the past conclusions of infeasibility, are powerful reasons to exclude Options 9 and 18 from any further study and dismiss these options in their entirety.

On behalf of the Coalition to Stop 9 and 18, thank you for your time and for immediately removing Options 9 and 18 from further consideration.