AGENDA REPORT

Meeting of the San Marcos Traffic Commission

MEETING DATE:	March 1, 2017
AGENDA ITEM NO:	9A
SUBMITTED BY:	Michael Rafael, P.E. – Senior Civil Engineer
	Nicholas Abboud, P.E. - City Traffic Engineer
APPROVED BY:	Matt Little, P.E. - City Engineer
SUBJECT:	**Arbor Ranch Traffic Safety Concerns**

BACKGROUND:

Several residents in the Arbor Ranch Community have reached out to City staff in the last few months over traffic safety concerns on their neighborhood streets. Their traffic concerns involve residential speeding and daily cut-through traffic to Sunset Park. Residents are also concerned of pedestrian safety in their neighborhood due to the residential speeding. Residents requested the City to consider installation of "NO SUNSET PARK ACCESS" or similar signs within their community.

EXISTING CONDITIONS:

The study area focuses on the Arbor Ranch community which lies in the westerly part of the City on West Linda Vista Drive between Poinsettia Avenue and Puesta Del Sol. The City owned Sunset Park is north of the community and has a south entrance to the park on Puesta Del Sol. The northern part of the community consist of approximately 39 single family homes. The community also includes a neighborhood park with playground furniture and a paved trail which connects to Sunset Park. There is one curb extension (mid-block choker) on Arborview Drive which extends the sidewalk and narrows the street to reduce vehicle speeds in the community.

Arborview Drive and Puesta Del Sol are classified as residential local streets with existing sidewalks on both sides. On-street parking is also allowed on these streets. There are existing STOP signs at the intersection of Arborview Drive and West Linda Vista and on Arborview Drive and Puesta del Sol. Puesta del Sol is 40 feet wide and slopes downhill at a 6 percent grade from West Linda Vista Drive to the end of the cul-de-sac in the north direction. Arborview Drive is 38 feet wide and slopes to a 6 percent grade from east to west. Sunset Park's south entrance is located at the end of the cul-de-sac. There are approximately 100 total parking spaces for the Sunset Park south entrance location. The north entrance to Sunset Park is located on La Mirada Drive and consist of also approximately 100 total parking spaces.

DISCUSSION:

City staff met with residents on site to discuss their traffic safety issues in their neighborhood. Residents were primarily concerned with the amount of cut-through traffic during weekends and speeding in the neighborhood. They have mentioned many near vehicle misses with their children playing on the street.

Sunset's park usage is very popular and in heavy demand during the weekends due to regular sporting events, a public dog park, Frisbee golf course, splash water playground, and ongoing private parties. Staff has observed that there are no existing wayfinding guide signs that indicate the location of the park's south entrance on West Linda Vista Drive. However, there are existing wayfinding guide signs for the park's north entrance on La Mirada Drive and at other similar City park locations. The City's wayfinding signs are typically on a brown background with white letters and the City's seal.

City staff collected data for a week to evaluate vehicle speeds and traffic volumes on Puesta Del Sol. The data indicated approximately 350-400 vehicles per day were collected on a typical weekday and/or weekend. The average speed of 17 MPH was measured in the northbound direction (heading towards the park entrance). In addition, the data indicated that 10 percent of vehicles were traveling between 25-30 MPH and only 3 percent of speeds over 30 MPH. There were no vehicle speeds greater than 35 MPH collected. Similar speeds were obtained in the opposite direction (southbound exiting the park). The collected speeds are representative of a residential/collector classification.

Residents also suggested a traffic circle on Puesta Del Sol to encourage slower speeds. City staff does not recommend a traffic circle which would require additional right-of-way and present difficulty for the City's Fire emergency vehicles to maneuver through. Staff is recommending additional "25 MPH" speed limit signs based on the collected speeds and traffic volumes on Puesta Del Sol. Residents also inquired about the use of "RADAR ENFORCED" signs in the City where other local agencies have adopted. Staff also does not recommend the use of the "RADAR ENFORCED"signs based on their ineffectiveness to reduce vehicle speeds. The signs are normally used as a reminder that law enforcement is enforcing the speed limit and would apparently help encourage drivers to pay more attention.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

City staff recommends the following traffic signing and marking improvements to reduce vehicle speed and cut-through traffic, and to encourage safe driving habits.

- Installation of (4) new wayfinding guide signs on West Linda Vista Drive and Puesta Del Sol. The new signs will help guide and direct motorists to Sunset Park's south entrance and prevent cut-through traffic through the neighborhood streets.
- Installation of additional "25 MPH" signs and pavement legends on Puesta del Sol. New speed limit signs and legends will help increase driver awareness of the 25 MPH zone.
- Installation of a new one-way STOP sign on Arborview Drive/Arborview Drive. Minor street typically yields or stops for the major road. An existing STOP sign is currently located on Arborview Drive and West Linda Vista Drive.
- Installation of a "NO OUTLET" sign on westbound Arborview Drive. Residents have witnessed motorists proceeding westbound on Arborview Drive searching for a Poinsettia Avenue roadway connection.
- Installation of a "LOCAL TRAFFIC ONLY" sign to help prevent motorists from cutting through Arborview Drive to access West Linda Vista Drive.

- Installation of a "PEDESTRIAN AHEAD" sign on northbound Puesta Del Sol. There is an existing paved trail which connects to Puesta Del Sol where pedestrians will likely cross.
- Speed and truck weight enforcement (NO TRUCKS OVER 5 TONS) to be conducted by the Sheriff's Department on West Linda Vista.
- City staff to deploy one of the City's speed feedback trailer within the neighborhood to help reduce speeding.
- City staff to monitor traffic conditions and evaluate data collected by the City's speed radar trailer for the next 6-12 months. If traffic conditions have not improved, City staff may reevaluate and present alternative options for speed reduction and present to the Traffic Commission.

Traffic Data/Roadway Information:

- 2013 Traffic Volumes:

  West Linda Vista Drive (Tilley Lane to Poinsettia Avenue) – 7,328 VPD (vehicles per day, 2010)

  Puesta Del Sol (West Linda Vista Drive to end of cul-de-sac) – 300 VPD (vehicles per day, estimated)

- Speed Limit: 25 MPH (Prima Facie) on Arborview Drive and Puesta Del Sol (residential streets); 40 MPH on West Linda Vista Drive (Tilley Lane to Poinsettia Avenue) – Date of survey 2/24/2010

- Accident History (last 10 years):

  01/31/13, 7:45 AM, Linda Vista Drive @ Arborview Drive, 21 feet east, rear-end collision, V1 making eastbound U turn in front of V2 when it was not safe, Auto R/W violation, 2 minor injuries

- Unusual Conditions: Residential street with cut-through traffic from park users

Attachment(s)
Exhibits/Maps
Speed/Traffic Volume Data
Photos

VICINITY MAP – ARBOR RANCH COMMUNITY
TRAFFIC COMMISSION – MARCH 2017 - AGENDA #9A

PROPOSED TRAFFIC SIGNING AND MARKING RECOMMENDATIONS
TRAFFIC COMMISION MARCH 2017
AGENDA #9A

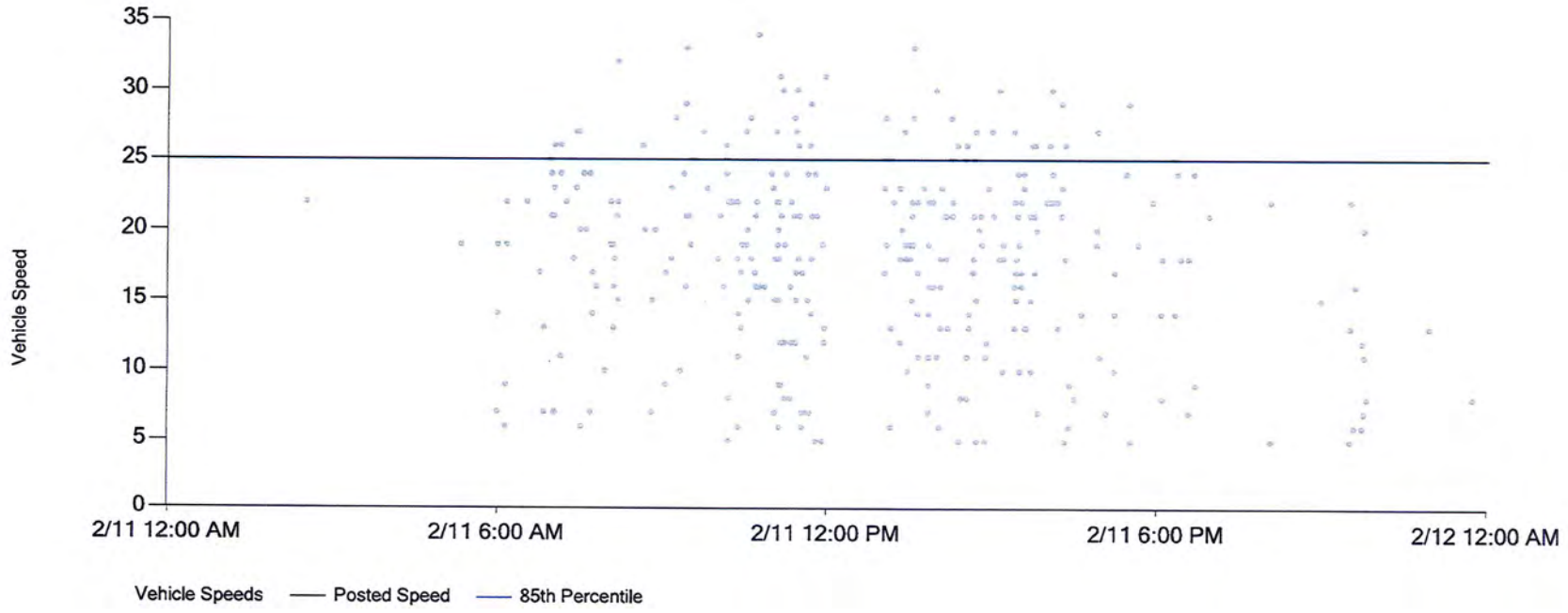
CONSTRUCTION NOTES:

1. INSTALL NEW CUSTOM SIGN "SUNSET PARK SOUTH ENTRANCE NEXT SIGNAL" (30"x30") ON EXISTING STREET LIGHT.
2. INSTALL NEW CUSTOM SIGN "SUNSET PARK" W/LEFT ARROW (30"x30") ON EXISTING SIGNAL POLE ABOVE SIGNAL HEAD.
3. INSTALL NEW CUSTOM SIGN "SUNSET PARK SOUTH ENTRANCE NEXT RIGHT" (30"x30") ON EXISTING POST ABOVE NO PARKING SIGN.
4. INSTALL NEW CUSTOM SIGN "SUNSET PARK SOUTH ENTRANCE" W/ARROW (30"x30") ON EXISTING STREET LIGHT. INSTALL NEW W11-2 SIGN ON STREET LIGHT ABOVE "SUNSET PARK SOUTH ENTRANCE" SIGN.
5. INSTALL NEW "LOCAL TRAFFIC ONLY" SIGN (24"x24") ON NEW BREAKAWAY POST.
6. INSTALL NEW R1-1 (STOP) SIGN ON NEW BREAKAWAY POST, STOP LEGEND, STOP BAR.
7. INSTALL NEW W14-2 "NO OUTLET" (30"x30") ON EXISTING STREET LIGHT
8. INSTALL NEW R2-1 (25 MPH, 24"x30") AND SPEED LEGENDS. REPLACE EXISTING POST AND REINSTALL "NO PARKING" SIGN.

Traffic Volume and Vehicle Speed Report - Saturday, 2/11

Data File: NB Puesta Del Sol to Park Feb 16-17.csv

Date Range: 2/11/17 12:00 AM to 2/12/17 12:00 AM



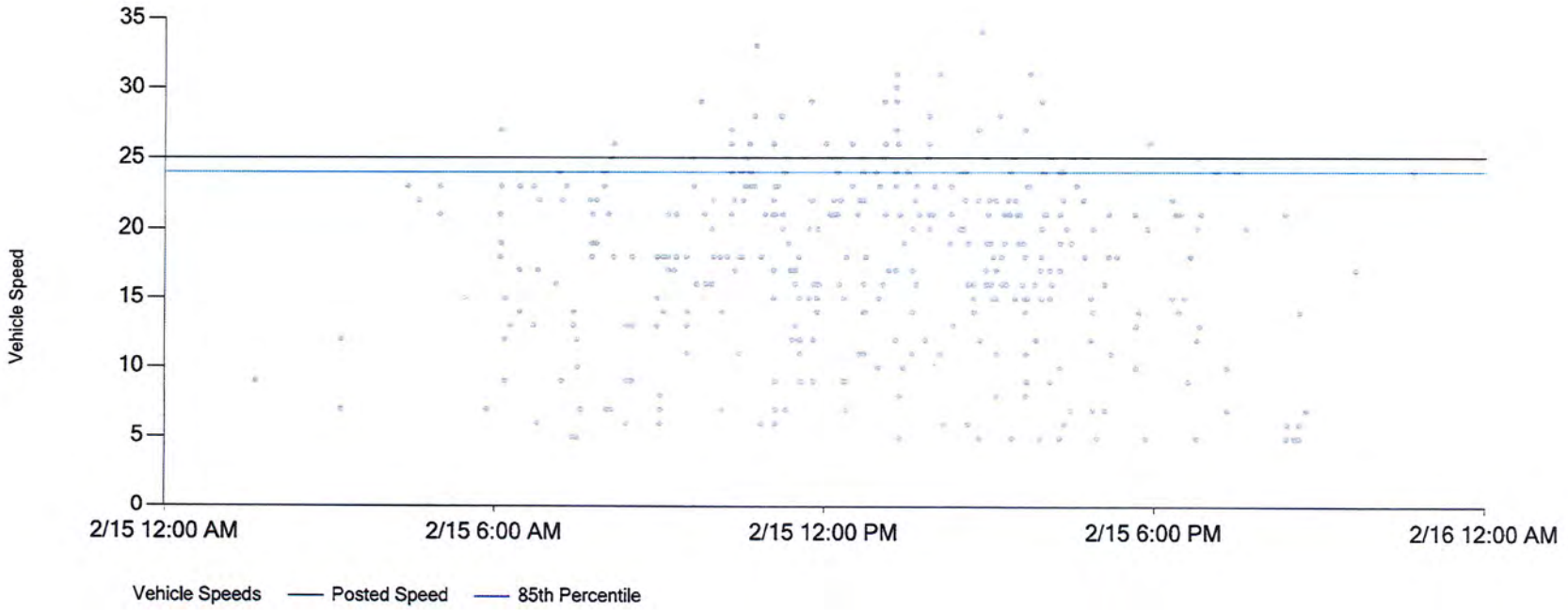
Number of data points:	351
Posted speed:	25
Average speed:	17.9
Percentiles:	
--- 85th	25

Report Date: 2/21/2017

Traffic Volume and Vehicle Speed Report - Wednesday, 2/15

Data File: NB Puesta Del Sol to Park Feb 16-17.csv

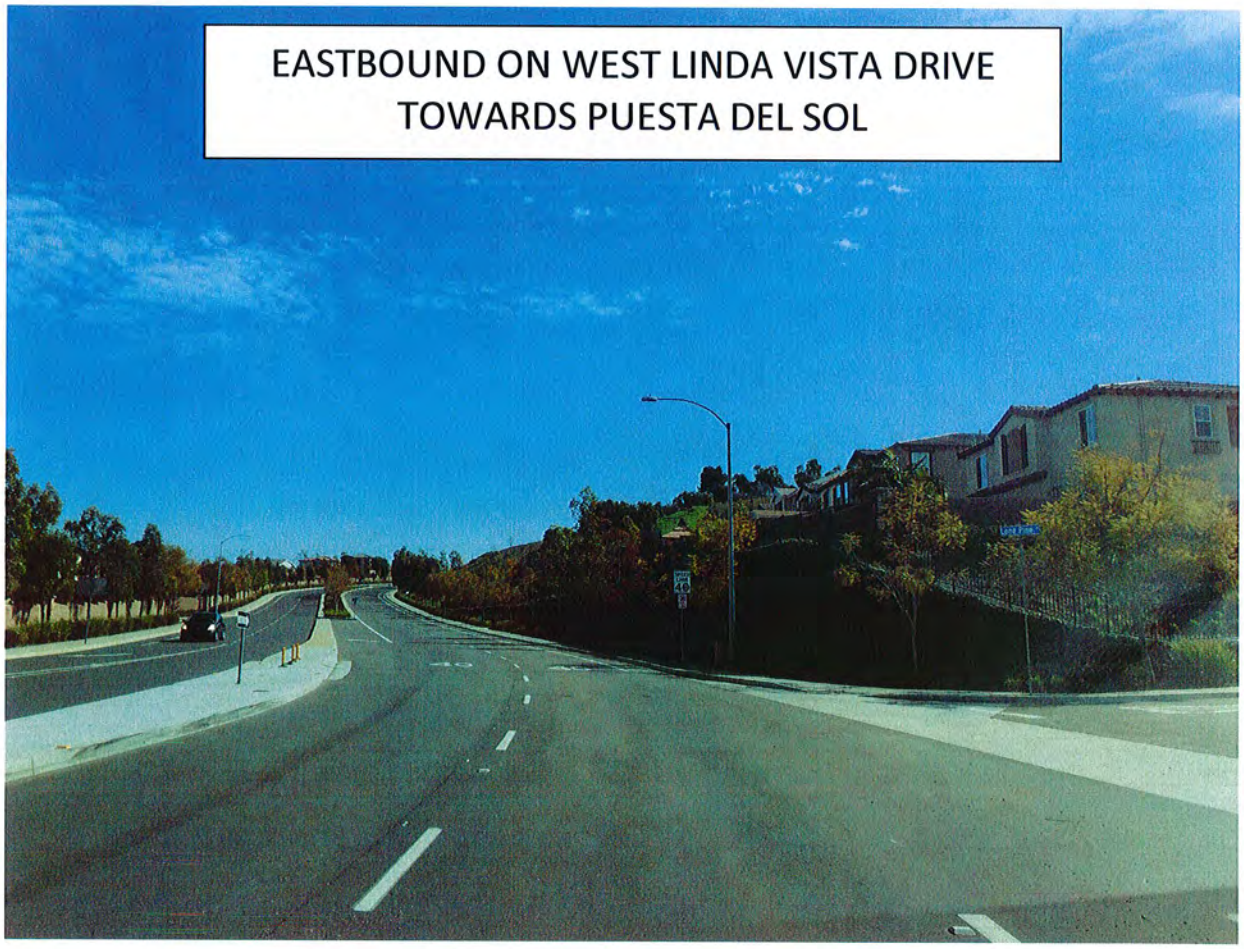
Date Range: 2/15/17 12:00 AM to 2/16/17 12:00 AM



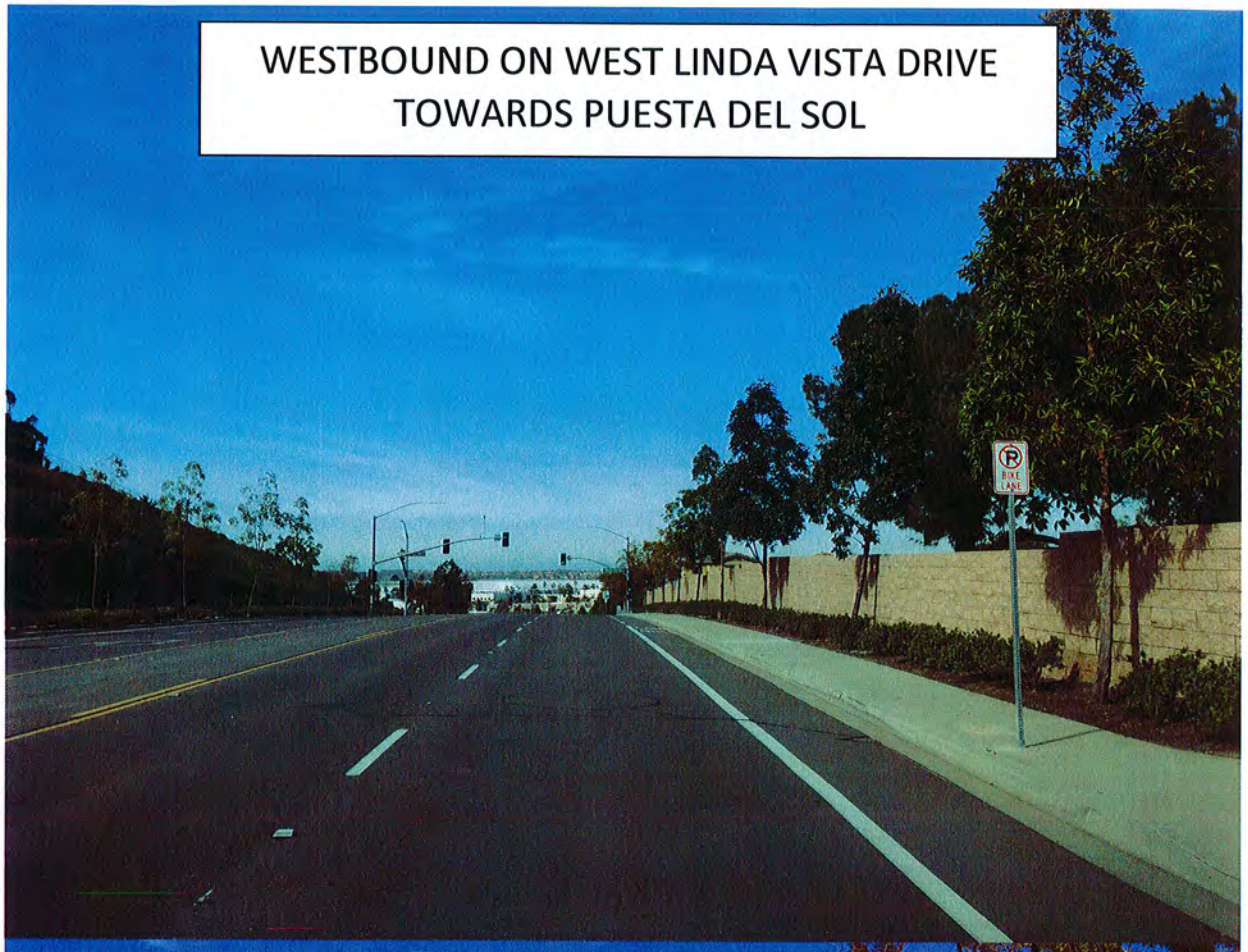
Number of data points:	400
Posted speed:	25
Average speed:	17.6
Percentiles:	
--- 85th	24

Report Date: 2/21/2017

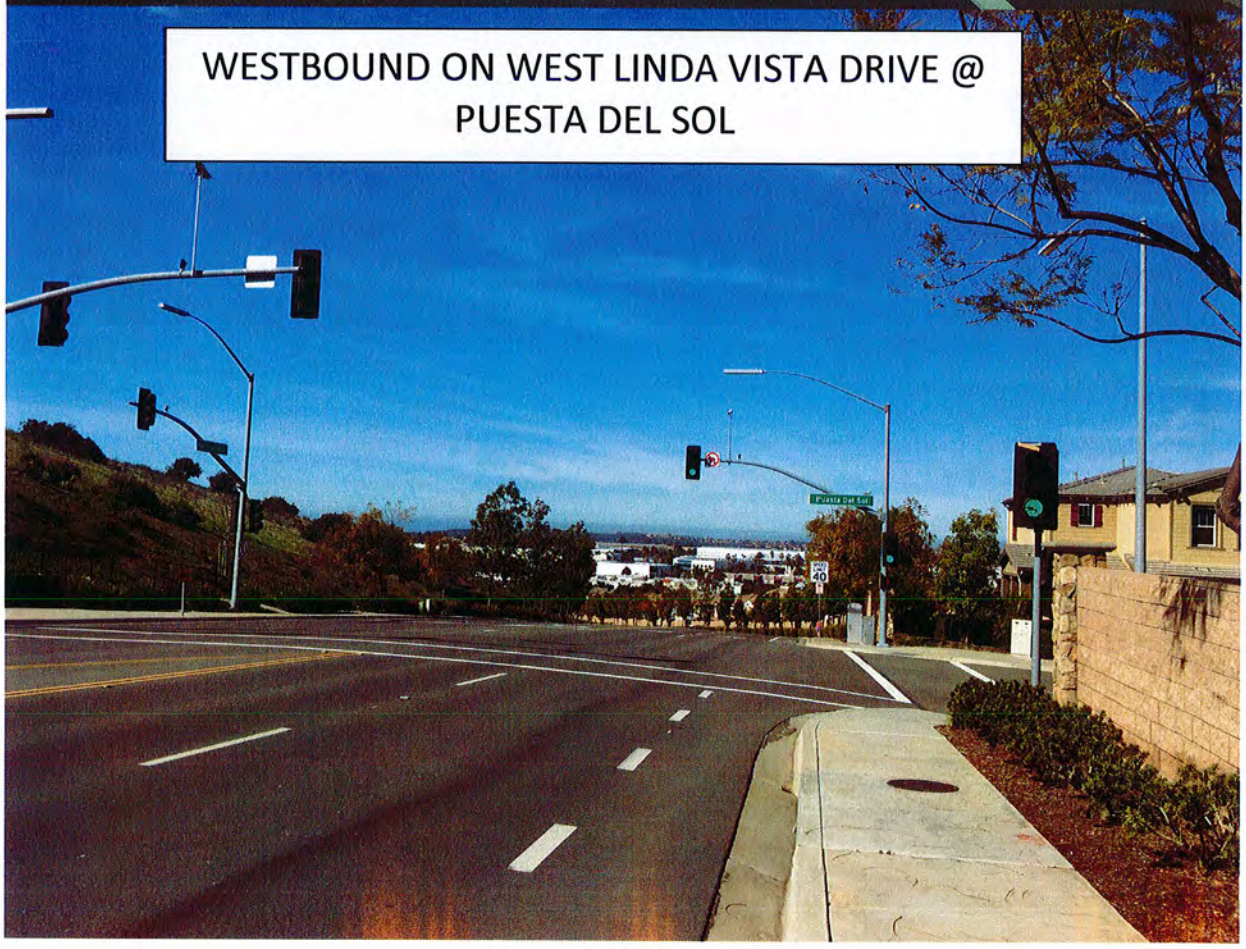
EASTBOUND ON WEST LINDA VISTA DRIVE
TOWARDS PUESTA DEL SOL

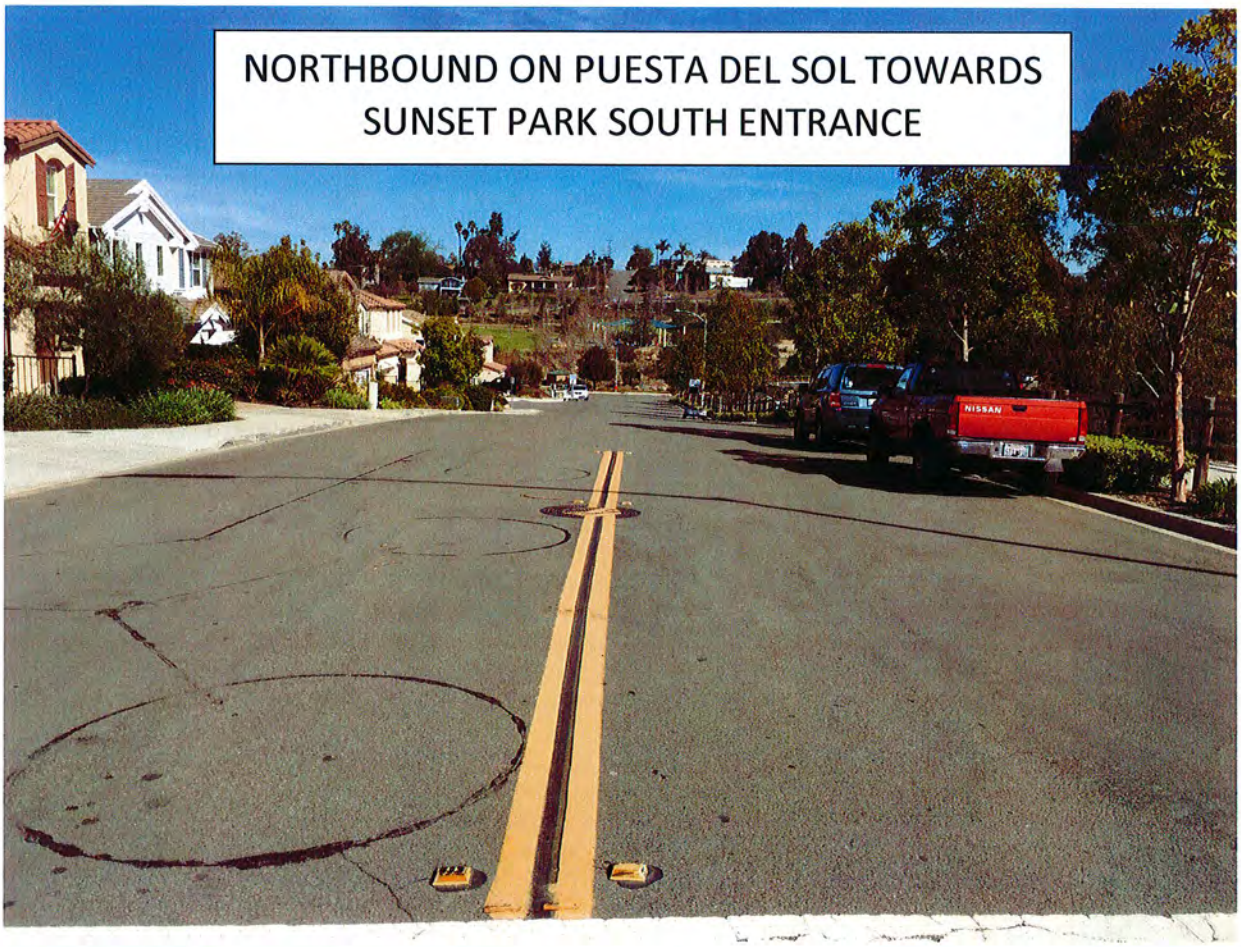


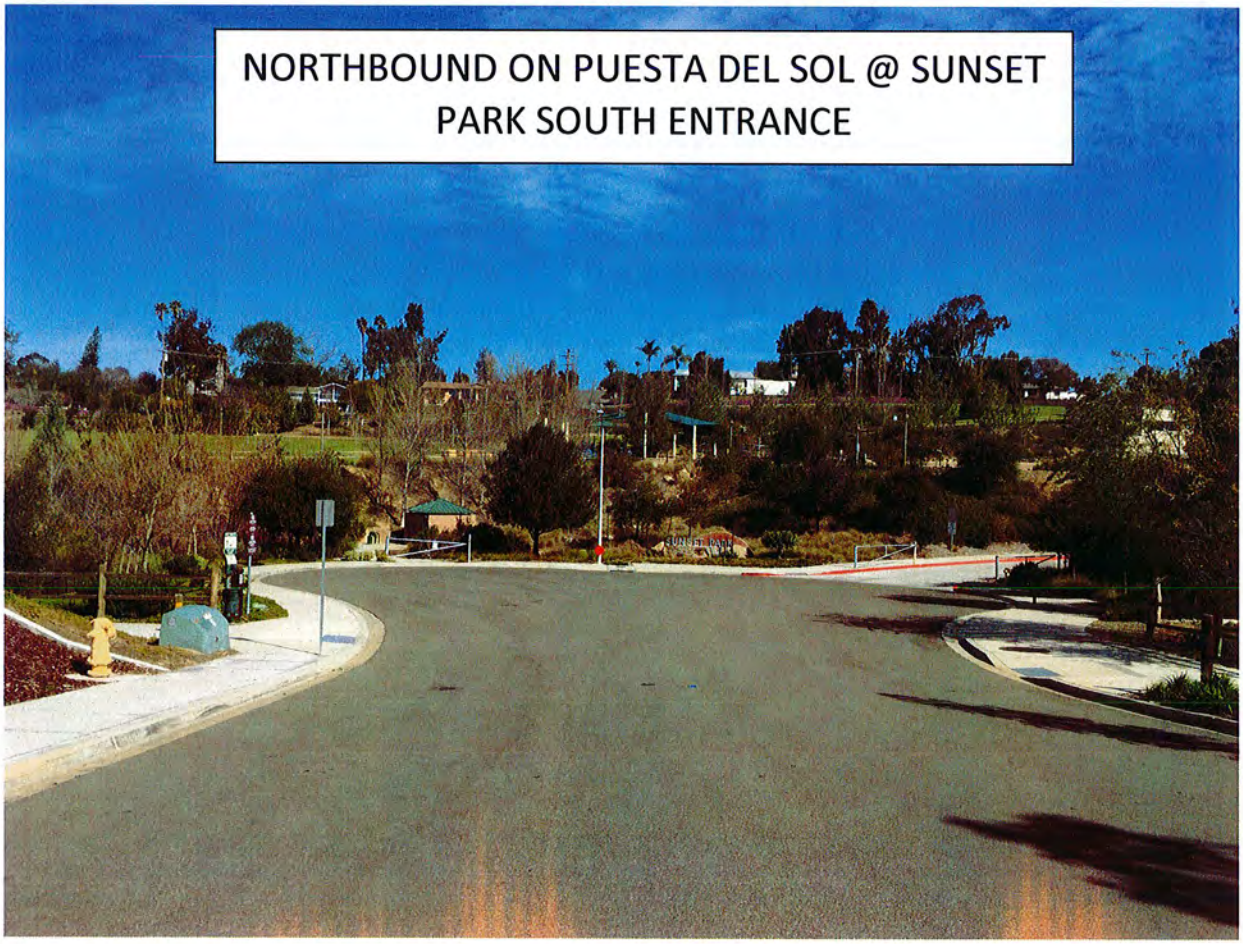
WESTBOUND ON WEST LINDA VISTA DRIVE TOWARDS PUESTA DEL SOL



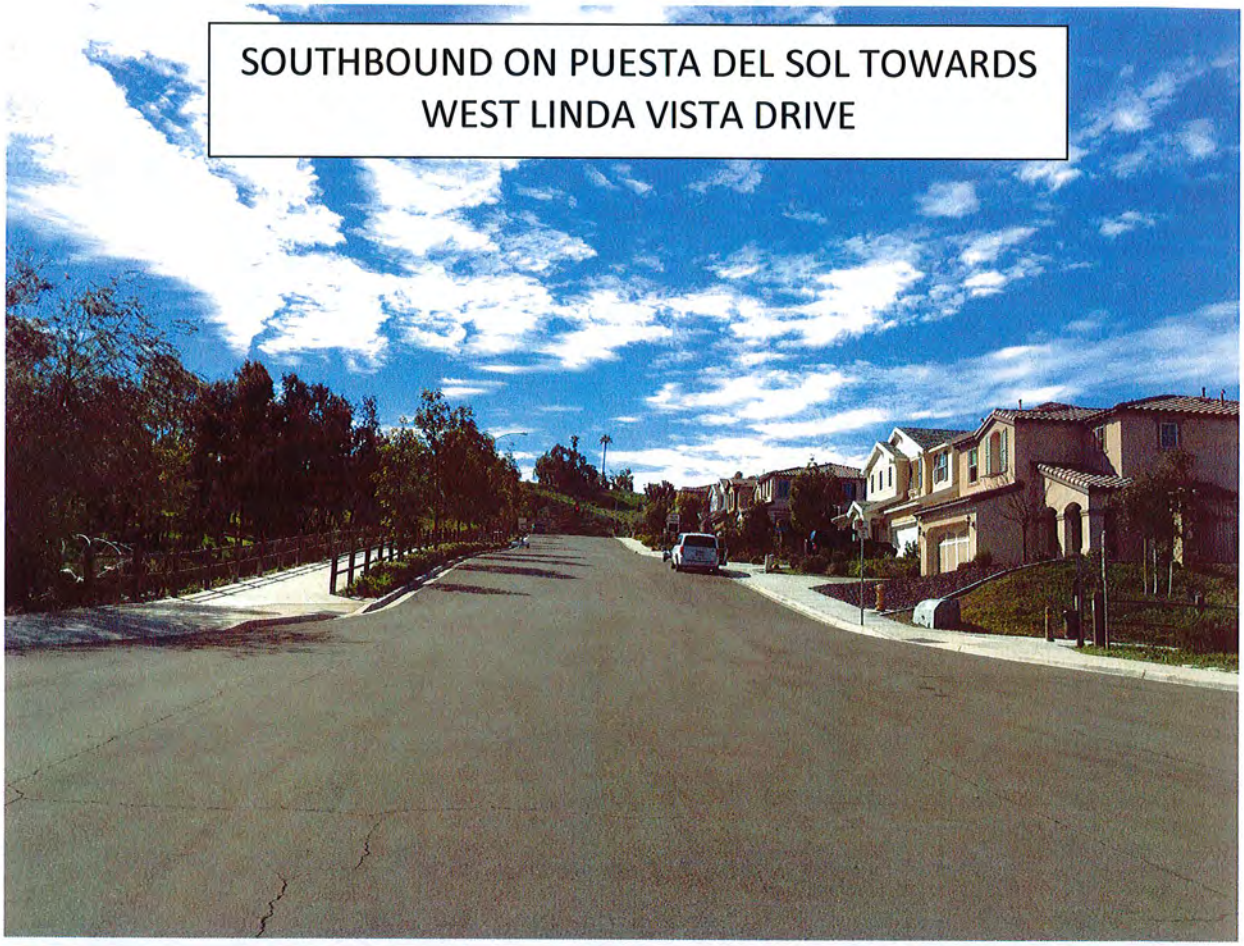
WESTBOUND ON WEST LINDA VISTA DRIVE @ PUESTA DEL SOL

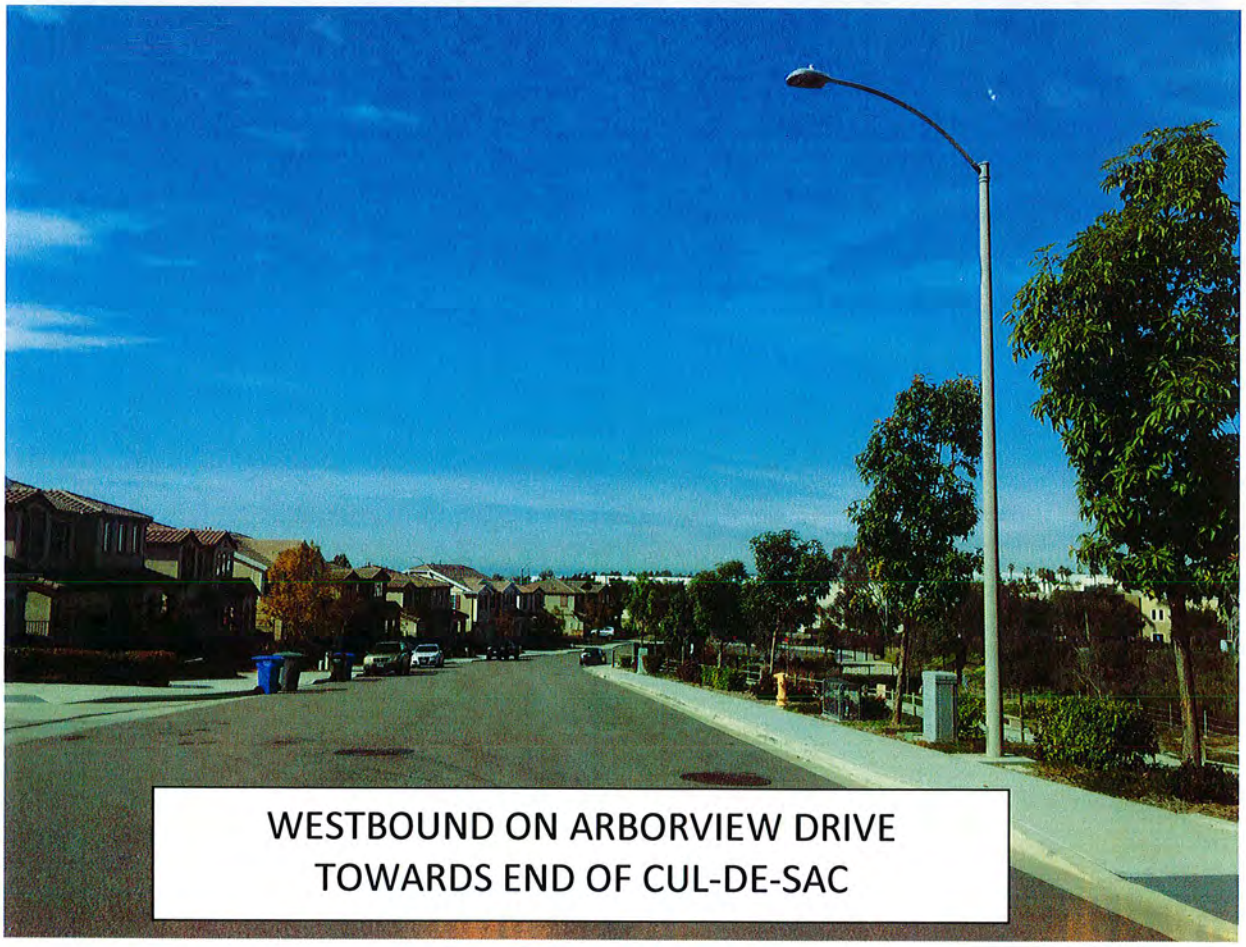



NORTHBOUND ON PUESTA DEL SOL TOWARDS
SUNSET PARK SOUTH ENTRANCE
NISSAN


NORTHBOUND ON PUESTA DEL SOL @ SUNSET
PARK SOUTH ENTRANCE

SOUTHBOUND ON PUESTA DEL SOL TOWARDS
WEST LINDA VISTA DRIVE





WESTBOUND ON ARBORVIEW DRIVE
TOWARDS END OF CUL-DE-SAC