



# Love Laguna Beach!

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by Cheryl Kinsman

**AFTER MANY YEARS OF PLANNING, the Laguna Canyon Road realignment project is actually going to begin.**

## *What's inside:*

**L**aguna Canyon Road is the road we love to hate. It curves and winds its way into Laguna, and some believe it is one of our least safe roads. No more! This issue reports on the changes about to occur to our entrance into Laguna. You will see that they are major.

## *Santa is coming:*

**S**anta arrives in downtown Laguna Beach this Friday. This Friday, Santa arrives in downtown Laguna Beach. The kids will love seeing him, but everyone will love enjoying the hospitality of the downtown merchants. Come enjoy being with your neighbors this Friday.

**D**o you know someone who should be receiving this update? Please e-mail me their name and e-mail address and I'll add them to the list!

**My e-mail address is**  
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*Love Laguna Beach!* is prepared by Cheryl Kinsman, member of the Laguna Beach City Council, as a service to the people of Laguna Beach. Not prepared, printed or mailed at taxpayer expense.

When completed, the long delayed project will provide 2 lanes of travel in each direction. Much of the road will be divided, and the overall project will provide much safer travel into and out of Laguna. In addition, the extra lanes will provide needed ingress and egress in case of emergency.

Actual work by the county's contractor will begin on January 8, 2003. Construction will take approximately 3-1/2 years, and will begin with the placement of fencing to keep the contractor away from environmentally sensitive areas.

During the first year of construction there should be little or no impact on the current roadway. During the second and third years of the project, there will be some road closures, generally from Friday evening at 11 p.m. until Monday morning at 5 a.m. Completion of the project is anticipated in June of 2005.

This project has involved coordination among the County of Orange, CalTrans, the cities of Laguna Beach, Irvine and Laguna Woods, and Laguna's environmental groups including the Laguna Canyon Foundation and Laguna Greenbelt. One thing that was important to the environmental groups was preservation of the Laguna Lakes, and after completion these lakes will be allowed to return to their natural state.

A groundbreaking ceremony with Supervisor Thomas Wilson is tentatively scheduled for January 7<sup>th</sup> at 2 p.m. at the James Dilley offsite parking site on Laguna Canyon Road. Shuttle busses may be available.

If you are interested in more information regarding this project, the Laguna Canyon Conservancy will have a guest speaker at its monthly dinner on January 6, 2003, at Tivoli Terrace. For reservations for the dinner, call Ed or Kit at 494-6465.

**Road construction ahead.  
Your tax dollars at work.**