



PRESS RELEASE

CITY OF LAGUNA NIGUEL
30111 Crown Valley Parkway
Laguna Niguel, CA 92677
(949) 362-4300
cityoflagunaniguel.org

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LAGUNA NIGUEL PROCLAIMS EXISTENCE OF LOCAL EMERGENCY IN RESPONSE TO RECENT EARTH MOVEMENT UNDER LA PAZ ROAD

Laguna Niguel, CA – On Friday, May 5, 2023, the City of Laguna Niguel proclaimed the existence of a local emergency in response to additional earth movement under La Paz Road. While there is no immediate danger to the public, the City is taking precautionary measures to ensure the safety of the public.

The emergency proclamation provides the City with the ability to mobilize local resources, accelerate procurement of supplies, and seek future reimbursement by the State and Federal government. As an additional safety measure, the two southbound lanes on La Paz Road, between Rancho Niguel Road and Kings Road, will be closed indefinitely. The northbound lanes on La Paz Road will be reduced to one lane to permit traffic flow in both directions.

Mayor Kelly Jennings stated, “The safety of our community is of the utmost importance. I want to assure you that we are taking proactive measures to ensure public safety and will continue to do so throughout this process. Our goal is to keep our residents informed and safe every step of the way.”

The City has been actively monitoring La Paz Road. In September 2021, the City made the decision to reduce the southbound lanes on La Paz Road to one lane, and to conduct an engineering study and geotechnical analysis along La Paz Road, between Rancho Niguel Road and Kings Road. With the recent heavy rainfalls playing a contributor factor to the earth movement, the City has deemed it necessary to further implement extra safety measures.

City Manager Tamara Letourneau stated, “This proclamation and road closure is a measure of precaution to ensure the safety of everyone who travels along La Paz. We understand this may cause some inconvenience to residents and commuters, but we want to assure everyone that we are working diligently to address the issue and provide a safe solution for all.”

In addition to closely monitoring the earth movement on La Paz Road and considering viable solutions, the City is actively coordinating with various agencies to develop a long-term repair plan for the affected area. The City aims to implement a permanent solution that addresses the critical infrastructure and ensures the safety of the public. Along with these interagency coordination efforts, the City is in the process of applying for a FEMA grant to design and construct a permanent solution to La Paz Road that will allow the road to be fully reopened safely.

The public is encouraged to visit the City’s dedicated webpage at www.cityoflagunaniguel.org/lapaz for the most up-to-date information.

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