State of California • Department of Transportation

# NEWS RELEASE

**Today's Date:** Tuesday, August 25, 2015

**District:** 05–Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, Monterey, San Benito and Santa Cruz Counties

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**UPDATE #15**

**ELEPHANT TRUNK PROJECT CONTINUES--HIGHWAY 1 CLOSED OVERNIGHT NEAR THE SAN LUIS OBISPO/MONTEREY COUNTY LINE UNTIL NOVEMBER**

SAN LUIS OBISPO/MONTEREY COUNTIES – A project to construct a retaining wall on Highway 1 in northern San Luis Obispo/southern Monterey Counties is underway. It will serve as a permanent restoration effort in this area known for major slides.

**Construction this week will include the continuation of drilling and placing of metal piles**. This phase of the project continues with **full overnight closures** on Highway 1 from Gorda to Ragged Point which began on Monday night, June 22, tentatively scheduled through the end of November, weather permitting. Roadwork will take place **Sunday nights through Friday mornings from 10 pm until 7 am**.

Motorists traveling north/south of these closures are advised to reach their destinations before 10 pm. All local businesses along the coast will remain open during this roadwork.

Motorists will encounter one-way reversing traffic control via a temporary traffic signal 24/7 except during overnight full closures. Traffic delays during the one-way traffic control will be 5-10 minutes.

The contractor for this $9.5 million project is John Madonna Construction of San Luis Obispo, CA. This project is expected to be completed in winter 2016-17.

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# NEWS RELEASE

**UPDATE #1**

**HIGHWAY 1/COW CLIFFS VIADUCT PROJECT BEGINS MONDAY, AUGUST 31**

MONTEREY COUNTY – A primarily daytime ½-mile project to construct a viaduct along Hwy. 1 near Lucia from south of Big Creek Bridge to South of Dolan Creek Bridge, 18 miles south of Big Sur was postponed and will begin on Monday, Aug. 31, Caltrans officials announced today.

**Cow Cliffs work for this week will consist of shoulder widening and consists of flagging at the existing traffic signal overnight from 8pm until 6am Sunday through Thursday (Friday morning). Motorists can expect delays not to exceed 15 minutes**. Hwy. 1 at Cow Cliffs will have one-way signalized traffic control 24/7, which is already in place. Traffic will be stopped for 10 minutes at a time during daytime roadwork. However, full overnight closures will not take place until approximately December, after the Elephant Trunk Retaining Wall overnight closures have been completed.

The project consists of constructing a permanent viaduct, about five miles north of Lucia and 18 miles south of Big Sur. Daily roadwork schedules are subject to change due to weather conditions and other factors so stay tuned for regular updates. ALL BUSINESSES ALONG THE BIG SUR COAST WILL REMAIN OPEN.

In order to minimize traffic impact as part of the project, there will be advance notification for motorists, residents and businesses via a traffic hotline, electronic message signs and email updates.

The contractor for this $3.9 million project is RGW Construction Inc. of Livermore, CA. Completion is scheduled for fall of 2016, weather permitting.

Elephant Trunk Retaining Wall Project

Photo of concrete truck in background with piles (in foreground) to be placed into the ground.

**Caltrans reminds motorists to move over and slow down when driving through highway construction zones.**

# NEWS RELEASE

For traffic updates on other state highways in Monterey and San Luis Obispo Counties, motorists can call Caltrans District 5 Public Affairs at 805-549-3318 or can visit the District 5 website at: http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist05/road_information.htm. Motorists can also contact the toll-free hotline from Cambria to Carmel at: 888-836-0866.