



NEWS RELEASE

Today's Date: Friday, September 20, 2013

District: 5 – San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Monterey, San Benito and Santa Cruz Counties

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRELIMINARY RESULTS OF CALTRANS/UC DAVIS HIGHWAY 1 CHIP SEAL STUDY LEAD TO SURFACE TREATMENT FOR SMOOTHING

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY – Caltrans and the University of California, Davis Pavement Research Center (PRC) now have preliminary results from a study of bicyclist/pavement interaction that provide important information for the process of resurfacing Highway 1 from Cambria to the San Luis Obispo/Monterey County Line.

“I am happy to announce through our association with the UC Davis Pavement Research Center and input from the cycling community, Caltrans is preparing to begin work on Hwy. 1. With this fact based decision we are now moving forward with finding a solution for resurfacing Highway 1. While the full report continues to undergo review, enough information is available to begin work on Highway 1,” said Caltrans District 5 Director Tim Gubbins.

The results of this study indicate a sand seal treatment is expected to be effective in smoothing the surface of Highway 1. Caltrans will apply a sand treatment to a short test section of Highway 1. A sand seal is a sprayed application of asphalt emulsion followed by a covering of clean sand or fine aggregate.

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After this test section is completed, measurements will be taken to determine if this treatment provides the appropriate level of smoothing on Highway 1. If so, the sand seal treatment will be applied to the entire roadway north of Cambria that received a chip seal last fall.

The selection of this surface treatment follows work by the UC Davis Pavement Research Center and Caltrans that tested eight sections of surface treatment on State Route 198 in Monterey County. A sand seal was applied to one of the test sections and resulted in an improvement on the highway, according to feedback from cyclists and specialized equipment used to measure the texture of the highway.

CalPortland of Santa Maria will serve as the contractor for this \$1.5 million project. Caltrans will continue to inform the public, elected officials and the cycling community about the progress of this project.

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

For traffic updates on other state highways in San Luis Obispo County, 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

