



# NEWS RELEASE

**Today's Date:** September 17, 2012

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

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## CALTRANS BEGINS THIRD PHASE OF WIDENING HIGHWAY 46 EAST

PASO ROBLES – Caltrans held a groundbreaking ceremony today for the third phase of the \$45 million Highway 46 widening project, which will widen five miles of the highway from one to two lanes in each direction. Proposition 1B, the transportation bond approved by voters in 2006, is fully-funding this project.

“I am very pleased to see work continuing on this corridor which links the Central Valley and the Central Coast,” said Caltrans Director Malcolm Dougherty. “This project will improve safety for thousands of commuters, tourists and those in California’s agricultural industry who rely on this highway to move goods to market.”

The contractor for this project is Papich Construction of Pismo Beach. Phase one between Airport Road and Geneseo Road was completed last year while work is currently underway on phase two of widening Highway 46 from Geneseo Road to east of Almond Drive. Construction is expected to be completed early next year. Phase three will widen the highway from Almond Drive to McMillan Canyon Road.

“I am very pleased that our company will continue with the widening of this important corridor which will stimulate the local economy and create jobs,” said Papich Construction Company President Jason Papich.

Since its passage, Caltrans and the California Transportation Commission have allocated approximately \$14 billion in Proposition 1B funds to improve California’s transportation system.

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 website at: [www.dot.ca.gov/dist05/road\\_information.htm](http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist05/road_information.htm).

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