



NEWS RELEASE

Today's Date: Tuesday, January 15, 2013

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

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CALTRANS/UC DAVIS TO EVALUATE HIGHWAY 1 CHIP SEAL PROJECT

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY – Caltrans officials are partnering with UC pavement researchers to find effective and affordable ways to make cycling a smoother experience along a recently paved section of Highway 1 in northern San Luis Obispo County.

The Caltrans Division of Research and Innovation plans to tap the expertise of the University of California, Davis Pavement Research Center in response to local bicycle enthusiasts who say the chip seal project has made sections of the scenic route a rougher-than-usual ride.

“We’re looking for innovative solutions and are hopeful that this investigation will lead to both short and long-term improvements,” said Caltrans District 5 Director Tim Gubbins. “Caltrans plans to work closely with the local cycling community and UC experts as we sort this out.”

Gubbins said the challenge emerged after cyclists voiced concerns about the recent completion of a 20-mile long chip seal project along Highway 1 from Cambria to the Monterey County line.

The UC Davis researchers are currently developing a scope of work to examine conditions on Highway 1 and offer recommendations about various cost-effective surface treatments and how they would service cyclists as well as all users of the highway. Over the next several months, researchers will consider any positive



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changes that can be made to the existing pavement surface. The investigation will also include any potential long-term improvements to our chip seal program statewide.

In the meantime, Caltrans will maintain its enhanced sweeping of Highway 1 and repairing potholes.

“We will continue to update the community as new information becomes available,” Gubbins said.

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