



NEWS RELEASE

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

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CALTRANS AWARDS CONTRACT FOR SECOND PHASE OF HIGHWAY 46 EAST WIDENING

PASO ROBLES – Caltrans today announced that Papich Construction of Pismo Beach has been awarded a \$54.1 million contract to widen a five-mile section of Highway 46 East from Geneseo Road to Almond Drive. The project, which will improve safety on the busy route, is funded primarily (\$49.7 million) by Proposition 1B, a \$19.9 billion transportation bond championed by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and approved by voters in 2006.

“Proposition 1B is paying for vital transportation projects all over California,” said Governor Schwarzenegger. “Investing in our infrastructure is strengthening our economy and creating jobs when we need them most.”

The new contract is for the second phase of a project that is widening Highway 46 East from two to four lanes. Papich Construction is also the contractor for the first phase, which is widening five miles of the highway between Airport Road and Geneseo Road. Construction on the second phase will begin early next year, after the first phase is completed.

“Highway 46 is an important transportation route, linking the Central Valley and the Central Coast. Widening it will improve safety for thousands of commuters and tourists,





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and California's agricultural industry who rely on this highway," said Caltrans Director Cindy McKim.

"I am very pleased that our company has been awarded this very important project which will stimulate the local economy and create jobs in San Luis Obispo County," said Papich Construction Company President Jason Papich.

Since its passage, Caltrans and the California Transportation Commission have allocated nearly \$6 billion in Proposition 1B funds to improve California's transportation system.

Caltrans reminds motorists that 'we're here to get you there.'

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/maint/road/upslo.htm>

