



# NEWS RELEASE

**Today's Date:** Thursday, November 12, 2009

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

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## LANDSCAPING/IRRIGATION IMPROVEMENTS IN SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

**SANTA BARBARA COUNTY** - A project to improve erosion control, reduce storm water pollution, create new vegetation and rehabilitate irrigation systems at various interchanges along Hwy. 101 and State Route 150 in southern Santa Barbara County and Carpinteria is now underway.

This project includes the removal of the invasive Ice Plant in selected locations. Trees that are dead or decaying will be replaced to ensure the continuity of landscape along the corridor. After close consultation with the Santa Barbara County Agricultural Commissioners Office, it is anticipated that only six Monterey Pine Trees will be removed, which is far less than originally planned.

Caltrans goal is to preserve as much of the landscaping as possible while working to maintain the environment by preventing erosion and pollution in the area. Work on this project is expected to take place Monday through Friday from 7 am to 4 pm.

Much of the replacement planting will be drought tolerant and adaptable to Santa Barbara County. These plants will aid in weed suppression and slope stabilization/erosion control.

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The contractor for this \$1.6 million project is American West Landscape, Inc of Chino, CA. This project should be completed by the end of 2010 and will include a three-year plant establishment period.

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

For traffic updates on other state highway projects in Santa Barbara County, motorists can call Caltrans District 5 Public Affairs at 805-568-0858 or visit the District 5 website at: <http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist05/maint/road/upsb.htm>

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