



Today's Date: Tuesday, March 16, 2010

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

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



HIGHWAY 1/17 LANDSCAPING PROJECT BEGINS NEXT MONTH

SANTA CRUZ—The second phase of the Hwy. 1/17 Interchange Merge Lanes project—constructed from 2006-2008—includes a project to landscape and re-vegetate the area and is scheduled to begin by the end of April, Caltrans and SCCRTC officials announced today. Landscaping is the final component of this roadway improvement project.

Vegetation, including non-native and invasive species, was removed to construct the Highway 1/17 Merge Lanes project. The re-vegetation effort will replace plants and trees at about a 3 to 1 ratio for those removed. More than 4,000 new plants are proposed for the roadsides, of which almost 700 are trees, including 450 coast redwoods. In addition, more than 1,700 vines will be planted to cover soundwalls and 7 acres will be seeded with native grasses and wildflowers. The city side of soundwalls will be planted with vines wherever possible and wall maintenance will be included through the life of the contract.

Traffic control will consist of periodic shoulder closures during daylight hours, primarily during the first 6 months of the contract. Although no lane closures are expected to occur, a single lane may be closed between 10 pm and 5 am if necessary for construction.

The contract begins by clearing weeds and debris from the roadsides and concludes with a 3-year plant establishment period, carrying it through to about October 2013.

The contractor for this \$695,000 project is Watkin & Bortolussi Inc. of San Rafael, CA.

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

For traffic updates on other state highway projects in Santa Cruz County, the public can call Caltrans District 5 Public Affairs at 831-423-0396 or visit the District 5 website at:

<http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist05/maint/road/upscr.htm>.

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