



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Caltrans Opens 10-Mile Section of Angeles Crest Highway (State Route 2) Closed Since March 2005

VINCENT GAP VISTA POINT in the ANGELES CREST FOREST - The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) opened just before noon today a 10-mile portion of the Angeles Crest Highway (State Route 2) from Islip Saddle to Wrightwood that has been closed for extensive roadway repairs since March 2005.

Overlooking a breathtaking view of the Angeles Crest Forest, Doug Failing, Caltrans District 7 Director for Los Angeles and Ventura Counties, officiated in a ribbon-cutting event this morning on State Route 2 at Vincent Gap Vista Point in the Angeles National Forest, approximately 12 miles west of Wrightwood. Failing was joined by Brad Mitzelfelt, Supervisor, District 1, San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors; and Captain Jerry Flavin, California Highway Patrol (CHP), Southern Division.

This \$10.5 million Caltrans project constructed a bridge approximately 10 miles west of Wrightwood in addition to roadway repairs and safety improvements. Severe winter weather conditions in 2004-05 caused extensive damage at 17 sites along a 10-mile section of this route. Additional damage occurred in spring 2006, requiring construction of a bridge that is designed for rocks, debris and run-off to flow beneath it. This scenic route provides a direct connection to and from Los Angeles and San Bernardino Counties for motorists and emergency responders.

“The opening of Angeles Crest Highway benefits many including local residents, businesses, agencies and emergency responders who protect citizens and the natural habitat,” said Failing, “A safe and open roadway also benefits those who visit the area as sports enthusiasts or to simply enjoy the beauty and peace of these mountains.”

Nearly 100 people attended the opening event including local residents, public safety personnel, elected officials and their representatives, and eager sports enthusiasts. CHP Captain Flavin addressed the crowd with a message of roadway safety and reminded motorists and the general public to share the road and to obey speed limits.