



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STIMULUS FUNDING WILL HELP WIDEN THE RONALD REAGAN FREEWAY

Ventura County – Caltrans today announced construction has begun to widen the westbound Ronald Reagan Freeway (SR-118). The \$19.1 million project is partially financed (\$6.5 million) by President Obama's American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act). This project and many others around the state are beginning sooner than expected thanks to Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's efforts to expedite stimulus funding.

"My Administration is working hand-in-hand with President Obama's team to ensure stimulus dollars are pumped into California quickly and responsibly to stimulate the economy and in this instance - invest in the future of California's transportation infrastructure," said Governor Schwarzenegger.

The project will add one new lane to westbound SR-118 in Simi Valley from Tapo Canyon Road to the Los Angeles County line, a distance of approximately five miles. On average, more than 115,000 vehicles travel this section of freeway daily. The project, which was awarded to Security Paving Company of Sun Valley, is a partnership between Caltrans and the Ventura County Transportation Commission and is expected to be completed by winter 2010.

"We are committed to reducing traffic congestion in Ventura County and all over Southern California. This project is a great example of how the stimulus is bringing in the cash we need to improve the Ronald Reagan Freeway, while at the same time supporting much-needed jobs," said Caltrans Director Randy Iwasaki.

"This project will directly provide steady income for about 60 families for the next year," said Hani Jamaledine, Project Manager, Security Paving Company.

Under Governor Schwarzenegger's leadership, California leads the nation with \$2.54 billion in Recovery Act funding obligated to 912 highway, local street, and job training transportation projects statewide. For more information on the Recovery Act visit: <http://recovery.ca.gov/>