



# NEWS RELEASE

**Date:** February 17, 2009

**District:** Los Angeles/Ventura

**Contact:** Judy Gish

**Phone:** (213) 897-3487

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **CALTRANS SCHEDULES HEARING ON SR-39 REOPENING PROJECT**

**AZUSA--** The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) will hold a public hearing Tuesday, February 24, from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. regarding the State Route 39 (SR-39) rehabilitation and reopening project. The hearing will be held at the city of Azusa Senior Center, 740 North Dalton Avenue, Azusa, CA 91702.

Caltrans is in the preliminary stages of a construction effort that would reopen four miles of SR-39 connecting to Angeles Crest Highway (SR-2). A portion of SR-39 has been closed to public highway traffic since 1978 when the road sustained extensive damage as a result of a rock slide and related erosion. Currently, the road has a limited passable path for emergency service vehicles and is very narrow at the northern end of the closed portion.

The proposed project would rehabilitate and reopen the highway from approximately five miles north of the Crystal Lake Campground to SR-2. The project will repair the road, but also include measures to prevent future rock slides, mudslides and other problems.

Four project alternatives are under consideration including the “no-build” option, which means the project would not go forward. All build alternatives would: overlay asphalt on the existing roadway pavement; install rock fall fencing at six locations; replace the existing damaged retaining wall at one area; construct retaining walls utilizing steel to stabilize the embankment; remove and replace the water-draining area and facilities at Snow Springs; and replace damaged steel walls with state-of-the-art retaining walls utilizing steel at three locations.

Reopening the four mile segment of SR-39 is an important part of improving the access, services, and response times for the United States Forest Service (USFS), the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department (LASD), and other emergency service agencies. Reopening SR-39 also will restore a vital traffic connection between SR-2 and the San Gabriel Valley.

Before Caltrans can reopen SR-39, the project must be environmentally reviewed. This hearing is a part of that process and public comment will be recorded in the environmental documents. The public is encouraged to attend the hearing and share comments and/or concerns on project alternatives before a final design and alternative is selected.





# NEWS RELEASE

This project has a dedicated funding source of State Highway Operation and Protection Program (SHOPP) funds. Depending on selection of a design alternative, construction would begin in winter 2011 and complete by fall 2012. For more information regarding this project, please contact Eduardo Aguilar at (213) 897-8492.

