



NEWS RELEASE

08-043

Today's Date: Friday, May 09, 2008

District: 1

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CALTRANS GEARS UP FOR THE TOUR OF THE UNKNOWN COAST

Eureka – The 30th Annual Tour of the Unknown Coast (TUC) will take place on Saturday, May 10. The TUC covers portions of State Routes 101, 254 (Avenue of the Giants), and 283 (the Eel River Bridge between Rio Dell and Scotia) in Humboldt County. Caltrans Maintenance crews prepare for the TUC by sweeping the shoulders to be used by bicyclists during the race.

The 2008 TUC has presented special challenges, as storm damage in January 2008 caused a slipout on Route 254 that closed the road one mile north of Holmes Flat Road. This portion of Route 254 has traditionally been used by the TUC. Caltrans was working to accommodate bicyclists through the work zone along a path on the west side of the road until Sunday, May 4, when further slide activity made that path unusable.

Working with Caltrans to find an alternative, TUC staff opted to reroute bicyclists onto Route 101. This detour involves bicyclists passing through another work zone near Redcrest. In order to help keep TUC bicyclists safe, Caltrans will take multiple measures. Portable changeable message signs will be placed on Route 101 north and south of the Redcrest work zone to inform motorists of the TUC detour. In addition, one-way controlled traffic will be in effect on Route 101 north of Redcrest from approximately 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. to ensure bicyclists on the 100-mile tour safe passage through the work zone.

Caltrans wishes everyone a safe and successful Tour of the Unknown Coast and encourages motorists to drive with caution as they share the road with TUC participants.

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