



# NEWS RELEASE

09-010

**Today's Date:** Thursday, January 29, 2009

**District:** 1

**Contact:** Julie East

**Phone:** (707) 441-3998

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **ROCK AND ROLL: THE CALTRANS DISTRICT 1 ROCK SCALING TEAM WORKS TO HELP KEEP THE HIGHWAYS OPEN FOR YOU**

**Eureka** – Falling rocks can quickly spoil a trip on beautiful North Coast highways. The Caltrans District 1 Rock Scaling Team is ready to help keep rocks out of your way.

When rocks on slopes above State highways become loosened by rain, earthquakes, or other forces, the Rock Scaling Team ascends the hillside and knocks the rocks down. With traffic control in place and crews on the ground to clean up the fallen rocks, the team's work is a much safer alternative to letting gravity take its course.

"Every rock we remove in a controlled way helps safeguard the traveling public and reduces damage to highways, saving time, repair costs, and delays," said Nick Motto, Caltrans Transportation Engineer and Rock Scaling Team Coordinator.

Over the past 14 years, the team has removed nearly 9,700 cubic yards of material from slide areas and cut slopes across the district. At 10 cubic yards per dump truck load, that's 970 loads of material hauled off safely! The team also helps make construction zones safe from rockfall and provides slope safety/rock climbing training to other Caltrans personnel.

The District 1 Rock Scaling Team is comprised of volunteers from various Caltrans functions, including Maintenance and Construction. The team works all over the district (Del Norte, Humboldt, Lake, and Mendocino Counties) and is one of only three Caltrans rock scaling teams statewide. Areas frequented by the team include Route 20 in Lake County, Routes 101 and 162 in Mendocino County, Routes 36 and 96 in Humboldt County, and Route 199 in Del Norte County.

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**Note to Media:** Please contact Julie East at [julie.east@dot.ca.gov](mailto:julie.east@dot.ca.gov) or 707-441-3998 for accompanying photos.

