



# NEWS RELEASE

**Date:** May 11, 2011 #11-094  
**District:** District 3 - Marysville, [www.dot.ca.gov/dist3](http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist3)  
Jody Jones, District Director  
**Contact:** Deanna Shoopman, [deanna\\_shoopman@dot.ca.gov](mailto:deanna_shoopman@dot.ca.gov)  
**Phone:** (530) 741-4566 office, (530) 701-9459 cell

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### ECHO SUMMIT CLOSURE BEGINS TODAY ALTERNATE ROUTE THRU SCENIC GOLD COUNTRY IN FULL EFFECT

**El Dorado County** – Caltrans today announced that U.S. Highway 50 at Echo Summit is closed. It will remain closed for approximately two weeks, depending on weather, as Caltrans removes the damaged rock wall barrier and replaces it with a barrier that meets current safety standards while retaining the natural beauty of the original wall. All travelers from California’s Central Valley to South Lake Tahoe will be directed to use the alternate route. Highway 50 remains open for visitors to Placerville, Apple Hill and other locations as far east as Sierra at Tahoe Road near Echo Summit. Highway 50 will be open with no restrictions on Memorial Day weekend.

“Travelers to South Lake Tahoe can enjoy the scenic alternate route through the gold country of El Dorado and Amador Counties,” said Caltrans District 3 Director, Jody Jones. “The drive is a wonderful opportunity to get to see some of California’s historic countryside, rugged river canyons and vineyards on their way to experiencing the legendary beauty of South Lake Tahoe.”

Motorists should allow approximately one hour of extra travel time to reach South Lake Tahoe during the two week full closure. Alternate routes are in full effect. The alternate routes available from U.S. Highway 50 are:

- From Sacramento: Exit at Power Inn Road and take State Route 16 east to State Route 49 south, at State Route 88 in Jackson, turn left (east). Take that to State Route 89 and turn left again (north), and follow it back to U.S. Highway 50 in South Lake Tahoe.
- From Placerville: Exit at Missouri Flat Road and take State Route 49 south. Follow it to State Route 88 in Jackson and turn left (east), At State Route 89 turn left (north) and follow it back to U.S. Highway 50 in South Lake Tahoe.

Motorists coming through the Stockton area can exit State Route 99 as usual at State Route 88 east, continuing onto State Route 88/49. In Jackson, turn left to continue on State Route 88 east. At State Route 89 turn left (north) and follow it to U.S. Highway 50





# NEWS RELEASE

in South Lake Tahoe.

Caltrans will place electronic message signs at key positions on all of these highways to direct travelers.

Caltrans has a web site ([www.Way2Tahoe.com](http://www.Way2Tahoe.com)) featuring a map, up-to-date information about the project, information about the alternate routes and sites to visit along the way, live traffic cameras, and answers to frequently asked questions. There is also an e-mail alert feature, allowing the public to sign up for project updates. Web site visitors can also track the project's progress via Twitter (@Way2Tahoe) and on Facebook.

The closure is part of the first stage of a safety enhancement project that will remove damaged rock walls and replace them with a barrier that meets current safety standards. The project is funded in part (\$1.9 million) by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act). California has obligated nearly \$2.6 billion in Recovery Act funding to nearly 1,000 highway, local street, and job training transportation projects statewide. For more information on the Recovery Act visit: <http://recovery.ca.gov/>.



###

