



NEWS RELEASE

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District: District 12, Orange County
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CALTRANS EARNS TOP PROJECT AWARDS

Irvine – The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) District 12 has won the Project of the Year and Project Achievement awards by both the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) Orange County Branch and the Orange County Engineering Council (OCEC). The prestigious awards are for its exceptional work involving the Interstate 5 Gateway Project, the State Route 91 Eastbound Lane Addition Project, and the State Route 74 Widening Project.

The ASCE awards were presented during National Engineers Week on February 17, 2011, and the OCEC awards were presented on February 21, 2011.

The I-5 Gateway Project earned both the OCEC and ASCE Project of the Year honors and was a collaborative effort by Caltrans and the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA). The \$335 million two-mile expansion project spanned from SR-91 to the Orange/Los Angeles County line. The project aimed at reducing congestion and improving traffic flow on this important transition route that serves as the gateway to Orange County.

Caltrans also earned the OCEC Project Achievement Award for the SR-91 Eastbound Lane Addition Project – the first American Recovery and Reinvestment Act transportation project in Orange County funded primarily (\$47.9 million) by the Recovery Act. The project constructed a new lane on six miles of eastbound SR-91, between SR-241 and SR-71. The additional lane was designed to increase capacity, improve traffic operation and enhance safety.

The ASCE Orange County Branch honored Caltrans with the Project Achievement award for the Ortega Highway (SR-74) Safety Improvement Project. A success in both design and environmental sensitivity, the \$40 million project took place on a three-mile section from San Juan Hot Springs to the Orange County line. Existing 10-foot lanes were widened to standard 12-foot lanes, with four feet of shoulder added to each side of the highway. Turnouts were improved and two new turnouts were added, one in each direction of the highway.

Caltrans is proud of the projects' staff and crews for these well-deserved honors. These projects have proven to be a huge success for motorists, who can now travel with less traffic congestion.

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