



# NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**“The Digging is Done.”**

## **Caltrans Finishes Excavation of Devil's Slide Tunnel**

**Pacifica** - Caltrans has finished excavating the new Devil's Slide Tunnel. On Tuesday, January 18, 2011, construction crews removed the last of the soil from the northbound tunnel. The last of the excavation for the southbound tunnel was completed a week earlier.

“Tunneling is never easy,” Caltrans District 4 Director Bijan Sartipi said. “It requires intelligent planning, brilliant engineering, and a lot of old-fashioned hard work. Reaching this milestone required plenty of all three.”

The digging began when Caltrans broke ground at the south portal on September 17, 2007. Since then, roughly 314,000 cubic yards of soil, clay, and rock have been removed from the mountain. In fact, construction crews have literally “built a mountain” on the project site out of the excavated soil, clay and rock.

For the past several decades, the adjacent segment of State Highway 1 has been subjected to numerous slipouts and rockslides. Many of them necessitated short and long term closures of the highway. Those closures had a devastating effect on the local economy. The new tunnel is designed to bypass that section of Highway 1.

Crews are now working on the final insulation and lining of the walls, and the installation of electrical and other systems. The tunnel is scheduled to open to traffic sometime in early 2012.

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