



NEWS RELEASE

Today's Date: May 12, 2006

District: 4 – Oakland

Contact: Steve Cobb

Phone: (510) 286-5776 **Pager:** (510) 805-3471

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Solano Diseased Tree Removal Starts on I-780 Tomorrow in Benicia

Benicia- Caltrans Construction Crews, will begin removing the dead, diseased, and structurally unsound Red Gum eucalyptus trees at 9:00 a.m. tomorrow, on I-780 at the Columbus Parkway Interchange in Benicia.

Reliable Tree Experts submitted a low bid of \$949,600.00 to prune and remove more than 500 diseased eucalyptus trees along the I-780 freeway between Vallejo and Benicia and along I-80 in Cordelia and Fairfield. These trees have been infested by the red gum psyllid, a non-native pest that has ravaged the red gum species throughout much of California. Caltrans has consulted with a Certified Registered Arborists that recommended the removal of the dead and diseased trees.

The reconstructed on-ramp from Columbus Parkway onto westbound I-780 is scheduled to reopen late next week. Tree removal at this site is being done on Saturday, to insure safe working conditions for both contractors and to avoid delays in reopening the Columbus Parkway on-ramp to westbound I-780.

Minor traffic delays are anticipated, use of alternate routes is advised when possible. Motorists are also advised that traffic violations in Maintenance and Construction zones, are subject to double fines and to **“slow for the cone zone”**.

“Don't Speed Save Lives”

Coastal TMC
510-286-6917

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