



NEWS RELEASE

Today's Date: Wednesday, January 17, 2018 at noon

District: 05 – Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, Monterey, San Benito and Santa Cruz Counties

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

U.S. HIGHWAY 101 IN SANTA BARBARA COUNTY IS NOT EXPECTED TO RE-OPEN BEFORE NEXT WEEK

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY –US 101 through Montecito will not reopen before next week, Caltrans officials have announced. The highway remains closed northbound from State Route 150 near Carpinteria to Milpas Street in Santa Barbara and southbound from Milpas Street to Padaro Lane due to flooding and mudslides.

Caltrans continues to make progress on the removal of debris on US Highway 101 at Olive Mill Road where a one-quarter mile section of highway was six to eight feet under mud and water. Clean up has accelerated now that the water in the area has receded.

Caltrans is deploying over 200 dump trucks, excavators, and loaders to remove debris and have over 300 personnel on site working 12 hour shifts, 24 hours per day. Crews are removing about 9,000 cubic yards of debris each day.

“We understand the impact that the closure of Highway 101 has on the people of California. We are teamed up with partner agencies responding to this tragedy and continue to work 24/7 to make progress toward re-opening US 101,” said Sara von Schwind, Caltrans District 5 Deputy District Director of Maintenance and Operations. “This is Caltrans’ highest priority and we are working diligently to re-open US 101 as safely and quickly as possible.”

Motorists may detour from the south by using Hwy. 126 to I-5 north to Hwy. 46 (or Hwy. 166) back to US 101. Motorists may detour from the north using US 101 to Hwy. 46 (or Hwy. 166) to I-5 south to Hwy. 126 west back to US 101. Hwy. 46 is the preferred route to I-5, since it has 4-lanes in most sections.

As US 101 remains closed, the Pacific Surfliner is available for transportation between Ventura and Santa Barbara, so more information can be found at www.pacificsurfliner.com, @PacSurfliners on Twitter or by calling 1-800-USA-RAIL (872-7245). Caltrans has added rail cars to handle extra high passenger demand due to the US 101 closure.

(More)





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Island Packers and Condor Express are also offering daily ferries from Ventura Harbor to Santa Barbara Harbor during the Highway 101 closure. More information can be found at: <http://condorexpress.com/101-closure-emergency-ferry-service/> or <http://islandpackers.com/ventura-santa-barbara-emergency-shuttle-information-page/>

Caltrans reminds motorists to move over and slow down when driving through highway construction zones.

For traffic updates in Santa Barbara County, motorists may call Caltrans District 5 Public Affairs at 805-549-3318 or can visit our website at: http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist05/road_information.htm Also, our free Quickmap app will provide real-time information on full closures, CHP incidents, traffic cameras and other important highway information. <http://quickmap.dot.ca.gov>



US Highway 101 near Olive Mill Road

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