



NEWS RELEASE

Today's Date: Thursday, February 9, 2012

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

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DEAD TREE REMOVAL IN MONTEREY CLOSSES CONNECTOR NEXT TUESDAY

MONTEREY – The connector ramp from Hwy. 1 South (just south of Munras) to Hwy. 68/Holman Hwy. west will be closed next Tuesday, February 14, from 9 am to 3pm for tree removal, Caltrans officials have announced.

A detour will be in place. No two consecutive ramps will be closed at the same time. Work is expected to be completed by February 17.

This is the last leg of a three-mile safety project from just south of the Hwy. 68/1 (south) separation to the Hwy. 68/1 (north) separation to remove dead Monterey Pine trees within the State's Right of Way that began mid-November.

Monterey Pines in the area are rapidly dying from Pitch Canker, a fungus believed to be spread by native beetles. This project is intended to remove **only the dead trees** that have the potential to cause damage. On a positive note, it appears that many of the dead trees have numerous saplings sprouting at their base, which will be protected during tree removals. It is hoped that some of these trees will be resistant to the Pitch Canker fungus.

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

For traffic updates on other state highways in Monterey County, motorists can call Caltrans District 5 Public Affairs at (805) 549-3318 or visit the District 5 website at:

http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist05/road_information.htm

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CONE ZONE**
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