



# NEWS RELEASE

**Today's Date:** Saturday, January 20, 2018 @ 3 pm

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

**Contact:** Jim Shivers, Susana Z. Cruz (Bilingual) or Colin Jones

**Phone:** (805) 549-3237, (805) 549-3138 or (805) 549-3189

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **U.S. HIGHWAY 101 SANTA BARBARA COUNTY IS EXPECTED TO RE-OPEN BY MONDAY MORNING, JAN. 22 COMMUTE**

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY – Caltrans has made tremendous progress in clearing US 101 through Montecito over the last week and expects to reopen the highway by the Monday morning commute. The mud has been removed from the roadway and the critical work of clearing the drainage system continues. Additionally, Caltrans is working on guardrail and sign repairs, cleaning and sweeping the highway, and stabilizing the embankments.

“I could not be more thankful for the emergency responders, including Caltrans employees and contractors who are working tirelessly to reopen this critical highway,” said Caltrans Director Malcolm Dougherty. “We appreciate everyone’s patience as we ensure that US 101 is safe to open.”

This massive cleanup operation by Caltrans maintenance and construction forces followed tremendous flooding and mudslides which closed US 101 between Santa Barbara and Carpinteria, including the closure of a quarter mile section of US 101 at the Olive Mill Road interchange in Montecito, which was covered in six to eight feet of mud and water.

“We are very proud of our dedicated Caltrans staff along with our partner agencies who have responded to this major natural disaster,” said Tim Gubbins, Caltrans District 5 District Director. “We will continue to work 24/7 until immediately before opening the highway. We expect to be ready to open US 101 by the Monday morning commute.”

(More)





# NEWS RELEASE

If the highway officially opens to public traffic prior to the Monday morning commute, it will be announced on Twitter (@CaltransD5) and Facebook (Caltrans Central Coast).

Also, various US 101 off-ramps in both directions in the recovery zone will remain temporarily closed, however the on-ramps will be open.

**Motorists are advised to be alert for continuing truck traffic in the area and are encouraged to carpool or use alternate forms of transportation including the Pacific Surfliner, which has added rail service.**

**NOTE:** Caltrans officials will be on site at the Olive Mill overpass for news media availability when the highway re-opens, which will be announced via social media.

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](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>



*U.S. Highway 101 at Olive Mill Road this morning.*

