

NEWS RELEASE



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District: District 2 - Redding
Contact: Denise Yergenson
Phone: 530-225-3260

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DANA TO DOWNTOWN EAGLE MONITORING

REDDING – California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) District 2 biologists, as well as their consultant, continue to monitor the bald eagle nest, located adjacent to the Dana to Downtown project on State Route 44 in Redding. The monitoring was mandated by the Department of Fish & Game to address environmental concerns associated with the construction project. Caltrans worked cooperatively with the California Department of Fish & Game, as well as several other groups, including the International Wildlife Society and Turtle Bay Exploration Park, to provide the public with access, via the internet, to a unique situation not commonly found on a highway construction project. The EagleCam has given the public the opportunity to witness three healthy eaglets hatch, and be successfully reared to the point that they are now fledging, all the while apparently unaffected by the bustling highway and ongoing construction.

Recent transmission problems have caused the camera signal and feed to the web to become intermittent and is now no longer available. The consultant for Caltrans has been continually making minor changes and refinements to keep the public video online, with the hope that a picture could continue to be provided until the eagles fledged. As they grew and got closer to leaving the nest however, further upgrades could not be considered for fear of disturbing the birds during this critical time. The logistics of having a remote, wireless video feed has been a challenge, and despite the best efforts of a team of people dedicated to providing this service to the public, we regret that we've been unable to get the signal back online at this critical time.

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In an effort to keep the public informed of the eaglets progress, still images are available at the Caltrans Eagle page at www.dot.ca.gov/dist2/eagles.htm. The latest update on the birds is that the three eaglets have not been spotted in the nest in the past few days and are out and about. The eagle page will be updated with information on the birds as it becomes available.

"It's been a wonderful experience to see how well the birds have done," said District Director John Bulinski. "Next year, we plan to put in a more reliable system for transmitting images to the internet and we look forward to another successful breeding season as the construction progresses."

For more information, please contact the Public Information Office at 530-225-3260.

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NOTE: An electronic version of this news release is available on the Internet at the following web address: <http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist2/roadinfo.htm>

