



MEDIA ADVISORY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Caltrans and Kern COG Kick-Off Segment-2 of State Route 46 Expressway Projects

Bakersfield– On Thursday, July 8th, the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), in partnership with the Kern Council of Governments (COG) will hold a joint Press Conference to announce the beginning of construction on the next segment of the State Route (SR) 46 Expressway Projects. This well-traveled highway connecting the southern San Joaquin Valley to the Central Coast will be widened from a conventional Two-Lane Highway to a Four-Lane Expressway through Kern County.

Granite Construction, Inc. was awarded the \$22 million contract to widen approximately 7-miles of SR46 in Kern County from the San Luis Obispo/Kern County Line to just west of Kecks Road.

Commuters and travelers throughout the south Valley are more than familiar with traffic along this corridor leading to the Central Coast. High volumes of passenger vehicles and commercial trucks, which make-up 30% of traffic on this route, cause daily traffic congestion and delays during holiday travel.

"Caltrans is working hand-in-hand with Kern COG in their efforts to utilize tax dollars quickly and responsibly to help stimulate our local economy, reduce congestion and further invest in Kern County's transportation infrastructure," said Caltrans Interim District 6 Director, Sharri Bender-Ehlert.

Ron Brummet, Kern COG Executive Director, stated, "This is yet another example of projects being delivered faster thanks to successful partnerships between Local and State Agencies. Thanks to this effort, the State Route 46 corridor that connects Kern County to the Central Coast will mean a faster and safer drive for the citizens and businesses of Kern County and Central California".

A Ground-Breaking Ceremony for Segment 1 of the SR46 Expressway Projects was held on November 10, 2009 at Lost Hills Park announcing construction of the first of three project segments. Construction on Segment-2 began this week and is scheduled for completion in mid 2013.

Existing intersections with local roads within the project limits will be upgraded to accommodate commercial truck traffic. This capacity-increasing project will reduce congestion and travel times, improve traffic operations and increase overall safety along this heavily traveled highway.

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