

San Benito Wildlife Crossing Project

San Benito County - Highway 101 - Post Mile 0/2.8 | Project 05-1Q260 | Updated October 2025



Description

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) proposes to construct an overcrossing structure at Post Mile 1.4 to improve wildlife passage, which is currently bisected by U.S. Route 101 in San Benito County.

Purpose and Need

Purpose: The project will improve wildlife connectivity by creating a wildlife crossing along US-101 in a critical linkage. By providing safe passage for wildlife, the project would reduce wildlife-vehicle collisions and improve driver safety. The wildlife crossing will connect thousands of acres of land north of US-101 to 2,600 continuous acres of land south of the highway owned by the Land Trust of Santa Cruz County. The crossing will be designed to facilitate movement of multiple native species including mountain lion and mule deer.



Credit: Pathways for Wildlife for the Land Trust of Santa Cruz

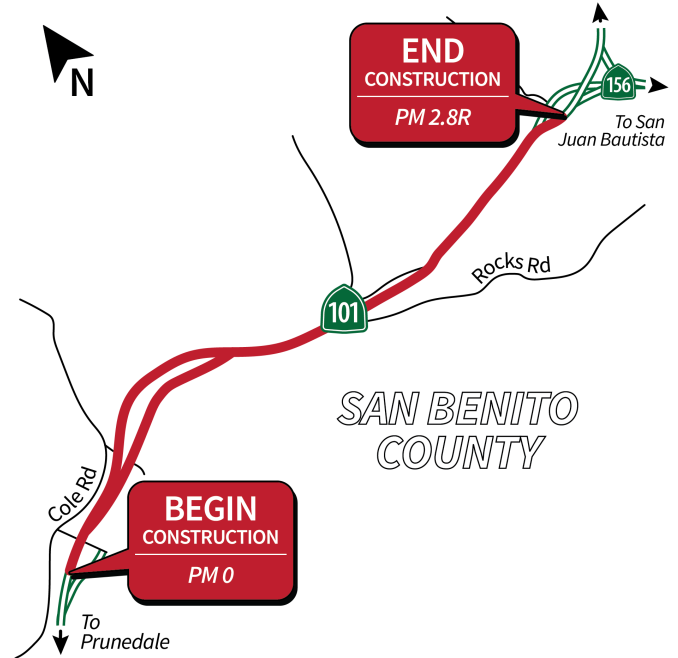
Need: The Santa Cruz Mountains and the Gabilán Range are two of the state's most biodiverse areas and are currently bisected by US-101. The 4-lane divided highway impedes wildlife movement between the mountain ranges and increases the potential for animal-vehicle collisions. Habitat fragmentation and barriers from development and roads can inhibit gene flow essential to maintaining healthy wildlife populations. The proposed crossing is located in a critical wildlife movement corridor, along a segment of US-101 the State has identified as a high-priority barrier for remediation.



Credit: Pathways for Wildlife for the Land Trust of Santa Cruz

Location

In San Benito County, on State Route 101 at Post Mile 0.0 to 2.8, near the San Benito/Monterey County border, and 3 miles away from the nearest incorporated city, San Juan Bautista.



Funding

Funding Source (Project is currently funded to 60% plans)

Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) Grant

Amount to Date: \$5,605,000

Current Schedule

Approve Project Initiation Document	Completed
Approve Project Report and Environmental Document	Spring 2026
100% Design Completion	Spring 2029
Begin Construction	Winter 2030
End Construction	Winter 2033



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