



NEWS RELEASE

Today's Date: May 6, 2013
District: 10 - Stockton
Contact: Angela DaPrato
Phone: (209) 948-7176

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

2013 HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION IN MERCED COUNTY

Merced County – The 2013 construction season has started and the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) is ready to go. Highway construction means people work, people shop and opportunities for jobs are created.

Your patience and cooperation during the busy construction season is requested. Major projects for the Merced County area include:

- **State Route 140 Bradley Overhead Project** – Work continues on this \$45.5 million project from Marthella Avenue to just east of Santa Fe Avenue. The project began on October 26, 2010, and will replace the existing bridge structure; widen the roadway from two lanes to four lanes; improve site distance; provide a continuous median left turn lane on side streets; realign a portion of two major streets; and install two new traffic signal lights. Construction is projected to finish in the summer of 2014.
- **State Route 99 East Merced Overhead Project** – This \$32.4 million project will replace the bridge decks on the 15th Street Undercrossing and the East Merced Overhead structures. The project will also bring the bridge widths and bridge rails to current standards; install a concrete median barrier; provide standard shoulder widths; and upgrade the existing guard rails and bridge approach rails. Construction began on June 11, 2012, and the project is scheduled to be completed January 2016.
- **State Route 99 West Merced Overhead Project** – Construction continues on this \$34.6 million project which will replace the West Merced Overhead structures located on State Route 99 (SR-99) in Merced County just north of the V Street Undercrossing to the Black Rascal Bridge. This project will correct structural deficiencies for these bridges; bring the sight distance up to standard and provide the vertical and horizontal clearances required by the railroad; retaining walls will be built to preserve the existing right-of-way; the two Bear Creek Bridges will be seismically retrofitted; and six Maintenance Vehicle Pullouts will be constructed adjacent to the shoulder within the project limits. This American Recovery and Reinvestment Act 2009 (ARRA) funded project began on November 6, 2009, and is expected to be completed in the summer of 2013.

- More -





NEWS RELEASE

- **State Route 99 Arboleda Drive Freeway Project** – This \$128.1 million project will convert SR-99 from a four-lane expressway to a six-lane freeway on a seven-mile section just south of Merced between Buchanan Hollow Road and the Miles Creek Overflow; and construct a new interchange at Arboleda Drive. Construction for the Proposition 1B funded project began on June 27, 2012, and scheduled to be done in the summer of 2015.
- **State Route 99 Plainsburg Road Freeway Project** – This \$118.7 million project began on December 11, 2012, and will convert SR-99 from a four-lane expressway to a six-lane freeway from the Madera County line to Buchanan Hollow Road in Merced County. This Proposition 1B funded project will also construct a new interchange at Plainsburg Road. Construction is expected to finish in the summer of 2015.
- **State Route 99 Atwater-Merced Expressway Interchange Project** – Merced County is anticipated to break ground on Phase 1A of the Proposition 1B funded project this summer. Phase 1A of the project will construct two lanes on the Atwater-Merced Expressway from the interchange to Green Sands Avenue; bridge structures to accommodate the interim improvements; two lanes from the Green Sands Avenue/Buhach Road Intersection to Green Sands Avenue/Gurr Road Intersection; and the Atwater-Merced Expressway/SR-99 Interchange (including all ramps except the northbound loop on-ramp). Phase 1A will cost approximately \$52 million, and is anticipated to be completed February 2016.

“With the benefit of added construction projects comes more workers on the road,” said Carrie Bowen, Caltrans District 10 Director. “We are committed to seeing that each of our employees goes home to their families every day. So when you see flashing lights, please slow down or move over a lane if you are able.”

Besides the above listed projects, there will be 16 other projects throughout Merced County for approximately a total of \$294 million in construction funding. Currently, there are 664 ongoing construction contracts statewide at Caltrans, valued at over \$12.4 billion. These projects are improving safety, reducing congestion and creating tens of thousands of jobs for Californians — at a time we need those jobs the most. At Caltrans, we’re here to get you there!

#

For information on other projects please visit us online at www.dot.ca.gov.

##

For the safety of workers and other motorists, please Slow For the Cone Zone.

###

