1. Introductions

2. Additions or Deletions to the Agenda

3. Review and Accept Draft Minutes of the March 24, 2010 Joint TOS Oversight Committee and Safe on 17 Meeting (Page 1)

4. Information Items
   a. Monterey Bay Area 511 Traveler Information System Feasibility Plan Update (Tegan Speiser) (Page 5)
   b. FSP Program Update (Ginger Dykaar) (Page 10)
   c. Articles (Page 12)

5. California Highway Patrol – Safe on 17 Program Information
   a. Review Collision and Enforcement Statistics (San Jose) for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Quarters of 2010 (Lieutenant Wood) (Page 22)
   b. Review Collision and Enforcement Statistics (Santa Cruz) for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Quarters of 2010 (Officer Holden) (Page 24)
   c. 2010 Highway 17 Extra CHP Enforcement Hours Public Information Activities (Officer Holden, Lieutenant Wood and Dave Garti) (Page 26)
   d. Extra Enforcement Hours for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Quarters of 2010 (Page 27)

6. Major Incident Review
   a. Big rigs overturned on Hwy 17 (Page 28)
   b. Other

7. Review Operations and Status of the TOS
   a. Review of System Activations Report (Jim Richardson) (Page 29)
   b. Maintenance Updates (Caltrans)
8. Caltrans District 4 Highway 17 Project Update - Wet Weather Project Update (Shawn Enjily) 
   *(Page 46)*

9. Caltrans District 5 Highway 17 Project Update (Siobhan Saunders)

10. New Highway 1 Changeable Message Signs Update (Siobhan Saunders)

11. Traffic Operations System Improvements 
    a. Highway 1 Detection Equipment (Siobhan Saunders) 
    b. Highway 1 CCTV and Other ITS Equipment Installation (Siobhan Saunders) 
    c. HWY 17 TOS Locations (Marshall Ballard) *(Page 49)*
    d. Laurel Curve CCTV Camera Activation (Deb Larson) 
    e. Bay View Project

12. SB 1418- SAFE Modernization Bill (Luis Mendez)

13. Additional Items

14. Next Meeting Date: Joint Safe on 17 Task Force & TOS Oversight Committee meeting - 
   Wednesday, March 23, 2011 10:00 to 12:00 at San Jose California Highway Patrol
TOS Oversight Committee and Safe on 17 Task Force Meeting Participants
Tom Barnett, Caltrans District 5 Maintenance
Marshall Ballard, Valley Transportation Association
Ramin Bolourchian, Caltrans District 4 TMC
Megan Doyle, MTC Commissioner Yeager Representative
Russell Ellingworth, Caltrans District 5 Maintenance
Shawn Enjily, Caltrans District 4 Design
Adrian Fine, Metropolitan Transportation Commission
Doug Hessing, Caltrans District 5 Project Manager
Hugh Holden, Santa Cruz CHP
Gavin Hansen, Santa Cruz Area CHP Freeway Service Patrol Officer
Collin Jones, Caltrans District 5 Public Information Officer
Jaime Maldonado, Metropolitan Transportation Commission
Christina Manriquez, Santa Cruz CHP Captain
Stefanie Pow, Metropolitan Transportation Commission
Gary Richards, San Jose Mercury
Nina Rohlich, Metropolitan Transportation Commission
Siobhan Saunders, Caltrans District 5 Construction
Pranav Shah, Caltrans District 4 Traffic Systems
Earl Sherman, Caltrans District 4 Maintenance
John Thomas, Caltrans District 4 Project Manager
Bernard Walik, Caltrans District 4 Public Affairs
Martin Wittmers, Caltrans District 5 Electrical
Scott Wood, San Jose CHP

Staff Present
Grace Blakeslee

1. **Introductions** - Introductions were made.

2. **Additions or Deletions to the Agenda** - None.

3. **Reviewed and Accepted Minutes of the September 16, 2009 Joint TOS Oversight Committee and Safe on 17 Meeting**
4. Received Information Items
Grace Blakeslee reviewed articles related to traffic safety relevant to Highway 17. She also provided an update on the Freeway Service Patrol Program and the development of a Monterey Bay Area 511 Traveler Information System Feasibility and Implementation Plan and informed that committee that staff would be requesting their input on the need for traveler information and the design of the system.

5. Received Update California Highway Patrol Safe on 17 Program Statistics and Public Information Efforts
Lieutenant Wood of the San Jose Area Highway Patrol reported that injury collisions were down 38 percent in 2009 from 2008 and there were no fatalities in 2009. He reported that overtime hours are used to target Primary Collisions Factors. In some cases, efforts during extra CHP enforcement hours may be focused on intercepting motorists conducting unsafe driving behavior and less time writing routine citations, which results in fewer monthly citations recorded for that time period. He also noted that factors, including reduced average daily miles traveled on Highway 17 likely resulting from the recession, and the effectiveness of the public outreach associated with the Safe on 17 Ten-Year. Grace Blakeslee explained that on the Santa Cruz and Santa Clara County side of Highway 17 both strategies, targeting hours during a specific month or distributing hours more evenly throughout the year, have been applied and seem to be effective towards maintaining a reduced collision rate. She emphasized that consistent CHP visibility is a key factor in keeping collisions down.

Officer Holden reported that for the third-quarter of 2009 there were 48 collisions and during the fourth-quarter of 2009 there were 60 collisions, including one fatality. Overall, traffic collisions in 2009 decreased by 4.5 percent from 2008. He reported that in 2009 there were 199 overtime citations, 39 in the third-quarter and 49 in the fourth-quarter. This is a 65 percent decrease in overtime citations from 2008. Similarly, the number of extra CHP enforcement hours decreased by almost half, primarily due to less funding available. Meanwhile, in 2009 regular time citations increased by 16 percent from 2008. In 2009, two fatalities occurred on Highway 17 in Santa Cruz County, both occurring near Laurel Curve Road. In response to further discussion from committee members about the Laurel Curve area, Grace Blakeslee recommended that the committee discuss the Laurel Curve area and related incidents at the next meeting. She also noted that Caltrans typically compares before and after statistics for a project location after a three-year period.

Grace Blakeslee complimented the CHP for focusing overtime citations on primary collision factors, which is the focus of the Safe on 17 Program. She noted that historical trends show that there is a positive relationship the number of extra CHP enforcement hours and reduced collisions. Grace Blakeslee reminded the group that the current CHP contract covers the period through June 30, 2012 and that the accounting for the program has changed to a fiscal year, rather than a calendar year cycle. She explained that since the San Jose CHP focused the majority of their enforcement hours in the winter months, there is little funding left for San Jose CHP extra enforcement hours through the rest of the project period, June 30, 2010.

6. Received Highway 17 Project Update from Caltrans District 4
John Thomas introduced Shawn Enjily, the Caltrans District 4 Design Engineer responsible for the Wet Weather Project expected to be ready to list in 2010 and go to construction in 2011. This project covers over two miles from the Summit to Idlywild on Highway 17 in Santa Clara County. He explained that there are approximately six intersections within this segment of highway. The overall scope of the
project is to improve drainage and that the current drainage system is very outdated. Most concrete barriers will also be replaced and some road slope protection will be completed. Construction is expected to last 18 months and mostly take place at night. Shawn Enjily explained that his office has spoken with many regional stakeholders and residents in the project area to inform them about this project and request their input. He also thanked Caltrans District 5 and CHP for providing helpful information about recommended project staging and construction activities based on their experience on recent Highway 17 construction projects. Shawn Enjily explained that they have incorporated removable barriers into the construction design to expedite the construction activities. He also explained that detours have been established if there are full roadway closures, although none are expected. John Thomas added that Caltrans expects to make some striping enhancements including adding a stripe to the barrier to increase visibility of the barrier since there is no median shoulder in some areas. Shawn Enjily and others discussed the challenges posed due to the narrow roadway width. John Thomas reminded folks that the speed limit in the construction area is 35mph. Due to the type of incidents that occurred at the Glenwood Curves project during construction, Grace Blakeslee recommended contacting trucking associations to give them direct notice of the construction impacts posed by this project. Shawn Enjily explained that the shoulder width will not be increased as part of this project and that the cost of the project is approximately $20 million. Grace Blakeslee recommended that the Caltrans Public Information staff request that the Santa Cruz Visitor's Council post construction notices on their website. Marshall Ballard recommended that Caltrans take a look at the spring on the northbound side near Madrona Drive in lane two as part of this project.

7. Received Highway 17 Project Update from Caltrans District 5
Doug Hessing reported that Caltrans District 5 is currently upgrading guardrail at 28 locations on Highway 17 in Santa Cruz County. He also reported that the Caltrans District 5 is making improvements north of Scotts Valley at Santa’s Village Road on the northbound side of Highway 17. He suggested that Caltrans District 4 and District 5 coordinate construction schedules because of the proximity of the the Santa’s Village Road Project to the Wet Weather Project and the timing of construction. Russell Ellingworth asked how many of the guardrail improvements would install concrete versus metal barriers. Doug Hessing reported that the majority of guardrail upgrades are to concrete, but that concrete guardrail couldn’t be accommodated in all places due to design requirements. Grace Blakeslee explained that the portable CMS signs placed on Highway 17 noticing construction between January 2010 and December 2010 are referring to the guardrail project activities. She also requested that Caltrans inform her if any of the call boxes will be impacted by the guardrail projects, including if the call boxes will be located behind a guardrail once the improvements are complete. Colin Jones from Caltrans District 5 reported that the Highway 1/17 landscaping project is scheduled to begin soon.

8. Received Recommendations for Alternate Locations for New Proposed Highway 1 Changeable Message Signs (CMS) from the TOS Sub-Group
Grace Blakeslee reminded the committee that Caltrans District 5 is planning to install two new CMS on Highway 1 in Santa Cruz County. She presented alternate locations for the new signs based on the TOS sub-group recommendations, which was tasked with reviewing the new proposed CMS sign locations. Captain Manriquez requested that the committee be provided the exact post miles of the revised locations before forwarding any recommendations to Caltrans. Grace Blakeslee agreed to send this information to the committee and wait to forward recommendations to Caltrans until after hearing additional responses from committee members.
9. Reviewed Operations and Status of TOS System
Grace Blakeslee provided an overview of the messages posted on CMS on Highway 17 and in Santa Cruz County between September 2009 and February 2010. She noted that the signs appeared to be used effectively to notice incidents, even small incidents, which occurred during commute times. She stated that the signs were also activated for long incidents and closures and to caution drivers. She explained that a fewer portion of incidents overall appeared to be noticed using CMS during this period, based on a comparison to the number of incidents reported in the newspaper. She highlighted that there were a number of closures affecting Highway 1 northbound that may have benefited from the use of a CMS sign alerting motorists traveling southbound Highway 1. She also informed members that several incidents impacted the Highway 1/9 intersection during this quarter and asked for committee member's suggestions about how to best inform motorists about events causing delays at this location. Captain Manriquez and Tom Barnett said that efforts are underway to improve communications amongst Caltrans, CHP, police and other responders. Grace Blakeslee recommended that any communications between local Caltrans staff, CHP and police also be communicated to the TMC to ensure that the 41st Ave CMS is activated to inform motorists about impacts to the Highway 1/9 intersection. Ramin Bolourchian reported that his office is aware of intermittent problems with the CMS in Santa Cruz County. He reminded committee members and CHP to call the TMC if they notice that any of the CMS are malfunctioning. Grace Blakeslee thanked Caltrans District 4 for replacing the bulbs in the CMS signs and explained that an effort to discuss future maintenance strategies for Santa Cruz County TOS equipment is on hold due to resource constraints.

10. Received Information about SB 1418
Grace Blakeslee provided an update on the SB 1418- SAFE Modernization Bill jointly sponsored by RTC and MTC. She stated that the SAFE revenues generate approximately $240,000, which in Santa Cruz County funds call boxes, extra CHP enforcement and Freeway Service Patrol. She explained that the proposal would allow SAFEs to increase the SAFE fee from $1 to $2 dollars and expand the eligible use of SAFE funds to include projects that address incident management and detection and dissemination of roadway information.

11. Additional Items
Grace Blakeslee informed members that there is a Highway 17 Facebook page and requested that members check it out and report back to the group. Tom Barnett requested that RTC staff provide the decals and exact locations for the new Safe on 17 signs.

12. Approved Next Meeting Date: Joint Safe on 17 Task Force & TOS Oversight Committee meeting – September 15, 2010

Respectively submitted by ______________________________
Grace Blakeslee

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RECOMMENDATIONS

Staff recommends that the Safe on 17 Task Force & Traffic Operation Systems Oversight Committee:

1. Watch the 511 Traveler Information System Video; and
2. Participate in the 511 Traveler Information System Survey.

DISCUSSION

The Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission and the Transportation Agency for Monterey County received a $259,210 Caltrans Planning grant to prepare a Feasibility and Implementation Plan for a Monterey Bay Area 511 Traveler Information System. When completed in November 2011, the Plan will provide an estimate of the costs to deploy a 511 system in the region and identify the steps required to implement such a system.

Currently in the public outreach phase of the project, a video and user survey are being circulated during the month of September to actively engage travelers and stakeholders in communicating the types of transportation information and services that will be most useful to them. We invite Safe on 17 Task Force & Traffic Operation Systems Oversight Committee to view the video and complete the user-survey at www.511montereybay.org.

Typically, 511 traveler information systems include a voice recognition phone system and a website through which travel related information about real-time traffic conditions and speeds, bus schedules, carpooling, weather and tourism is delivered. With access to timely and reliable information, people can make more informed choices about when to travel, what mode to use, and what route to take.

In California, 511 systems exist in the San Francisco Bay Area, Sacramento/Northern California and San Diego. San Luis Obispo County is currently testing its 511 system, the first on the Central Coast. While we won’t know the specifics about what would work best in our region until the Plan is complete, a Monterey Bay Area 511 System could help maximize the use of our existing transportation network, at a low cost, and with significant benefits for users of all transportation modes.
Santa Cruz Sentinel

511 traffic advisory proposed for Santa Cruz region

By Kurtis Alexander

Posted: 08/30/2010 01:30:26 AM PDT

SANTA CRUZ -- As the office manager of Early Bird Airport Shuttle, Lorry Laine dispatches up to 30 passenger vans each day from Santa Cruz to airports across the San Francisco Bay Area.

A big part of the job, he says, is trying to sort out traffic conditions and make sure drivers get from point A to point B on time.

"If they're tied up in traffic, they'll call to find out what's going on," said Laine, noting he'll commonly look online to try to learn about an accident or ask other drivers what's going on.

Laine will soon have another option, and so will anybody looking for traffic reports: calling 511.

Transportation leaders in Santa Cruz and Monterey counties have received a quarter-million dollar grant to plan a 511 traveler advisory system. While common in other parts of the state, the 511 system, which normally entails a telephone hot line and website where users can see real-time congestion and set up personalized traffic alerts, has eluded the Monterey Bay area, at least until now.

County planners have begun looking at how to best configure the new system, like sending motorists daily text messages about conditions on their morning commute or tweets when traffic eases on their route home.

"The idea of pushing information out is one that is really popular in the San Francisco Bay Area," said Tegan Speiser, a senior transportation planner for the Santa Cruz County

a lot more commuting choices."

Traffic information has abounded on the Internet as technology for both monitoring the roads and receiving traffic reports, be it by laptop or smart phone, has improved. Google recently introduced congestion maps, and longtime Internet traffic providers like Sigalert.com have continued to expand.
But the proposed 511 system, local planners say, will not only provide a real-time look at traffic, but offer alternative ways to get somewhere. Bus schedules and whether public transit is running on time, for example, will be included, as will what carpools are running that day.

About 179 million Americans, about 60 percent of the population, already have access to 511, and reviews of the service, planners say, have been good.

Laine says he'd benefit from a 511 system here.

"Of course, we travel around the county a lot," he said. "We'd like to know what's going on at the Fishhook or how Highway 1 is south of Aptos. It would make us more efficient for sure."

Caltrans has awarded $259,210 jointly to the Santa Cruz Regional Transportation Commission and the Transportation Agency for Monterey County to plot out a 511 system. The agencies, which have begun taking public input on what they should include, hope to develop a plan by next year.

Planners are now surveying commuters at http://511montereybay.org.

**IF You Go**

**Workshop on 511**
WHEN: 5:30 to 7 p.m. Thursday
WHERE: Temple Beth El, 3055 Porter Gulch Road, Aptos.
DETAILS: http://511montereybay.org/

**Santa Cruz Sentinel - Street Smarts:**

Posted: 08/30/2010 01:30:26 AM PDT

What's the 511?

A new system that provides real-time traffic updates and travel option information is in the works and its builders want your input as to how it can best serve you.

The Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission will hold a public meeting Thursday about the new Monterey Bay 511 Traveler Information System, which could contain live road and traffic conditions, plus bus routes and schedules, carpool and bicycling information, transportation options for seniors and people with disabilities, as well as emergency notices. The information could be accessed online or by telephone and mobile devices.
The 511 program has existed in many parts of the state since 2002. If implemented locally, it could bridge the gap in traveler information systems on the Central Coast. The system's design and implementation is a joint effort between the RTC, Transportation Agency for Monterey County and the California Department of Transportation.

"A 511 traveler information system could reduce the congestion on our highways by offering travelers real-time information about travel conditions," said George Dondero, RTC executive director. "Informed travelers will likely avoid congested areas by traveling a different route, taking a bus or bike, or traveling at a different time."

Thursday's meeting will be 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Temple Beth El, 3055 Porter Gulch Road in Aptos. Anyone who cannot attend can complete a survey at www.511montereybay.org through the month of September. More information, including a video about the program, also are on the website.

For information about the RTC, which is responsible for regional transportation planning, policy and funding, call 460-3200 or visit www.sccrtc.org.

**Californian**

**Monterey Bay-area 511 traffic system moves forward**

*TAMC, RTC collecting public input on project's feasibility*

**BY KIMBER SOLANA • ksolana@thecalifornian.com • September 3, 2010**

About a dozen Salinas-area residents gave their input Thursday to a proposed information call-in system that would give commuters real-time data on traffic and road conditions.

Aptly called the Monterey Bay Area 511 Traveler Information Plan, the project is spearheaded by the Transportation Agency for Monterey County, or TAMC, and the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission.

Thursday's public workshop held at the Salinas YMCA gave the planners a chance to get input from people interested in using the system.

"It was a diverse group," said Kaki Chen, transportation planner.

Some participants wanted information on transit, while others requested carpool and driving information.
The 511 program, Chen said, is a free system that allows people to get personalized transportation information. It can help commuters avoid heavy traffic and set up carpools with people in the area.

Travelers receive information by going online, calling 511, or via e-mail.

Real-time information is gathered from, among others, detectors embedded on the road, cell phones and travel speed detectors.

The program is funded by Caltrans through a Partnership Planning Grant.

Chen said the program is available to about 179 million people in the country. In California, the Sacramento, San Francisco and San Diego regions already have the system.

"Right now, we want to know if it's feasible in our area," she said. "If it is, how do we go about it?"

Throughout September, the project's focus is gathering as much public input on the plan. From October to December, the group will circulate request for proposal and find a consultant.
TO: Safe on 17 Task Force & Traffic Operation Systems Oversight Committee
FROM: Ginger Dykaar, Transportation Planner
REGARDING: Santa Cruz County Freeway Service Patrol Program Update

RECOMMENDATIONS

Receive an update on the Santa Cruz County Freeway Service Patrol Program.

BACKGROUND

The Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) operates the Freeway Service Patrol (FSP) program in Santa Cruz County. This program consists of two tow trucks patrolling Highway 1 from Highway 9 to State Park Drive and Highway 17 from Granite Creek Road to the Santa Clara County Line. Both highway segments are patrolled during weekday commute periods. Traditionally, the Highway 17 segment is also patrolled on Sundays from 1:00 pm to 7:00 pm all year round and Saturdays from 1:00 pm to 7:00 pm during the spring and summer. FSP tow trucks remove disabled vehicles from the highway at no cost to the motorists. The FSP program is designed to reduce congestion, improve safety, and reduce fuel consumption and auto emissions by minimizing the congestion associated with collisions and other incidents.

Historically, the FSP program has been funded using a combination of Santa Cruz County's regional share of State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) funds, Service Authority Freeway Emergency (SAFE) funds, and State Freeway Service Patrol funds provided by Caltrans. In FY09/10, American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Funding and in FY10/11, Regional Surface Transportation Program Funding were secured for the Santa Cruz County FSP program. Thanks to these additional funds, full FSP service for Highway 17 has been reinstated and weekend service on Highway 1 (Saturdays and Sundays from 1:00 to 7:00 pm) was provided during the summer of 2010.

DISCUSSION

The State FSP funds allocated to each FSP program are determined annually using a formula which includes population, freeway lane miles and congestion (daily vehicle-hours of delay). While the FSP allocation for Santa Cruz County in FY10/11 has increased to $202,806, up from $185,530 in FY09/10 due to decreases in allocations in other regions, we are concerned about the amount that will be allocated for Santa Cruz County FSP in FY11/12.

The Highway Congestion Monitoring Program (HICOMP) Report put out by Caltrans has been used to assess the congestion for each county for the FSP allocation. Caltrans has traditionally collected congestion data by a floating vehicle system that travels the highways. Starting in FY 09/10, congestion data is now being collected solely by automatic detection systems where the data is sent to Caltrans’ Performance Measurement System (PeMS). Highway 1 detection equipment is not currently operational and we do not know of any detection equipment on Highway 17. Caltrans Headquarters has informed us that the 2009 HICOMP Report (not yet formally released) shows zero congestion for Santa Cruz County because we do not have traffic...
detection equipment on Hwy 1 and 17 reporting to PeMS. Twenty-five percent of the State FSP allocations is based on congestion as reported in the HICOMP. The Santa Cruz County FSP Program relies heavily on Caltrans FSP funds and a significant reduction in funds could drastically impact our ability to continue FSP service on Highways 1 and 17 at the current level. SCCRTC is looking for help from Caltrans to resolve this issue.
Roadshow: Free tow-truck service gets rave reviews

By Gary Richards
grichards@mercurynews.com

Posted: 09/06/2010 12:00:00 AM PDT

Q I had a blowout on Interstate 880 recently and (understatement) it was a dangerous situation. I called AAA, which said it would respond in 20 to 30 minutes. Then within moments, a white tow truck pulled up, a guy jumped out, gave me a pamphlet and asked me if I wanted my tire changed for free. I was suspicious since he kept pushing the free part and thought it had to be some sort of scam.

I said no thanks several times until he backed his truck up and stayed a few hundred feet behind me. Over the next 30 minutes while I waited for AAA in the heat, I read the pamphlet and found out that the guy was totally legitimate and that this was the Freeway Service Patrol -- something I had never heard of before. I would have been off the road immediately instead of sitting there while cars flew by at 70-90 mph. When AAA arrived, the FSP truck pulled back onto the freeway and honked nicely. He waited to make sure someone arrived before leaving.

I would have accepted the aid gratefully if I knew that it was legit. Can you let others know about this free roadside service? None of my co-workers had heard about this service either.

Cassie Bailey

San Jose

A Oh, I have, and I will again. But first "...

Q The other day my boat trailer tire shredded and I had to stop on the Luther Gibson Freeway north of the Benicia Bridge. I pulled over to the shoulder, and within five minutes an FSP truck arrived to change the tire for me. Free of charge! This patrol is sponsored by the CHP, Caltrans and Metropolitan Transportation Commission. I lucked out! A big THANKS to this service.

Gordon Huntze

San Jose

A The FSP involves 83 trucks that rove about 550 miles of Bay Area freeways looking for stalls and crashes with the goal of getting help to motorists as fast as possible. They
operate primarily during morning and afternoon commute hours. Weekend service is provided in Napa, as well as seasonally along Highway 17.

The FSP tow trucks are equipped for nearly any contingency. Drivers carry standard auto repair and towing equipment, 5 gallons of diesel fuel, 5 gallons of unleaded gasoline and 5 gallons of water.

The program costs about $7 million a year. Trucks have an automatic vehicle location system that enables CHP and Caltrans to monitor their location and improve dispatching efficiency. Financing comes through a combination of federal, state and local dollars, including a $1 annual vehicle registration fee in the nine Bay Area counties.

An FSP beat will be added on I-280 between Highway 92 and Highway 85 in July. And new equipment and trucks will be added along I-880 to better assist big rigs in the East Bay.
AAA of Northern California predicts 4 million Golden State residents plan to travel 50 miles or more from home this Memorial Day weekend.

Of those, 3.2 million plan to drive to their holiday destination. No doubt some of them will be heading our way.

That means Highway 17 could be frightful.

Never fear. Besides the California Highway Patrol, the Freeway Service Patrol will be beefing up their presence on the gateway between the San Francisco and Monterey bay areas and helping stranded motorists free of charge.

Starting this weekend and lasting every weekend through Labor Day, the free tow service will roam the mountainous portions of Highway 17 from 1-7 p.m., the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission announced.

The Freeway Service Patrol already operates during commute times on weekdays, where they quickly find and remove vehicles stranded on the roadway after a breakdown or a traffic collision. Other tasks they perform include changing or inflating flat tires, jump-starting vehicles and providing gas so stranded motorists can make it to the nearest service station.

The Freeway Service Patrol, which also operates on Highway 1 between Santa Cruz and Aptos, is paid for with funds from the State Freeway Service Patrol, State Transportation Improvement Program and SAFE.

Learn more about the tow operation online at http://www.sccrtc.org/pdf/2008_FSP_Brochure.pdf.

 Millions travel for holiday weekend, some to Santa Cruz County

By ROMAIN FONSEGRIVES
Posted: 05/28/2010 01:30:11 AM PDT

SANTA CRUZ -- Even amid a rough economy, millions of Californians plan to hit the road for Memorial Day weekend.

Santa Cruz tourism officials expect thousands of tourists to flock to the area, while many residents plan to stick around.

In a survey released this week, AAA of Northern California estimates nearly 4 million Californians plan to travel 50 miles or more on Memorial Day weekend, a surge of 7.8 percent from last year.

"Despite a challenging economy, travel is expected to rebound for this Memorial Day weekend," said AAA Northern California spokeswoman Cynthia Harris. "With a hint of renewed economic optimism, the upcoming holiday weekend will likely have Californians making up for their previous travel plans."

The travel lust should benefit Santa Cruz, said Christina Glynn, communications director for the Santa Cruz County Conference and Visitors Council. The area offers many events on Memorial Day weekend drawing tourists to the county, Glynn said, including the Longboard Invitational, Roaring Camp's Civil War re-enactment and the Santa Cruz Blues Festival.

"Santa Cruz is already known as a pretty affordable destination and we enjoy a pretty loyal following," Glynn said, adding most of the county's 3 million annual visitors live within a three-hour drive.

Hotel reservations already are peaking for the season's kickoff. Next to the iconic Boardwalk, the Dream Inn is 95 percent full for the weekend and should use its maximum 165-room capacity, said manager Robin Donovan.

"We're very close to being sold out," Donovan said. "It's always been a pretty good start to the season and once again, it looks like a strong weekend for us."

Campsites are full as well. Memorial Day weekend is traditionally the third busiest period of the season after July Fourth and Labor Day, said Karl Tallman, park superintendent for the Santa Cruz Mountains sector.
This year is no different. Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park's 112 campsites are all booked for the weekend and the Forest of Nisene Marks -- which does not have a reservation system -- expects hundreds to visit, officials said. Statewide, 10,150 campsites out of 11,000 had been booked as of 4:30 p.m. Wednesday.

"We're expecting good crowds, especially since the last few day's weather has been crummy and this weekend is supposed to be sunny," Tallman said. "The people are tired of being cooped up from the rain."

Santa Cruz County should experience sunny weather, with temperatures reaching the mid-70s throughout the holiday weekend, said forecasters from the National Weather Service in Monterey.

While vacationers flock to Santa Cruz, local folks don't have such travel plans.

"Why go somewhere else when you already live in the best place?" said Capitola resident Michael Barker, 40.

Barker, an unemployed brewer, said he will spend the holiday in the area, probably having a barbecue with some of his friends. He also intends to avoid taking his car, mainly to stay away from traffic congestion, he said, but also to avoid drunken drivers.

"Laying low on Memorial Day is pretty much what I've been doing forever," Barker said. "It just gets too hectic around town."

Traffic remains the only cloud threatening the celebration. But the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission announced measures to prevent congestion. This weekend and every weekend through Labor Day, the Freeway Service Patrol will roam Highway 17 from 1-7 p.m., providing free tow service to stranded motorists.
Roadshow: Speeding woes on Highway 17

By Gary Richards
grichards@mercurynews.com

Posted: 06/11/2010 12:00:00 AM PDT

Q I feel awkward composing an e-mail asking for help, but I must. I live in the Santa Cruz Mountains and travel down Highway 17 to get to work at West Valley College every morning about 6 a.m. I feel threatened by traveling on this highway. People coming over the hill heading down to the valley have literally tried to run me off the road. Some have thrown cigarettes at my car, pulled behind me and honked and blinked their lights to get me off the road because they want to speed down the hill. All I want to do is get to work without being so stressed just from my commute. At some point I need to get into the fast lane to exit in Los Gatos to get to Highway 9. I'm 57 years old and the intimidation I feel has caused such stress. Please, can the California Highway Patrol come out to see these speeders and aggressive people?

Susan Rios

A Ever since the dot-com bust of nearly a decade ago and increased enforcement, complaints about Highway 17 drivers have been few. Until recently.

Q In February, I received a speeding ticket for going 65 mph on Highway 17 just past the summit. I went to court and the fine was reduced to $220 from $348, but I was too intimidated to ask the judge about what to do on this highway.

Kirby Giaramita

Campbell

A You and Susan need to sit on my couch for a few minutes of Roadshow therapy.

But first "...

Q I have driven Highway 17 four times since receiving the ticket and now watch my speed like a hawk. It scares me to follow the 50-mph speed limit, as I've had big trucks barreling down on me and their limit is supposed to be 35 mph. Trucks pass me. Everyone passes me. I was even passed by an Outreach Prius!

Kirby Giaramita

A Curse those Prius drivers!
Q My friend drives a Mini Cooper and commutes from Watsonville. She recently got a ticket, too, and now that she is truly watching and staying within the limits, she is scared to death. At least my car is larger and heavier. What is a person to do? Go with the flow and risk a ticket or go the limit and live in fear that one of those big trucks that should only be doing 35 smashes you?

Kirby Giaramita

A Slow down to 50 mph, stay in the right lane, keep good spacing between you and the vehicle ahead, use your blinkers when changing lanes and turn on your headlights. That is about all you can do, but the cavalry may be on the way.

Q We miss the Fab Five. Will they be back on Highway 17 this summer? Oh boy, do we need them!

Gretchen Hill

Los Gatos

A Gary-the-Fab-Five-Leader says his special team of Highway Patrol officers will be making visits to 17 soon.

Q Since the day the Laurel Curve digital speed sign was installed along southbound Highway 17, I wondered what lane of traffic it reads. It has never recorded my speed or that of drivers around me correctly. I came to the conclusion that it read northbound traffic, so I no longer pay any attention to it. This may contribute to the accidents around Laurel Curve. I assumed Caltrans did this on purpose and did not report it, as I would think the CHP would have noticed it was incorrect when they are passing the sign.

Peggy Tartaglino and many more

A The CHP says the sign is accurate. A Caltrans worker also checked out the sign and said it displayed the speed at which he was driving accurately on five of six trips. On the other time, he believes it may have picked up the vehicle traveling in the same direction but farther behind him. But there may be a reason so many drivers say the sign is not accurate. The sign shows the speed of vehicles that are approaching from 500 to 1,000 feet and will rotate from vehicle to vehicle. It will not lock onto one car for more than about a second.
Roadshow: Why lanes are closed on Highway 17

By Gary Richards
grichards@mercurynews.com

Posted: 08/09/2010 12:00:00 AM PDT

Q So riddle me this. Is it not the middle of summer with many people on vacation?

Ben DeMarco
San Jose

A Most certainly.

Q Do not a lot of these people go over Highway 17 to Santa Cruz to enjoy the day?

Ben DeMarco

A Of course.

Q So why would Caltrans pick this time of year to close one lane of traffic in the middle of the day to work on whatever they are working on along 17?

Ben DeMarco

A Tell me about it -- and be prepared for more delays this week. Mrs. Roadshow and I got stuck on 17 on Thursday as we headed to Big Sur for lunch on our 32nd wedding anniversary. It took almost 45 minutes to go from Lark Avenue to the Summit, as Caltrans had a lane closed in each direction to trim trees.

In defense of Caltrans, there isn't a good time to do this. Weekends would be worse, and workers need the daylight; working at night would be too dangerous for a moving operation like this. Doing this later in the year runs the risk of bad weather.

Now, be warned. Crews will be back out today through Thursday. One southbound lane will be closed from 6 to 11 a.m. between Bear Creek Road and Idylwild Drive, and one northbound lane will be closed from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. from Redwood Estates to Idylwild Drive.

If you are heading to the Monterey Peninsula, consider taking 101 to 156.
Roadshow: Caltrans suspends Highway 17 work
By Gary Richards, grichards@mercurynews.com
Posted: 08/10/2010 12:00:00 AM PDT

Q I drove on the Lark Avenue bridge over Highway 17 on Monday and saw a whole passel of drivers who didn't read your column about work on 17 causing big delays.

Jim Konsevich, San Jose

A Those silly fools. Hopefully they'll read today because Caltrans' tree-trimming operation along Highway 17 has been canceled the rest of this week. Those 45-minute delays from Lark to Summit Road caught state officials off guard, and crews will return later to finish the job, perhaps after Labor Day, when beach-bound traffic should ease.

Roadshow: Traffic is nasty in Santa Cruz
By Gary Richards, grichards@mercurynews.com
Posted: 09/07/2010 12:00:00 AM PDT

Q Highway 1 in Santa Cruz south of Highway 17 is a traffic disaster. If any freeway is a poster child for "We didn't build it and they still came," this would be it. Do we have any plans to fix this? A carpool lane would be nice. However, we need a new lane in each direction for regular drivers. It's usually less than 10 mph on workdays around 5 p.m.

Robert Hull, Aptos

A And "...

Q Why does Santa Cruz have such terrible traffic? When I check Google Maps for the evening traffic, Santa Cruz consistently has more miles of red than the entire Bay Area. If I leave work before 7 p.m. (8 on Fridays), I'll sit for an hour to drive seven miles home. The fishhook at Highway 17 alone could be the subject of an entire design-fail website. Even when it is not tourist season, traffic is so terrible I'm riding my bike to work.

Sherry Palacios, Santa Cruz

A That's a good solution. But here's the problem. Highway 1 is your main highway, and it was built in the early 1950s. Since then, the population of Santa Cruz County has quadrupled. Plus, people travel more miles than ever before. County voters have been reluctant to tax themselves to make highway upgrades. Instead, Santa Cruz must rely on
scarce federal and state aid. For example, it took about 10 years to bank enough funds to pay for the 1-17 interchange and merge lane work, a $55 million project that is fairly small as highway work goes.

Traffic comes to a crawl for up to four hours each morning and four hours each evening. That's as bad as on Interstate 580 in the East Bay and I-80 through the North Bay -- and worse than any South Bay freeway, even dreaded Highway 101.

There are plans next year to extend the merge lanes on Highway 1 to Soquel. And next summer a draft report for carpool lanes on Highway 1 should be released. This would be an 8.5-mile widening between Morrissey Boulevard and Larkin Valley Road and would include more merging lanes and ramp metering. But it is not funded.

A few other changes coming are upgrading the 1-9 intersection and installing the 511 traffic hot line.
### SANTA CRUZ HIGHWAY 17 COLLISIONS

---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---
**JANUARY**
PDO | 40 | 28 | 17 | 14 | 18 | 26 | 21 | 32 | 34 | 19 | 22 | 16 | 24
INJURY | 27 | 10 | 8 | 5 | 9 | 12 | 6 | 6 | 10 | 9 | 6 | 9 | 13
TOTAL | 67 | 38 | 25 | 19 | 27 | 38 | 27 | 38 | 44 | 28 | 28 | 25 | 37
FATAL | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1
**FEBRUARY**
PDO | 36 | 19 | 43 | 14 | 17 | 35 | 41 | 45 | 25 | 28 | 31 | 16 | 20
INJURY | 6 | 9 | 9 | 5 | 4 | 9 | 16 | 17 | 4 | 10 | 9 | 15 | 4
TOTAL | 42 | 28 | 52 | 19 | 21 | 44 | 57 | 62 | 29 | 38 | 40 | 31 | 24
FATAL | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1
**MARCH**
PDO | 21 | 25 | 26 | 22 | 29 | 23 | 11 | 38 | 35 | 18 | 17 | 13 | 26
INJURY | 11 | 12 | 6 | 5 | 11 | 9 | 7 | 16 | 14 | 2 | 6 | 13 | 7
TOTAL | 32 | 37 | 32 | 27 | 40 | 32 | 18 | 54 | 49 | 20 | 23 | 26 | 33
FATAL | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1
**APRIL**
PDO | 39 | 27 | 13 | 24 | 15 | 9 | 16 | 45 | 41 | 22 | 20 | 18 | 28
INJURY | 14 | 8 | 9 | 5 | 7 | 16 | 4 | 11 | 11 | 7 | 10 | 12 | 6
TOTAL | 53 | 35 | 22 | 29 | 19 | 37 | 56 | 52 | 29 | 30 | 30 | 34
FATAL | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1
**MAY**
PDO | 43 | 13 | 25 | 19 | 13 | 24 | 15 | 39 | 16 | 24 | 10 | 12 | 26
INJURY | 25 | 9 | 15 | 13 | 7 | 11 | 5 | 13 | 8 | 9 | 5 | 16 | 8
TOTAL | 68 | 22 | 40 | 32 | 20 | 35 | 52 | 49 | 24 | 30 | 31 | 24
FATAL | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1
**JUNE**
PDO | 23 | 12 | 15 | 14 | 11 | 23 | 6 | 24 | 13 | 15 | 10 | 13 | 11
INJURY | 11 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 6 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 1 | 6 | 6 | 4
TOTAL | 34 | 17 | 18 | 16 | 17 | 27 | 8 | 27 | 19 | 16 | 16 | 19 | 15
FATAL | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1
**JULY**
PDO | 19 | 8 | 15 | 14 | 20 | 18 | 14 | 9 | 16 | 18 | 14 | 10 | 11
INJURY | 5 | 7 | 7 | 8 | 5 | 4 | 5 | 5 | 4 | 4 | 6 | 6 | 9
TOTAL | 24 | 15 | 22 | 22 | 25 | 22 | 19 | 14 | 20 | 22 | 20 | 16 | 20
FATAL | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1
**AUGUST**
PDO | 14 | 11 | 22 | 10 | 5 | 17 | 20 | 6 | 16 | 11 | 15 | 8
INJURY | 10 | 2 | 7 | 7 | 4 | 7 | 7 | 4 | 5 | 4 | 4 | 1
TOTAL | 24 | 13 | 29 | 17 | 9 | 24 | 27 | 10 | 21 | 15 | 19 | 9
FATAL | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1
**SEPTEMBER**
PDO | 24 | 16 | 20 | 16 | 12 | 12 | 13 | 4 | 13 | 9 | 5 | 8
INJURY | 13 | 4 | 8 | 4 | 8 | 1 | 6 | 6 | 4 | 3 | 9 | 7
TOTAL | 37 | 20 | 28 | 20 | 20 | 13 | 19 | 10 | 17 | 12 | 14 | 15
FATAL | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1
**OCTOBER**
PDO | 17 | 15 | 13 | 20 | 16 | 17 | 44 | 27 | 13 | 21 | 13 | 9
INJURY | 4 | 11 | 8 | 2 | 5 | 9 | 6 | 12 | 3 | 9 | 3 | 5
TOTAL | 21 | 26 | 21 | 22 | 21 | 26 | 50 | 39 | 16 | 30 | 16 | 14
FATAL | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1
**NOVEMBER**
PDO | 29 | 16 | 26 | 23 | 28 | 21 | 47 | 36 | 11 | 19 | 13
INJURY | 10 | 10 | 8 | 13 | 10 | 9 | 8 | 13 | 12 | 8 | 5 | 7
TOTAL | 41 | 39 | 24 | 39 | 33 | 37 | 29 | 60 | 48 | 19 | 24 | 20
FATAL | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1
**DECEMBER**
PDO | 5 | 13 | 28 | 48 | 60 | 43 | 43 | 21 | 34 | 21 | 16
INJURY | 13 | 4 | 4 | 11 | 15 | 22 | 10 | 17 | 3 | 19 | 5 | 10
TOTAL | 18 | 17 | 13 | 39 | 63 | 82 | 53 | 60 | 24 | 53 | 26 | 26
FATAL | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1

**TOTAL PDO** | 312 | 216 | 234 | 221 | 234 | 342 | 265 | 359 | 279 | 230 | 197 | 152 | 146
**TOTAL INJURY** | 149 | 91 | 92 | 80 | 91 | 113 | 82 | 123 | 84 | 85 | 74 | 107 | 51
**TOTAL COLLISIONS** | 461 | 307 | 326 | 301 | 325 | 455 | 482 | 363 | 315 | 271 | 259 | 197
**FATALITIES** | 5 | 4 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 1
### Highway 17 Citations Issued for Santa Cruz Area

#### Regular Citations

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<th>Mechanical 2004</th>
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#### Total

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#### Overtime Citations

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#### Total

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Note: The table provides a summary of citations issued on Highway 17 for Santa Cruz Area from January 2004 to December 2010, distinguishing between regular and overtime citations.
New Signs Remind Drivers to “Take it Slow” on Highway 17

Two new signs have been installed by Caltrans on Highway 17, one on the northbound side in Santa Cruz County in Scotts Valley and the other on the southbound side in Santa Clara County near Los Gatos. The signs communicate to the public that Highway 17 is a safety corridor. The signs’ new decal stickers read “TAKE IT SLOW,” a reminder from Caltrans and the Safe on 17 Program. The decals were designed by Jane Bolling, a local graphic artist.
## Extra California Highway Patrol Hours Worked on Highway 17
(through 08/2010)

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<th>San Jose Area</th>
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<th>Santa Cruz Area</th>
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<td>706</td>
<td>590.5</td>
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Roadshow: No chance of banning big rigs on Highway 17

By Gary Richards grichards@mercurynews.com
Posted: 09/05/2010 12:00:00 AM PDT

Q With big rigs crashing and blocking all lanes twice on Highway 17 recently, can we finally get a law passed to ban them on this mountain highway? Far too often, these trucks cause major traffic problems or delays. If they're not tipping over, then they are either going too slowly up the hill or too quickly down it. Do we have options here? If they can be banned on 85, why not 17, where it's much more dangerous to have them?

Ed Staton

A It has been a rough few weeks on 17. On Thursday, an overturned beer truck messed up traffic for nearly six hours. This followed a five-hour closure of lanes on Aug. 17, when another truck crash occurred.

But there is virtually no chance that a big-rig ban on Highway 17 will ever be put in place, says Caltrans. The reason is simple: Trucks have no realistic alternative to travel from the South Bay to the Santa Cruz area. The best alternative is Highway 156 south of Gilroy. As part of the Highway 17 safety program that began a decade ago, some trucking companies have cut back on trips during peak hours in the commute direction, and that has helped. But Thursday's crash took place about 6 a.m. southbound.

Trucks over 4.5 tons are banned on 85 because big rigs have other options, such as 101 and I-280.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rte</th>
<th>Dir</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Message</th>
<th>Day On</th>
<th>Time On</th>
<th>Day Off</th>
<th>Time Off</th>
<th>Duration (Mins)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>SB</td>
<td>S-17 S/OF SUMMIT RD</td>
<td>ACCIDENT AHEAD AT SUGARLOAF EXPECT DELAYS</td>
<td>03-03-10</td>
<td>09:39</td>
<td>03-03-10</td>
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<td>17</td>
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<td>N-17 S/OF GRANITE CREEK RD O/C</td>
<td>ACCIDENT AHEAD AFTER LAUREL REDUCE SPEED</td>
<td>03-07-10</td>
<td>22:20</td>
<td>03-07-10</td>
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<td>03-16-10</td>
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<td>S-17 S/OF SANTA CRUZ AVE</td>
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<td>15:40</td>
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## TMC CMS REPORT - SANTA CRUZ

### 03/01/10 - 09/06/10

**PART 1: Collisions and Roadwork**

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<td>SLOW TRAFFIC S-85 TO S-17 USE CAUTION</td>
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### SIGALERTS
#### 3/10-9/10
#### Highway 17

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<tr>
<td>03/29/10</td>
<td>17:34 hrs.</td>
<td>Sigalert - Santa Clara County, SB-17 just north of Summit Road, lanes blocked due to an over-turned vehicle accident. Motorists are advised to expect delays and to use alternate routes. No estimated time of opening.</td>
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<tr>
<td>03/29/10</td>
<td>17:52 hrs.</td>
<td>Sigalert update - Santa Clara County, SB-17 just north of Summit Road, all lanes are now open. The duration of this incident was 42 minutes.</td>
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<td>03/31/10</td>
<td>09:09</td>
<td>Sigalert - Santa Clara County, South 17 north of Redwood Estates, the left lane is closed due to an overturned vehicle with injuries. One CMS has been activated for this incident. Motorists are advised to expect delays and to use alternate routes. No estimated time of opening.</td>
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<tr>
<td>03/31/10</td>
<td>09:18:00 AM</td>
<td>Sigalert Update - Santa Clara County, South 17 north of Redwood Estates, all lanes are now open, the duration for this incident was 36 minutes.</td>
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<td>04/13/10</td>
<td>5:11:00</td>
<td>Sigalert - Santa Cruz County, N-17 north of Laurel Rd, an over turned vehicle is blocking the left lane. Motorists are advised to expect delays and to use alternate routes. No estimated time of opening.</td>
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<tr>
<td>04/13/10</td>
<td>5:22:00</td>
<td>Sigalert Correction - Santa Cruz County, N-17 @ Laurel, the right lane is blocked due to an over turned vehicle. Motorists are advised to expect delays and to use alternate routes. No estimated time of opening.</td>
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<td>04/13/10</td>
<td>6:47:00 AM</td>
<td>Sigalert update - Santa Cruz County, N-17 @ Laurel, all lanes are now open. The duration of this incident was 96 minutes.</td>
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<td>05/20/10</td>
<td>22:21 hrs.</td>
<td>Sigalert - Santa Clara County, S-17 just South of Redwood Estates Road, the left lane is blocked due to a fallen tree. Motorists are advised to expect delays and to use alternate routes. There is no estimated time of opening.</td>
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<td>05/20/10</td>
<td>23:25 hrs.</td>
<td>Sigalert update - Santa Clara County, S-17 just South of Redwood Estates Road, the estimated time of opening is 60 minutes.</td>
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<tr>
<td>06/11/10</td>
<td>15:36</td>
<td>Sigalert update - Santa Clara County, S-17 at Redwood Estates Rd., the right lane remains closed with an estimated time to open of 11PM.</td>
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<tr>
<td>06/11/10</td>
<td>21:08</td>
<td>Sigalert update - Santa Clara County, S-17 at Brush Rd., all lanes are now open. The duration of this incident was 7 hours and 45 minutes</td>
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<tr>
<td>09/02/10</td>
<td>6:40</td>
<td>Sigalert - Santa Cruz County, S-17 just South of the summit, all lanes blocked due to an overturned big rig. Motorists are advised to expect delays and to use alternate routes. There is no estimated time of opening.</td>
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<tr>
<td>09/02/10</td>
<td>7:32</td>
<td>Sigalert update - Santa Cruz County, S-17 just North of Glenwood all lanes remain closed due to an overturned big rig. South bound traffic is being diverted at Summit Rd. Eight Caltrans fixed message boards have been activated. Portable message signs and Caltrans Maintenance in route. Motorists are advised to use alternate routes. There is no estimated time of opening.</td>
<td>y</td>
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<tr>
<td>09/02/10</td>
<td>7:57:00</td>
<td>Sigalert update - Santa Cruz County, S-17 at Summit Rd remains closed due to an overturned big rig at Glenwood. Estimated time of opening is now 12:00.</td>
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<tr>
<td>09/02/10</td>
<td>10:36:00</td>
<td>Sigalert update - Santa Cruz County, S-17 at Summit Road, all lanes are now open. The duration of this incident was 4 hours and 10 minutes.</td>
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<tr>
<td>09/10/2010</td>
<td>11:25 hrs.</td>
<td>Sigalert - Santa Cruz County, NB-17 just north of Glenwood Drive, both lanes blocked due to a head-on collision accident. Motorists are advised to expect delays and to use alternate routes. No estimated time of opening.</td>
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<tr>
<td>09/10/2010</td>
<td>11:36 hrs.</td>
<td>Sigalert update - Santa Cruz County, NB-17 just north of Glenwood Drive, left lane still blocked due to a head-on collision accident. Motorists are advised to expect delays and to use alternate routes. No estimated time of opening.</td>
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<tr>
<td>09/10/2010</td>
<td>11:43</td>
<td>Sigalert update - Santa Cruz County, NB-17 just north of Glenwood Drive, CHP has closed both lanes again, Estimated time to reopen is 20 to 30 minutes.</td>
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<td>09/10/2010</td>
<td>12:51</td>
<td>Sigalert update - Santa Cruz County, NB-17 just north of Glenwood Drive, all lanes are now open. The duration of this incident was 92 minutes.</td>
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<tr>
<td>05/09/10</td>
<td>08:12</td>
<td>Sigalert - Santa Cruz County, SR9 at Vernon St, all lanes are closed due to a tree and wires down. Motorists are advised to expect delays and to use alternate routes. There is no estimated time of opening.</td>
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<tr>
<td>05/09/10</td>
<td>11:00:00 AM</td>
<td>Sigalert Update - Santa Cruz County, SR9 at Vernon St, one way traffic control in place Coastal TMC/JAR</td>
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<td>05/09/10</td>
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<td>Sigalert Update - Santa Cruz County, SR9 at Vernon St, all lanes are now open, the duration for this incident was 3 hours.</td>
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<td>08/19/10</td>
<td>3:56:00 AM</td>
<td>Santa Clara County, SR 9 is closed at 2 Bar Road due to a downed PG&amp;E pole. PG&amp;E and DOT crews are enroute. The current ETO is 4 hours. Motorists are advised to expect delays and to use alternate routes.</td>
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<tr>
<td>08/19/10</td>
<td>4:03:00 AM</td>
<td>Sigalert update - Santa Cruz County, SR 9 is closed at 2 Bar Road due to a downed PG&amp;E pole. PG&amp;E and DOT crews are enroute. The current ETO is 7:00 am. Motorists are advised to expect delays and to use alternate routes.</td>
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<tr>
<td>08/19/10</td>
<td>6:00</td>
<td>Sigalert update - Santa Cruz County, SR 9 remains closed at 2 Bar Road due to a downed PG&amp;E pole. PG&amp;E crews are working to remove the pole from the roadway and DOT crews are providing traffic control. The current ETO is 7:00 am. Motorists are advised to expect delays and to use alternate routes.</td>
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<td>08/19/10</td>
<td>6:44:00 AM</td>
<td>Sigalert update - Santa Cruz County, SR 9 remains closed at 2 Bar Road due to a downed PG&amp;E pole. PG&amp;E crews are working to remove the pole from the roadway and DOT crews are providing traffic control. The updated ETO is 8:00:00 AM</td>
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<td>08/19/10</td>
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<td>Sigalert update - Santa Cruz County, SR 9 remains closed at 2 Bar Road due to a downed PG&amp;E pole. PG&amp;E crews are working to remove the pole from the roadway and DOT crews are providing traffic control. The updated ETO is 8:00:00 AM. Motorists are advised to expect delays and to use alternate routes.</td>
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<td>08/19/10</td>
<td>8:27</td>
<td>Sigalert update - Santa Cruz County, SR 9 @ 2 Bar Road, all lanes were open at 07:20. The duration of this incident was 3 hours and 24 minutes.</td>
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<td>DATE</td>
<td>TIME</td>
<td>SIGALERT</td>
<td>ARTICLE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>---------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td>05/19/10</td>
<td>16:07 hrs.</td>
<td>Sigalert - Santa Clara County, WB-152 just east of Bloomfield Road, WB lane blocked due to a jack-knifed big rig accident. Motorists are advised to expect delays and to use alternate routes. No estimated time of opening.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>05/19/10</td>
<td>16:53 hrs.</td>
<td>Sigalert update - Santa Clara County, WB-152 just east of Bloomfield Road, all lanes are now open. The duration of this incident was 69 minutes.</td>
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<td>05/27/10</td>
<td>3:27:00 PM</td>
<td>Sigalert - Santa Clara County, SR-152 closed in both directions just west of the Mt. Madonna Inn. Motorists are advised to expect delays and to use alternate routes. There is no estimated time of opening.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>05/27/10</td>
<td>3:50:00 PM</td>
<td>Sigalert update - Santa Clara County, 152 just west of Mt. Madonna Inn, all lanes are now open. The duration of this incident was 59 minutes.</td>
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Crashes stall traffic on Hwy. 17

A pair of crashes brought Highway 17 traffic to a halt Sunday afternoon about 3:20 p.m. when a car traveling southbound struck two cars, then a couple of minutes later crashed into the median while heading north, emergency officials said.

Collision at the Fishhook briefly closes road

REGISTER-PAJARONIAN STAFF REPORT

A vehicle collided with the concrete median at the Fishhook, forcing a brief closure of the southbound lanes of Highway 17 Friday night in Santa Cruz.

According to the California Highway Patrol, a man traveling northbound in a 1997 Toyota Tacoma about 10:23 p.m. was changing lanes when he noticed he was about to sideswipe an unidentified red passenger car directly to his right. In an attempt to avoid a collision, he reportedly turned his car sharply to the left, which caused him to lose control, skid across the lane and crash into the concrete median.

The force of the collision caused a piece of concrete to fall into the southbound lanes of Highway 17, which caused part of the road to be closed for about 30 minutes.

The man was not injured in

Motorcyclist dies in Highway 17 crash

LOS GATOS

A 31-year-old Los Gatos man died late Thursday when his lost control of his motorcycle and collided with the center divide on Highway 17 south of Redwood Estates, the California Highway Patrol reported.

The crash happened around 10 p.m. as the motorcyclist was heading north on the highway into Santa Clara County. The man's 2000 Yamaha hit the median and the man was thrown from his bike, the CHP reported. He was pronounced dead at the scene.

The man's name was not released pending notification of his family.

No other vehicles were involved in the collision.
Big rig wreck closes northbound Highway 17

By JENNIFER SQUIRES
jsquires@santacruzsentinel.com

SUMMIT — A big rig overturned on Highway 17 on Tuesday morning, blocking all northbound traffic for more than five hours, forcing morning commuters to take back roads through the mountains, the California Highway Patrol reported.

The crash happened near Big Moody Curve, just north of the Santa Cruz-Santa Clara county line, around 6:55 a.m., according to the CHP. The driver of the big rig was uninjured, but his trailer toppled over across both northbound lanes, according to CHP officer Grant Boles.

Then, three hours later, another crash jammed traffic on Highway 9 in Santa Clara County and crippled the main commute routes between Santa Cruz and the Silicon Valley.

The CHP urged drivers to take alternate routes.

An alert was issued at 7:15 a.m., but by then it was too late for many caught up in the gridlock.

Ryan Hillhouse, 34, of Santa Cruz was low on gas, so he decided to wait out the traffic mess on a pullout just south of the Summit.

"I'm supposed to be at paramedic school," Hillhouse said. "I called them and they said, 'Well the quiz is waiting for you.'"

Kathy Meikl of Aptos started her trip at 9:30 a.m. and at 12:15 p.m. was stopped at the same pullout where Hillhouse was waiting.

"I had an appointment in San Jose, ironically, to get my GPS software upgraded on my car."

The crash on Highway 17 near Redwood Estates was cleared by 12:30 p.m., the CHP reported.

Before that, some drivers tried to avoid the traffic jam by diverting onto mountain roads and caused some fender benders, Boles said. No serious injuries were reported.

The second crash — on Highway 9 at Sanborn Road about 6 miles outside of Los Gatos — happened around 10 a.m. when a gravel truck spilled its load onto the pavement. The driver was injured and the northbound lane was blocked, causing significant delays on one of the alternate routes to Highway 17, the CHP reported.

The highway reopened just after 2 p.m., the CHP reported.

The San Jose Mercury News contributed to this report.

ACMS activated

Highway 17 - Big Rig Collisions

No Sigalert

No Sigalert

A big rig and at least one other vehicle crashed on southbound Highway 17 as they headed into Scotts Valley on Friday morning. The California Highway Patrol was on scene to clear the wreckage. No injuries were reported.

No Sigalert
Big rig crash blocks Highway 17; beer spilled on roadway

By JENNIFER SQUIRES
jsquires@santacruzsentinel.com

SCOTTS VALLEY — Too much alcohol makes people tipsy, but Thursday too much beer coupled with too much velocity on a curvy mountain highway tipped a big rig.

The 44-year-old driver hauling 3,000 gallons of beer to Santa Cruz on Highway 17 crashed into an embankment north of Glenwood Drive around 6 a.m., blocking southbound lanes for more than four hours while emergency crews righted the trailer and towed the semi, according to the CHP.

The driver told a CHP officer he intentionally wrecked his semi to slow the vehicle because he was losing his brakes, according to CHP officer Jeff Hatcher.

CHP officers are investigating the driver's statement as part of the crash probe.

"We'll have to do inspections," Hatcher said. "It'll probably take a week to get all of that done."

Hatcher said it's not common practice to purposely crash a vehicle. Big rig drivers typically downshift or use a "Jake Brake" to reduce speeds.

The 40,000-pound load of beer — consisting of shrink-wrapped pallets of bottles and cans — was damaged when the trailer toppled over. Hatcher did not know what type of beer was in the trailer or if the entire shipment was a loss.

Hatcher said the driver was not hurt in the crash.

Southbound traffic was diverted at the summit while the wreck was cleared. Motorists were sent down Soquel San Jose Road, Hatcher said. Others used Bear Creek Road to get to Highway 9 and southbound lanes of Highway 17 reopened by 10:30 a.m. Thursday.

Northbound lanes remained open, but traffic slowed while motorists ogled the scene.
Two injured in rollover on Hwy. 1 onramp

By TRISHA LEONARD
OF THE REGISTER-PAJARONIAN

Two teenagers were injured Tuesday afternoon after the Jeep they were in rolled over on Riverside Drive.

About 1:17 p.m., a 1999 Jeep Cherokee with four passengers aboard was headed westbound on Riverside Drive when it got on the onramp to northbound Highway 1 and the driver braked to avoid hitting a car merging from eastbound Riverside, according to California Highway Patrol officer Chris Micheels. The driver of the Jeep said he was traveling about 40 mph and braked to avoid hitting the other vehicle, lost control, spun 180 degrees and hit the curb, which caused his vehicle to roll over. The Jeep came to a rest facing eastbound in a drainage ditch surrounding an agricultural field near the shoulder of the road.

According to Micheels, the driver was unlicensed and two male passengers fled the scene.

Paramedics from American Medical Response and Watsonville Fire transported the two female passengers, who suffered minor injuries, to Watsonville Community Hospital.

Santa Cruz resident Lin Colavin was headed home after volunteering at Loaves and Fishes when she saw the crash in her rearview mirror.

"They weren’t going that fast," she said. "Once they hit the ramp, they just lost control."

Colavin said she saw the Jeep roll once before it came to a stop. She stopped her car to see whether anyone in the Jeep had been injured.

"They’re lucky they had their seat belts on," she said. "I’m glad everyone is OK."
Watsonville firefighter Jake Cousins chases back flames in a burning Honda Civic on the Airport Boulevard exit from northbound Highway 1 Tuesday.

Passer-by rescues woman from burning car on Highway exit

REGISTR PAJARONIAN STAFF REPORT

A quick-acting citizen yanked a woman from her car as flames engulfed the vehicle Tuesday in Watsonville.

Sal Martin of Watsonville said he had pulled over to call 911 when he spotted the burning 2005 white Honda Civic on the Highway 1 exit at Airport Boulevard. Martin said the woman was not getting out of the car.

"I saw the flames, and she was still in there," he said.

The woman, whose hair was singed by the heat from the flames, was otherwise uninjured and declined medical treatment.

The incident began around 4:15 p.m. when the woman driving the Honda exited the freeway at Airport on her way back from Monterey. Flames rapidly swelled throughout the car just as Martin pulled her to safety.

The California Highway Patrol shut down the offramp as Watsonville and Aptos/La Selva firefighters fought to control the flames, which at times curled 20 feet into the air, fueled by a nearly full gas tank that had ruptured.

The cause of the fire is still under investigation.
5 kids hurt in Hwy. 1 rollover

Adult ejected from SUV and struck by passing car

By DONNA JONES
djones@santacruzsentinel.com

APTOS — Seven people were injured, including five young children, when a blue Ford Expedition flipped off the northbound Highway 1 on-ramp at Freedom Boulevard and rolled downhill onto the freeway at 4:30 p.m. Monday.

A woman, ejected from the SUV, was hit by a passing Nissan Altima in the fast lane and dragged 75 to 100 feet, California Highway Patrol officer Sarah Jackson said.

Jackson said the Expedition driver, Pete Mendoza III, 27, of Watsonville, had been drinking but officers did not consider him impaired and he was not arrested for being under the influence.

However, when the CHP investigation is over, he could be cited for possession of marijuana, open container, excessive speed and improperly belted passengers, Jackson said.

"It looks like excessive speed on the on-ramp," Jackson said of the cause of the crash.

The woman who was ejected, Norma Edith Garcia, 28, of Watsonville, suffered "major extremity fractures" and was transported by air ambulance to Valley Medical Center in San Jose, a fire official said.

An infant and children ages 1, 3, 5 and 7 suffered unknown injuries and were transported to

Not noticed in sigalert or CMS

(Cont’d on next page)
WRECK

Continued from A1

Dominican Hospital by Aptos-La Selva Fire and American Medical Response. There were two car seats in the SUV but it's unknown if any of them were being used or if anyone was wearing a seat belt, the CHP reported.

Mendoza was treated and released from Dominican. Jackson said he is on active parole but couldn't immediately say for what.

The relationships among Mendoza, his female passenger and the five children was unclear.

A woman who was just behind the accident said, "It's weird when you get out of your car and you're walking on the freeway and see a woman laying there with no emotion."

The woman who stopped to help said she covered Garcia, who had blood on her face, with a blanket and tried to comfort her. She said Mendoza was "hysterical" and "was very frightened for her." He walked around carrying the infant in its car seat until medics came to help him.

"There were so many people that stopped to help," the witness said, "it was amazing."

The driver of the Altima, a 40-year-old Aptos woman, did not appear to be at fault, Jackson said. She also had children in her car, but no one was injured and after being interviewed by officers the woman was able to drive away.

Traffic on both sides of the highway remained backed up well past 6 p.m. as officers and Caltrans workers cleaned up the road. Debris, including quart beer bottles, plastic baby bottles, soda cans, children's clothes and toys, littered the freeway and the adjacent hillside. The back passenger's side wheel sat beside the SUV, which was bashed on all sides and the roof.

The fast lane of northbound Highway 1 was reopened at 6:35 p.m. but the freeway was fully opened at 6:35 p.m., but a little before 7 p.m. traffic was still stop and go past the Mar Monte exit going north.

Scotts Valley resident Bryan Condy was driving home from work in Watsonville when he got stuck in the traffic jam created by the crash.

"I'm surprised because it seemed like it was lasting forever," Condy said just after 6 p.m. as he was still waiting to get past the wreck. He said he traveled about six miles in 45 minutes and was still a half-mile south of Freedom Boulevard.

Monday's crash occurred in the same area where a drunken Hollister mother wrecked a Chevy Tahoe, killing her 4-year-old daughter and injuring seven other people in January 2007.

Antoinette Soliz, now 29, had a blood-alcohol level nearly three times the legal limit when she tried to pull a U-turn on the highway at 1:20 a.m. but hit the center divide and rolled the vehicle. The Tahoe was loaded with 10 people, including six children ages 10 or younger.

Soliz, who was unhurt, pleaded guilty to vehicular manslaughter, six counts of child abuse and three other charges. She was sentenced to more than a decade in state prison.
Car flips end-over-end on Highway 1

California Highway Patrol officers investigate a solo-vehicle crash on Highway 1 in Aptos Tuesday. CHP officer Chris Ingawa said a female driver who was 10 weeks pregnant was traveling northbound in a Nissan Altima in the slow lane of Highway 1 north of Freedom Boulevard at 2 p.m. She told the CHP that a sedan cut her off and that, as she veered away, her car shot off the right shoulder into an ice plant-covered hill. Her car flipped end-over-end twice before coming to a rest on its roof. The woman, who was wearing a seat belt, emerged unharmed but was transported to a hospital as a precaution, Ingawa said.

Not noticed in sigalerts or cms
COPS AND COURTS

WATSONVILLE
Highway 1 closed after rollover

A 20-year-old Watsonville man rolled his Nissan SUV on Highway 1 on Saturday morning, leading authorities to close the highway in both directions for about 30 minutes.

The crash happened about 9 a.m. near Puente Vista Drive as the Nissan driver, Raffy Cano, was traveling south on Highway 1, the California Highway Patrol said.

Cano, who suffered no injuries, was wearing his seat belt and was not under the influence of drugs or alcohol, CHP officer Santiago Pineda said.

Cano was traveling alone and didn’t hit any other cars, Pineda said. The cause of the crash is under investigation.

WATSONVILLE
Car crashes, rolls on Highway 1

A car traveling north on Highway 1 on Sunday morning crashed near Airport Boulevard and rolled several times, emergency dispatchers said.

The accident happened at 9:50 a.m.

One person was taken to the hospital. No other details were available.

SANTA CRUZ
Motorcycle blocks Highway 1

A motorcycle blocked both lanes of southbound Highway 1 at Morrisey Boulevard for about 15 minutes Thursday after a car switched lanes in front of him, according to California Highway Patrol.

Around 5:50 p.m., a driver of a black, 2008 Ford Focus changed lanes in front of the motorcycle, according to CHP officer Jacob Gonzales. The motorcyclist, a 55-year-old Felton man, slammed on the brakes, lost control and hit the asphalt.

The motorcyclist refused to be taken to the hospital by ambulance. A driver who witnessed the incident drove him to Dominican Hospital to be treated for minor injuries.

The right lane of southbound Highway 1 was shut down until 6:30 p.m.
COPS AND COURTS
SANTA CRUZ 7/3/10

Rollover accident closes traffic lane

A rollover accident that left fluids in the road shut down the left lane of Highway 1 northbound north of Rio del Mar early Saturday, according to California Highway Patrol.

A 49-year-old Santa Cruz man was driving his 1999 Jeep in the left lane on northbound Highway 1 just north of Rio del Mar around 12:30 a.m. when a 66-year-old Aptos woman was slowing down to a stop in her 2006 BMW. The man did not see that the traffic was slowing, swerved to the right to avoid collision and rolled his Jeep into the center divider, the CHP said.

After hitting the divider, the Jeep flipped onto its roof and slid forward colliding with the rear of the BMW. The driver got out of the Jeep with the help of witnesses. He had minor injuries including cuts to his forehead, according to the CHP.

The damage to the Jeep caused fluids to leak from the vehicle. The left lane was reopened after five hours of cleanup by Caltrans crews. The accident also caused a fender-bend...

NORTH COAST
Nighttime wreck closes Highway 1

A two-vehicle crash closed Highway 1 between Waddell Creek and the north end of Swanton Road around 10 p.m. Thursday, the California Highway Patrol reported.

Details on the collision were scarce, but one person was flown to Stanford Medical Center for treatment, CHP officer Hugh Holden said.

The crash, near Greyhound Rock County Park, left debris scattered across the two-lane highway, the CHP reported. Emergency personnel responding to the accident had to deal with heavy fog and poor reception for radios and cell phones.

Low-speed collision partially closes northbound Highway 1

A low-speed collision shut down the front lane of northbound Highway 1 near Rio del Mar Boulevard for five hours on Saturday.

About 12:30 p.m., Gregory Flowers, 48, of Santa Cruz was driving north on Highway 1 just north of Rio del Mar Boulevard at about 55 mph and, according to the California Highway Patrol, failed to notice that traffic ahead of him was slowing to a stop.

Fearing he might rear-end the car in front of him, Flowers swerved to the right and rolled his 1999 Jeep, crashing into the center divide, the CHP reported. The Jeep then slid on its roof and hit the rear of a 2006 BMW 330i being driven by Aptos resident Patricia Moore, 66.

Flowers, with the help of fellow motorists, was extricated from the Jeep and suffered minor abrasions to his forehead. Moore was not injured.

The Jeep was continuously leaking coolant, transmission fluid and steering fluid onto the highway and lane one was closed while Caltrans cleaned up the mess, the CHP stated. The lane was reopened about five hours later.
Wet Pavement Correction Project on Route 17
EA 246900, In Santa Clara County Near Los Gatos on
Route 17 From 0.1 m South of Summit Road Separation to 1 mile
south of Bear Creek Road
Caltrans, Dist 4, Design South, Santa Clara “B”

**Schedule**

<table>
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<th>Activity</th>
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<tr>
<td>PA&amp;ED-PR</td>
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<td>PS&amp;E to HQ Office Engineer</td>
<td>04/01/2010</td>
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<td>Begin Construction (BC)</td>
<td>03/01/2011</td>
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LOCATION MAP
WET PAVEMENT CORRECTION PROJECT ON ROUTE 17
PM 0.00 TO PM 2.80
CALIFORNIA STATE HIGHWAY 17
ITS EQUIPMENT PRELIMINARY INVENTORY

Wednesday September 15, 2010
Data Sources

- Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Data
  - Caltrans Districts 4 and 5 GIS Coordinators
  - MTC 511 Speed Info Sensors Longitude and Latitude
  - Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) GIS
  - Santa Cruz County GIS
Santa Clara County

- ITS Equipment
  - CCTV (6)
  - CMS (4)
  - EMS (3)
  - Call-boxes (32)
  - MTC speed sensors (11)
  - Other equipment to be verified
    - HAR
    - Ramp Meters
    - TMS

California State Highway 17
ITS Elements
Preliminary Inventory
Santa Clara County
Santa Cruz County

- **ITS Equipment**
  - CCTV (5)
  - CMS (2)
  - Loops (3)
  - MVDS (3)
  - Call-boxes (37)
  - MTC Speed Sensors (11)
  - Other equipment to be verified
    - HAR
    - TMS
    - EMS
    - Hose