

TRAFFIC ADVISORY

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Caltrans Completes Initial Protective Measures on Moro Beach Slope Beneath Pacific Coast Highway

Caltrans moves quickly to prepare for next phase of slope stabilization; traffic changes expected as early as Tuesday.

ORANGE COUNTY – Caltrans will reconfigure traffic lanes on Pacific Coast Highway (State Route 1) between Reef Point Drive and Irvine Cove Drive to allow for Phase 2 of the Crystal Cove PCH Preservation Project (CCPPP). The modification will be implemented as soon as Caltrans receives approval from California State Parks and the California Coastal Commission, and which could be as early as Tuesday, Oct. 20.

Once work is authorized to begin, both southbound lanes will close, and traffic in both directions will be shifted to the two northbound lanes, with one lane dedicated to each direction. Motorists should follow posted signs and traffic controls, allow extra travel time, and remain alert when traveling through the area.

This past weekend, Caltrans contractors installed plastic sheeting over the crack in the slope beneath Pacific Coast Highway (State Route 1) near Crystal Cove State Park to help prevent rainwater from entering the slope ahead of forecasted rain. The work completes the first phase of the three-phase CCCPP, to address the slope conditions at Moro Beach.

Phase 2 will focus on reinforcing the slope with a fill buttress at its base, armored with large rocks to help limit further slope movement and erosion.

CCPPP was implemented after Caltrans was notified of a developing crack in the coastal slope beneath PCH near the Moro Beach section of Crystal Cove State Beach, where high tides and increasingly active waves have contributed to coastal bluff erosion. A drone survey model

estimates the crack extends up to 360 feet long and reaches a width of up to 2 feet.

CCPPP's three phases will address immediate concerns, stabilize the slope and develop a long-term solution.

Phase 1: Immediate Protective Intervention — Complete

Contractors placed plastic sheeting over the existing crack to help limit surface runoff and prevent rainwater from entering the slope. Caltrans will continue monitoring the slope and roadway through drone imagery and surveys to track movement and inform next steps.

Phase 2: Interim Protection — Pending Authorization

Once authorization is received, the contractor will access the beach to install a fill buttress at the base of the slope and reinforce it with large rocks to help dissipate wave energy and reduce erosion. Work will be scheduled around tidal conditions, as crews can only perform the work during low tide.

Phase 3: Long-Term Solution — In Development

Caltrans is working closely with California State Parks to develop a long-term stabilization approach to ensure roadway protection by drawing on geotechnical data and lessons learned from similar emergency repairs. The project timeline will depend on the selected approach, with a clearer timeframe expected as the evaluation and planning process progresses.

Caltrans District 12 obtained emergency repair funding and secured Ortiz Enterprises, Inc. as the project contractor. The department continues to coordinate with California State Parks, the California Coastal Commission, the County of Orange, the cities of Laguna Beach and Newport Beach, and SoCalGas on the emergency response.

For current traffic conditions, motorists can visit [Caltrans QuickMap](#). All lane closure information is available through the [Caltrans Lane Closures System](#).

For more information and updates, you may contact the District 12 Public Information Office via email at D12PIO@dot.ca.gov or on social media: [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), [Threads](#) and [X](#).

For those with sensory disabilities requiring alternate formats (Braille, large print, sign language interpreter, etc.) and those needing information in a language other than English, please contact Christianne Smith or TTY 711.

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