

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR KATHRYN BARGER

AGN. NO. _____

DECEMBER 4, 2018

EMERGENCY TRAFFIC CIRCULATION PLANS FOR I-5 IN SANTA CLARITA VALLEY

The Interstate 5 (I-5) corridor through the Santa Clarita Valley has been identified as a critical chokepoint in California's highway system. The I-5 serves as the backbone for goods movement between Mexico and Canada and for motorists traveling north-south within the state and beyond. This segment of the I-5 also provides a vital link to job centers for tens of thousands of daily commuters.

In normal times, these factors create challenging traffic conditions for those who use the corridor; but the problem has been exacerbated due to ongoing construction activities in the area. Currently, The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) is implementing a road surface rehabilitation project between Newhall and Castaic on the I-5 and an important capacity enhancement project will begin shortly thereafter. The end result will be a much safer and efficient movement of people and goods through the region but the area will continue to experience challenging conditions for the foreseeable future.

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This past weekend saw the highest number of holiday travelers in the metropolitan Los Angeles area in the past fifteen years, which proved to be nearly impossible to navigate through the I-5 corridor in the Santa Clarita Valley.

Additionally, during the coming winter months there will likely be increased impacts due to weather related freeway closures north of Castaic.

The residents of unincorporated Castaic are heavily impacted during these situations as the only way to get in and out of Castaic is via the highly constrained Old Road. The Old Road becomes a two-lane road north of Hasley Canyon and is unable to handle increased traffic volume when issues arise on the I-5. As a result, residents are trapped in Castaic or cannot get into their community for hours on end.

Along the I-210 corridor in the San Gabriel Valley, Caltrans, in partnership with Los Angeles County Public Works and adjacent cities, has been developing a very promising *Integrated Corridor Management* pilot to improve mobility and handle emergency situations that heavily impact the freeway. A similar level of partnership is needed in the Santa Clarita Valley along the I-5.

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I, THEREFORE, MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS Direct the Department of Public Works, Department of Regional Planning, Sheriff's Department, and Fire Department, to collaborate with Caltrans, the California Highway Patrol, and the City of Santa Clarita to devise emergency mobility action plans to be implemented should the I-5 experience major disruptions or shut downs due to accidents, weather, or construction, and report back in the interim with monthly status reports, including:

- 1) Identification of strategies to direct traffic where appropriate to ensure enhanced movement of vehicles;
- 2) Analysis of potential high traffic volume periods (i.e. holidays and weather related events);
- 3) Development of contingency plans in anticipation of these periods;
- 4) Consideration of potential chokepoints and/or closures related to highway construction activities;
- 5) Solicitation of feedback from the Castaic Area and West Ranch Town Councils, and;
- 6) Enhanced communication plans in anticipation of, or in response to major disruptions.

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