



# News Release

**Date:** Tuesday, August 30, 2022  
**District:** 05 – Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, Monterey, San Benito, and Santa Cruz Counties  
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UPDATE #1  
**HIGHWAY 156 IMPROVEMENT PROJECT  
CONTINUES WITH WORK BEHIND BARRIERS**

SAN BENITO COUNTY – A project to construct a new four-lane expressway adjacent to Highway 156, between San Juan Bautista and Hollister, continues with primary work taking place behind K-rail barriers south of the current alignment of Hwy. 156.

Now that K-rail has been placed, crews are working behind the barriers to perform initial clearing and earthwork activities. Roadway excavation and potholing for underground construction will begin soon, starting at The Alameda, and continuing in an eastbound direction. Only occasional traffic control is anticipated on an as needed basis for the first several months of this project.

As part of the environmental review process for this project, Caltrans identified trees that would need to be removed, either to make way for the roadway, or because the health of the trees was compromised. Additionally, vegetation was identified as needing to be cut back or removed in the creek to accommodate placement of a new bridge.

Caltrans has a remediation plan in place and will be replanting 170 oaks, a combination of Live Oaks and Valley Oaks in the area. Caltrans will also be replanting riparian species such as Sycamore, Cottonwood, and Willow in the creek as well as some Ceanothus and Elderberry shrubs.

The San Benito Route 156 Improvement Project will construct a four-lane expressway immediately south of the existing Hwy. 156 alignment. This 5.2-mile project will begin in San Juan Bautista at The Alameda and continue to just east of Hwy. 156 Business Route (4th St.) in Hollister.

During construction, access will be closed from Hwy. 156 to Mission Vineyard Rd. in San Juan Bautista. Also, travelers will not be able to access San Juan Hollister Rd. from Union Rd.

Updates for the San Benito Route 156 Improvement Project can be found on the Transportation Updates page of the Council of San Benito County Governments at:  
<http://sanbenitocog.org/transportation-updates/>

The contractor for this project is Teichert Construction of Sacramento, CA. This project is expected to conclude in Fall 2024.

**Caltrans reminds motorists to move over and slow down when  
driving through highway work zones.**

For traffic updates on other state highways in San Benito County, travelers may contact Caltrans District 5 Public Affairs at 805-549-3318 or can visit the District 5 website at: <https://dot.ca.gov/caltrans-near-me/district-5>

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