

CONTRA COSTA TIMES

ContraCostaTimes.com

Three days of closures on Highway 12 begin Tuesday

By Zachary K. Johnson
McClatchy Newspapers

Posted: 08/23/2010 06:36:31 PM PDT

Updated: 08/24/2010 08:21:34 AM PDT

STOCKTON -- Major maintenance work will mean daytime closure of Highway 12 and increased driving times for commuters who use the route between San Joaquin County and points west.

Crews laying 2,500 tons of asphalt, replacing damaged signs, sealing cracks and doing a host of other tasks will be working from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. today through Thursday between Interstate 5 and Highway 160 near the Rio Vista Bridge, according to the California Department of Transportation.

With the amount of work that needs to be done, the choice was between full closure of the road and partial closure for 15 days with waits as long as 90 minutes, said Chantel Miller, a Caltrans spokeswoman.

"By doing a full closure, we can get the same amount of work done in three days," she said.

About 15,000 to 17,000 vehicles travel along that stretch of Highway 12 daily, she said.

Detour signs will lead motorists to Interstate 5, Walnut Grove Road and Highway 160. This

diversion will take about 45 minutes to traverse. Trucks should use Interstate 5 and Interstate 80 to circumvent the closure, according to Caltrans.

Miller said Caltrans worked with the San Joaquin Farm Bureau Federation to determine closure dates. During roadwork along the same stretch last year, the organization said, the closure affected agricultural interests, increasing shipping costs during a busy part of harvest season. In 2009, the three-day closure in mid-September had some local

farmers angry.

This year, Caltrans reached out to farmer advocates, and the result was an earlier date for maintenance work, said Bruce Blodgett, the county Farm Bureau's executive manager. "The sooner we do this, the better in terms of the grape harvest" and other crops, he said.

"We were pleased that Caltrans took this step in the right direction," he said.

Advertisement

Own a new computer for just \$29.99* per week!

And improve your credit score at the same time!

Give us a call today!

1-877-294-3988

*Prices start at \$29.99 but may vary by model.



Print Powered By  FormatDynamics™