



Brakes applied on I-15 work

CALTRANS: A lack of construction materials will delay planned weekend closures.

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A shortage of construction materials will halt work on Interstate 15 in Devore this weekend, giving motorists a temporary respite from another planned closure on the busy freeway.

The contractor informed Caltrans officials Tuesday that concrete or steel needed for the \$26 million repaving job were unavailable in time for this weekend, Caltrans spokeswoman Terri Kasinga said.

The agency had planned to close the connector from southbound I-15 to southbound I-215 on Friday and Saturday in order to replace pavement on the roadway.

It would have been the second out of four or five planned weekend closures throughout this month and into early next month.

Last weekend's closure of through southbound traffic on I-15 resulted in delays as long as three hours to get from the Cajon Pass through San Bernardino.

The postponement may result in changes to the remaining closure schedule, Kasinga said. But she said the agency is hoping to reschedule the work to be done at night during the week so an additional weekend closure would not be necessary.

It's unclear whether the closure planned for Oct. 27 through Oct. 30 will remain the same. Caltrans officials are examining the schedule to fit in the delayed work, she said.

Weather and availability of construction materials are always variables in such big projects, Kasinga said.

"There are some things that are out of the control of the contractor and our control," she said.

The work to replace the aged and cracked roadway on a 7-mile section with longer-lasting pavement has affected motorists on one of the busiest freeways in the region, a thoroughfare used by about 250,000 vehicles a day.

Caltrans officials have encouraged motorists to alter their schedules or avoid the area entirely during the work. Construction began in August and will continue until early next year.

The freeway closures are planned only for this month and in early November.

Information about the project and the closure schedule is available online at www.caltrans8.info or by calling 866-383-4631.

Online at: http://www.pe.com/localnews/inland/stories/PE_News_Local_H_closure18.376ba99.html