

Commuter Alert



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Alert #: 25-1130

District: 8 Riverside/San Bernardino

Project ID: EA-08-1K690

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For Immediate Release

SR-74 Ortega Highway Lane Widening Safety Project December 2025

RIVERSIDE, CA – The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) is alerting the public that construction contractors continue construction work for a \$96.1M safety and widening project on State Route 74 near Lake Elsinore. *Weather permitting.*



Weeknight NIGHTLY road closures continue from 8:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m. between at Monte Vista, west of El Cariso Rd (PM 5.7) to Grand Ave (PM 11) in Lake Elsinore. All work is scheduled from Monday to Friday. Crews will work on excavation, wall placement and various activities. Day work may occur in shoulder areas. *Note: Work dependent on contractor receiving proper materials for each job function. These schedules can be changed, delayed or canceled at any time.*

Flagging/piloting operations will occur from 8:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. in both directions. The route will be **fully closed from 10:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m. from South Main Divide to Grand Ave in Lake Elsinore.** No access to non-residents will be provided after 10 p.m. except for emergency services for an emergency situation. Law enforcement will be on site. No access will be provided to and from Lake Elsinore, as crews will be performing excavation work. Residents will need to utilize a detour through Orange County if they are trying to get to and from Lake Elsinore.

These nightly closures will be needed due to the narrow two-lane configuration of Ortega Highway and limited shoulder width. The excavation work poses a

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potential hazard to motorist traveling near the active work zone. The nature of the slope work involves loosening and removing material above the roadway, which could increase the risk of debris reaching travel lanes, especially during clearing, grubbing and slope excavation operations. To proactively mitigate the issue, the roadway will be closed to ensure safety for all during 10 p.m. to 5 a.m., nightly Monday through Friday.

Additionally, this is a project to widen lanes and shoulders and add safety features, from just west of Monte Vista St. to Grand Ave. on Ortega Highway. Flagging operations are scheduled to occur at various locations both day and night. This may cause delays, so plan, as flagging will be performed in both directions and may take up to 20 minutes of wait time per side per location. Please reduce your speed when near work areas for the safety of crews and other drivers on the route. Signage will be placed ahead to indicate approaching roadway work.

UPCOMING - Please note that 55-hour FULL WEEKEND closures will be required for project activity. Dates will be shared once finalized via alert. There will be no 55-hr closures through the end of this year in 2025. Future closures will occur in 2026.

Use alternate routes I-5, I-15 and SR-91 as detours during closure hours. Visit quickmap.dot.ca.gov or download the mobile application to better plan your route.

NOTE: Remember to follow the posted speed limit on routes near the work areas following Construction Work Zone Speed Limit Reduction provisions.

Please remember to slow for the cone zone, being mindful of work along the route and taking precaution in flagging zones. One-way traffic zones will be directed via flagging operations. Work operations may cause significant vibrations and construction noise.

Know before you go! To stay on top of roadwork in the Inland Empire go to [Caltrans District 8](#) and sign up for commuter alerts. Follow us for the latest information on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#). To assist in planning your commute, view live traffic conditions using [QuickMap](#). To sign up for email alerts click [here](#)!

For those with sensory disabilities requiring alternate formats (i.e. Braille, large print, sign language interpreter, etc.) and those needing information in a language other than English, please contact Public Affairs at 909-383-4631 or TTY 711.

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