

Commuter Alert

Date: August 14, 2026

District: [08-1J450](#)

Alert #: 26-842

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For Immediate Release

Route 243 Mill and Overlay Pavement Safety Work Mountain Center to Banning

RIVERSIDE – The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) continues work on a \$16.9 million pavement safety project on State Route 243 (SR-243). This work is funded through Senate Bill 1 (SB1), the Road Repair and Accountability Act of 2017.

This project will improve road conditions with mainline and shoulder paving, guardrail enhancements, lighting and sign panel upgrades, storm drainage improvements, and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) curb ramps as part of the Complete Streets program.

Construction includes areas in and near Idyllwild, Pine Cove, and Fern Valley from the State Route 74 (SR-74) Junction near Mountain Center to Interstate 10 (I-10) Junction near Banning.

Week of August 17th

Monday – Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

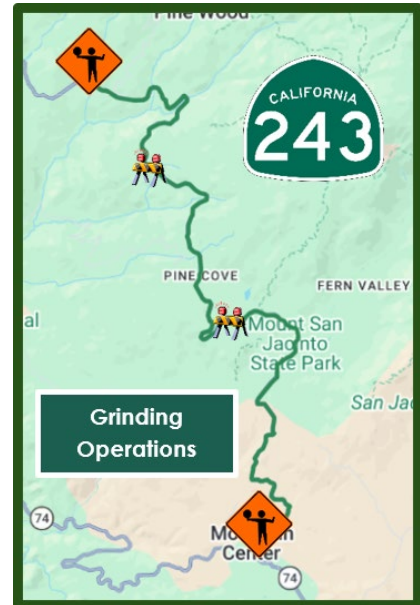
Crews will begin “profile grinding” operations for improvement of surface smoothness and texture.

Operations will start just north of Black Mountain Creek and head southward towards Mountain Center.

- Estimated two-mile closures per day.
 - One-way traffic control with flagging and pilot cars will be in effect.
- Plan-ahead and expect delays.

Approximate flagging wait times per side may take up to 20 minutes. Please be mindful of work area signage as the California Highway Patrol will enforce applicable laws and regulations. Proceed cautiously as work vehicles and crews may move in and out of shoulder areas.

#more#



Construction signs have been placed in the project zone, as well as clearings in shoulder areas and high visibility fencing for environmentally protected areas.

Project work is expected to be completed by winter 2026. All work is weather and material dependent.

Click [here](#) to sign up and receive project schedule updates.



Figure 1 Nightwork Paving



Figure 2 Paving at Keenwild Station

For more information about transportation and other infrastructure projects funded with state and federal investments, visit build.ca.gov

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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