

Highway 17 commute reportedly gets easier

SANTA CRUZ — The Rolling Stones' concerts notwithstanding, locals will not be able to get to Oakland via Highway 17 this weekend.

The car pool restrictions playing havoc with commuters this week will be in effect this weekend, as well. That's bad news for Rolling Stones' fans, who need to get to the Oakland Coliseum before the 4 p.m. concerts on both Saturday and Sunday.

The Highway 17 restrictions mean traffic over the mountains will be limited to car poolers of two or more between 5 a.m. and 9 a.m., and 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. Solo drivers are prohibited at all times, with the exception of Summit-area residents.

Primary alternate routes remain Highway 9, or Highway 152 in Watsonville to Highway 101.

The restrictions have not pleased

some commuters, who have been caught in mammoth traffic jams during the evening commute in Los Gatos. Some motorists on Monday and Tuesday reported commutes from Santa Clara Valley as long as six hours, with an average of two to three hours.

Santa Cruz County Transportation Commission Executive Di-

rector Linda Wilshusen reported Thursday that the commute appears to be "stabilizing." Wednesday night's commute took one Santa Cruzan just 75 minutes from San Jose.

Some 20,000-23,000 Santa Cruz County residents commute to jobs over the hill.

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residences in the San Lorenzo V
"We know that for people up h