

✓ ^{HIGHWAYS} Slow going on 17 this summer

Caltrans repaving will close lanes starting in July

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SANTA CRUZ — Going will be slow over Highway 17 this summer when Caltrans starts repaving the highway between Scotts Valley and Los Gatos.

Work on the 12-mile stretch of road, which will take six months to complete,

is scheduled to begin in mid-July, although preparatory work already has begun on the Los Gatos side of the hill.

The actual resurfacing will require the closing of one lane in each direction Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and until noon on Friday.

No roadwork will be done on weekends when tens of thousands of cars packed with Boogie boards and inner tubes snake their way over the mountain highway headed for Santa Cruz-area beaches.

There also will be no work scheduled the entire week of August 30 to September 8, according to Caltrans.

The state road department calls the resurfacing "preventative maintenance." The resurfacing must be done during the summer because they type of mix used must be put down during warm temperatures so it will stick," said Ed Enos, San Jose area superintendent.

Cost of the project is estimated at \$1,640,000.

Some 68,000 vehicles travel Highway 17 a day, according to Linda Wilshusen, executive director of the county Transportation Commission. There are about 25,000 commuters.

The extent of the delay the resurfac-

ing will cause will depend upon the amount of traffic at any particular time, Wilshusen said. But a good rule of thumb would be to allow for an additional 30 minutes.

She said Caltrans' timing is unfortunate, coming on the heels of massive traffic interruptions last summer season because of the Riverside Avenue Bridge reconstruction.

The Transportation Commission will discuss the project on Thursday. Wilshusen is recommending that the commission urge Caltrans to begin an ongoing public information program about the project as soon as possible.