

# Highway 1 speed limits to decrease

Sentinel staff report

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SANTA CRUZ — Travelers can expect a more leisurely drive along Highway 1 after new speed limit signs are installed. The speed limit is dropping back to 55 mph on the highway from the northern Santa Cruz city limits to the San Mateo County line.

The signs are expected to change today, according to the state Department of Transportation. Motorists are advised to drive at the posted speed limit until the signs are changed.

"We have listened to the concerns of area residents who have asked us to reconsider the 65 mph speed limit on Highway 1 north of Santa Cruz," said Orville Morgan, Caltrans division chief for maintenance and operations.

The limit was increased last September after Caltrans conducted a speed zone survey in April 1996.

"Although our previous speed zone survey for that section of highway indicated the 65 mph speed limit was safe and appropriate, we determined a lower speed limit may be more comfortable for motorists, and especially tourists who enjoy the scenic and recreational features of the area," Morgan said.

No accident or incident led to the change, according to Val Houdyshell, spokeswoman for Caltrans.

The department, she said, constantly monitors the highway system and listens to input from the community.

A similar change was made near Santa Barbara.