

placed beneath an Army flag.

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✓ CR Highways - 5-20-91 EP

Highway 17 project to proceed in August

Caltrans will go ahead with its plans to resurface Highway 17 between Scotts Valley and Los Gatos this summer — overriding the objections of the Santa Cruz tourism industry.

Caltrans officials in San Francisco made the decision yesterday to start the heavy construction on the over-the-hill freeway in August.

Caltrans crews are working on the road now, intermittently closing one of the two north or southbound lanes to traffic during the non-peak hours.

Santa Cruz County business interests lobbied state officials over the last several weeks, contending the construction-caused traffic delays will cut deeply into the county's summertime tourist revenues. Traffic jams, they said, might deter visitors from coming to the county.

State officials say the repaving — a three-month project — has to be done during the warm months.

The asphalt mixture used on the freeway won't stick properly to the old roadway if laid when temperatures are too cool.

During the repaving, one lane in each direction will be closed between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. with work ending at noon Fridays. There will be no weekend work and there will be a hiatus during the Labor Day holiday week.

The paving will cost \$1.8 million.

Three other Highway 17 projects will also start this summer.

Beginning in June, the ramps from Highway 17 to Highway 1 will be repaved and the southbound lanes from Scotts Valley to the interchange will get a new surface.

In the mountains, beginning in August, crews will start a \$1 million job to replace or repair all of the drainage pipes under the freeway.

Another \$800,000 contract will be awarded to widen the Summit Road on-ramps for safety reasons.

—Bob Smith