



NEWS RELEASE

Date: June 21, 2016
District: Ventura and Los Angeles counties
Contact: Michael Comeaux
Phone: (213) 897-9372

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Caltrans Projects Will Reduce Pollution From Stormwater Runoff

Completion Estimated in Spring/Summer 2017 on Highways 33 and 101

VENTURA — The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) is placing temporary concrete barriers along two highways in Ventura County in preparation for construction of low-profile, ground-level and underground installations to control and reduce pollution from stormwater runoff.

This month, contractors started placing the barriers known as “K-rail” on the shoulder of U.S. Highway 101 at several locations in Oxnard, Camarillo and Thousand Oaks, and along Highway 33 between Main Street in Ventura and Casitas Vista Road at Foster Park north of Ventura.

Caltrans plans to build a below-ground facility known as the Austin Vault Sand Filter at eight locations and install vegetated areas for pollution control, known as biofiltration strips and biofiltration swales, at 21 locations. Biofiltration strips use plants such as grasses, ground cover and shrubs to capture and biologically degrade pollutants carried by stormwater runoff.

Biofiltration strips also reduce the velocity and volume of stormwater runoff. Biofiltration swales are vegetated channels that receive and direct the concentrated flow of stormwater. Both methods are aesthetically pleasing because the vegetation makes it look like a landscaped roadside.

The Austin Vault Sand Filter removes fine sediment and particulate pollutants through two concrete-lined vaults – an initial sedimentation vault and a second filtering vault. The filter reduces runoff material including heavy metals, oil and grease, and bacteria.

The Caltrans work will include installation of devices to catch litter and large debris, and construction of drainage modifications and maintenance vehicle pull-outs. The work is estimated to be completed by spring or summer 2017 with a one-year plant establishment period. The K-rail will remain in place until approximately the end of this year.

The work is being performed under two contracts. One contractor is Granite Construction Inc. and the other is Ortiz Enterprises Inc. Caltrans reminds drivers to slow down and “**Be Work Zone Alert.**”

###



BE WORK ZONE ALERT

