

Date: Wednesday, August 31, 2011
District: 05 – Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, Monterey, San Benito and Santa Cruz Counties
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF BLACKIE ROAD AT HIGHWAY 101 BEGINS
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6**

Traffic will be detoured on Highways 156 and 183 to get between Blackie Road and Highway 101

MONTEREY COUNTY – On Tuesday, September 6, 2011, Granite Construction and MCM Construction, Caltrans' contractors for the 101 Prunedale Improvement Project, will close Blackie Road from Highway 101 to Borrromeo Drive for approximately two months.

The closure is necessary to install a new box culvert that will go underneath Blackie Road. Box culverts are used to channel water; in this case the new culvert will channel water from Prunedale Creek safely underneath Blackie Road, which should help with drainage in the area.

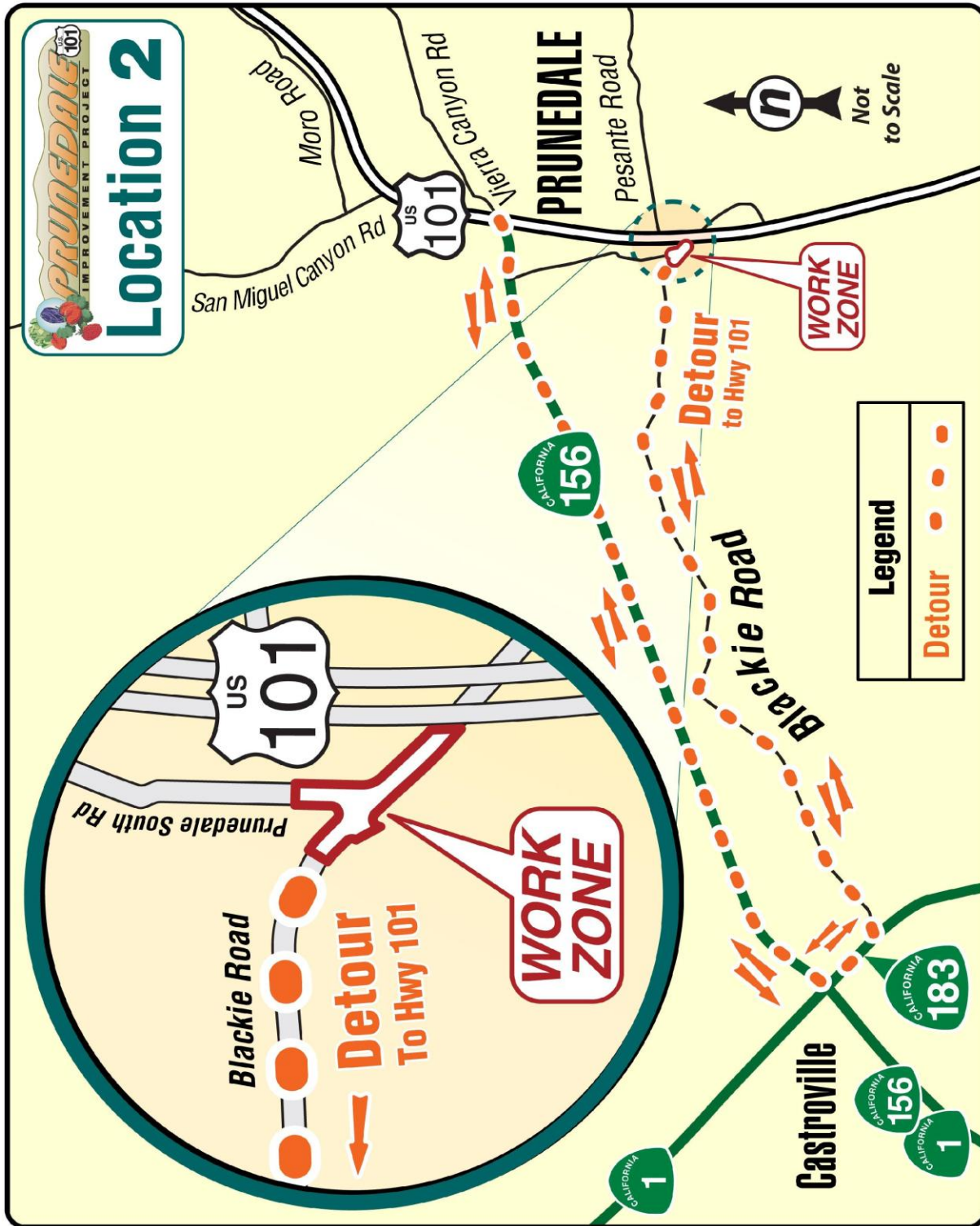
During construction there will be no entrance to Blackie Road from either Highway 101 or Prunedale South Road. Blackie Road at Prunedale South Road will be closed to all but emergency response vehicles.

Letters are being sent to residents and businesses in the area to let them know about the closure, which will mean out-of-direction travel for those who use Blackie Road to access Highway 101, and for those traveling on Highway 101 who need to reach addresses along the Blackie Road area. (Please see graphic below for area of closure and detour routes to/from Highway 101 to Blackie Road.)

This accelerated construction is necessary to install the new drainage culvert before the rainy season begins. By closing Blackie Road completely, the work can be done in only two months. The other option is to have this section of Blackie Road torn up with construction for at least six months, with traffic controls in place; this option would also delay the overall 101 Prunedale Improvement Project.

This road closure and detour was planned and coordinated with Monterey County Public Works, North County Fire District, North Monterey County Unified School District, and Monterey County Supervisor Lou Calcagno.





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