

News Release

Date: September 4, 2025
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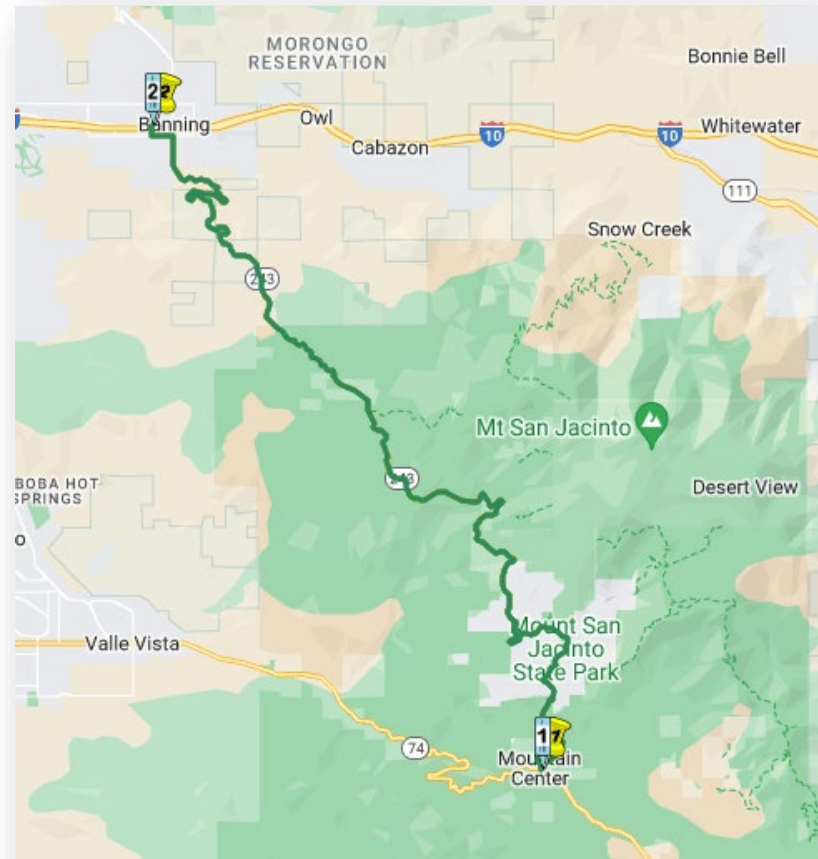
For Immediate Release

Route 243 Mill and Overlay Pavement Safety Work Coming to Mountain Center this Summer 2025

RIVERSIDE – The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) announces work on a \$16.9 M pavement safety project on State Route 243 (SR-243). This work is funded through Senate Bill (SB) 1, the Road Repair and Accountability Act of 2017.

This project will improve road conditions with a pavement mill and overlay, shoulder paving, guardrail enhancements, lighting and sign panel upgrades, storm drainage culvert improvements, and curb ramp upgrades to Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards to improve access for those with disabilities as part of Complete Streets elements. These elements aim to ensure safe accessibility for all roadway users.

Construction signs have been placed in the project zone, as well as clearing in shoulder areas and placement of high visibility fencing for environmentally protected areas. Work operations will occur near Idyllwild, Pine Cove, and Fern Valley from the State Route 74 Junction near Mountain Center to Interstate 10 Junction near Banning. Project work is expected to be complete by winter 2026. All work is weather and material dependent.



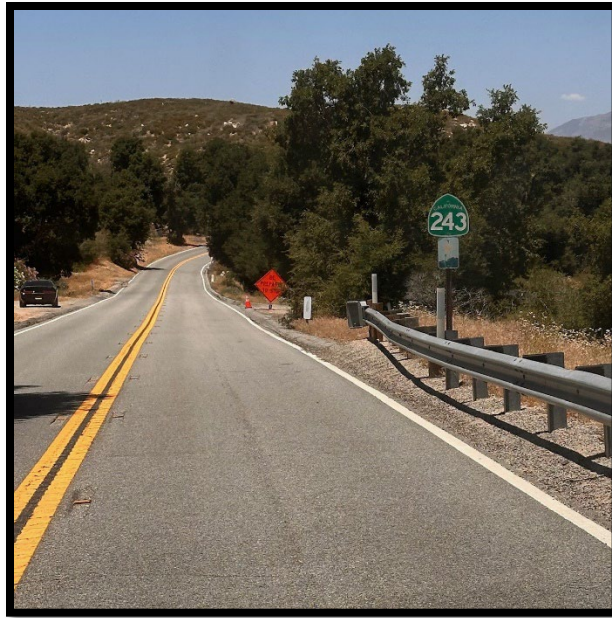


Figure 1 July 2025 State Route 243

Week of September 7th Work Schedule: Several daytime work activities with lane closures and flagging operations will occur various locations on SR-243 throughout the week between the hours 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. The work activities include upgrading the new storm drainage system near Pine Crest Ave. Removing and replacing guardrail operations will also resume near Lawler Lodge. At the same time, removing and upgrading curb ramp to ADA Standards near Idyllwild School will begin during the week with the closure of pedestrian walkway near curb ramp. Temporary pedestrian access will be established during construction. Night and weekend work may occasionally be required from 8:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m. for weeknight and from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. for weekend.

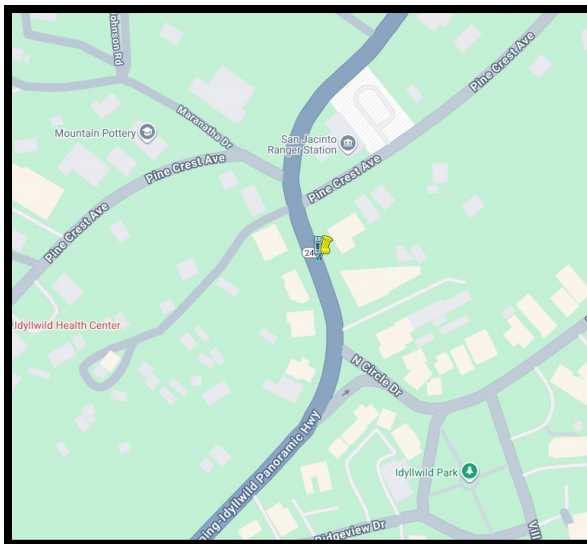


Figure 2 Pine Crest Ave Map Location



Figure 3 Lawler Lodge Map Location



Figure 4 Idyllwild School Map Location



Figure 4 Idyllwild School curb ramp photo

What to Expect: Expect delays as traffic control will be located at various locations. Approximate flagging wait times per side are expected to be 20 min. Plan-ahead and please be mindful of work area signage as law enforcement will enforce applicable laws and regulations. Please proceed cautiously as work vehicles and crews may move in and out of shoulder areas.

Construction schedule subject to material availability and weather conditions.

Click [here](#) to sign up and receive project schedule updates.

For more information about transportation and other infrastructure projects funded with state and federal investments, visit build.gov.ca.

Know before you go! To stay on top of roadwork in the Inland Empire go to [Caltrans District 8](#) and sign up for commuter alerts.

For those with sensory disabilities requiring alternate formats (i.e. Braille, large print, sign language interpreter, etc.) and those needing information in a language other than English, please contact Public Affairs at 909-383-4631 or TTY 711.

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