Road Construction: Moke Bridge work scheduled to begin

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By The Record
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Motorists traveling west on Highway 12 toward Rio Vista will begin to see work in earnest on the Mokelumne River Bridge project beginning this month and should be aware that in coming months, travel might be impacted by the work.

The California Department of Transportation is replacing the bridge deck this year, and some of the work will cause delays.

Workers are scheduled to install a protective cover and bird control measures from Monday through Feb. 13, and this is not expected to have an impact on traffic over the two-lane bridge that connects San Joaquin and Sacramento counties over the river.

But later work will have an impact.

From March 2 through May 29, only one lane will be open and will alternate between westbound and eastbound traffic. During this period, two weekend-long closures are scheduled: March 6-9 and April 10-13.

After this, the bridge is expected to be open to two-way traffic through the duration of the project with the exception of four other weekend-long closures: Oct. 23-26, Oct. 30 to Nov. 2, Nov. 6-9 and Nov. 13-16.

The river under the bridge will be closed to large marine vessels from March 2 through June 26, and detours will be posted.

As for drivers who might become frustrated with delays on the bridge, Caltrans suggests they take alternate routes on Interstate 80 or Highway 4. Or they can take a detour that will add 30 miles (up to 45 minutes) by taking Highway 160 north to Walnut Grove Road to I-5 south for eastbound traffic; and I-5 north to Walnut Grove Road to Highway 160 south for westbound traffic.

The project is scheduled for completion in November.

State Route 12

MOKELUMNE RIVER BRIDGE PROJECT

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) is preparing to construct a project on State Route 12 (SR-12) at the Mokelumne River Bridge (a Swing-Truss Drawbridge constructed in 1942) at the San Joaquin/Sacramento County line.

- **Stage 1 - Bridge Deck Replacement (March - November 2015)**
  Replaces the existing aging concrete bridge deck with cast in place concrete.
- **Stage 2 - Control House Rehabilitation (March - November 2015)**
  Removes and replaces the existing electrical elements and modifies the beams below the control house providing six inches to nine inches of additional clearance for trucks.

How This Will Affect The Travelling Public

Because the majority of the work being done is above or under the travel way, some full closures of bridge are necessary to ensure the safety of both workers and motorists. Caltrans will close the highway and bridge for 6 weekends, from 10:00 p.m. on Fridays to 5:00 a.m. Mondays.

- **Install protective cover and bird control measures:** • **February 2 - 13, 2015 (No traffic impact)**
- **One way traffic control:** • **March 2, 2015 - May 29, 2015**
- **Two 55 hour weekend closures:** • **March 6 - 9, 2015** • **April 10 - 13, 2015**
- **Four 55 hour weekend closures:** • **October 23 - 26, 2015** • **October 30 - November 2, 2015** • **November 6 - 9, 2015** • **November 13 - 16, 2015**

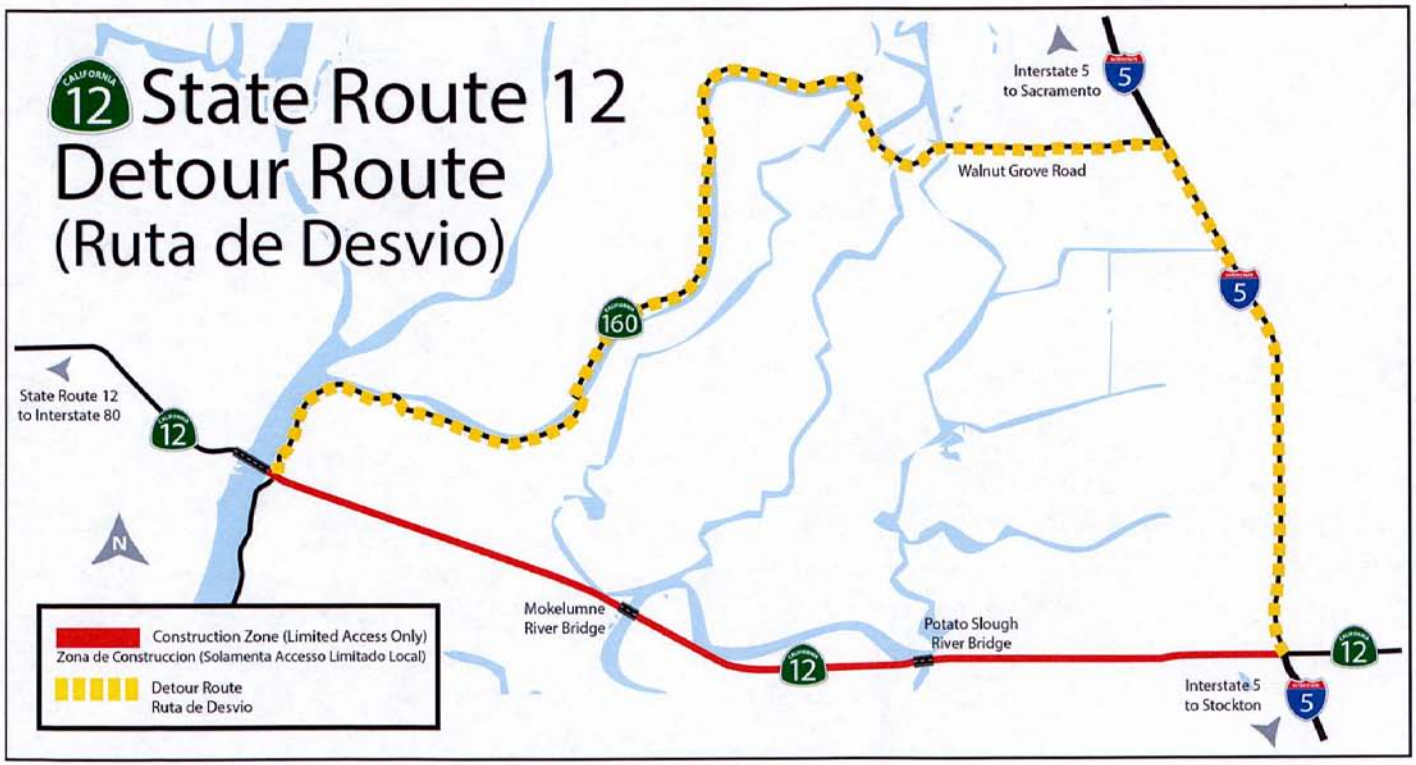
Anticipated Project Completion Date: November 2015

The bridge is closed to large marine vessels March 2 - June 26, 2015. Detours will be posted. Motorists should consider Interstate 80 (I-80), I-5 and SR-4 as alternate routes and should allow additional travel time due to the detour. The signed detour for the area will be SR-160 north to Walnut Grove Road, then to I-5 (a 30-mile/45-minute detour).

Current truck restrictions apply. CA LEGAL with kingpin to rear axle over 30 feet are not recommended on SR-160. Trucks are encouraged to use I-5 and I-80 as an alternate route. The amount of days for full closure has been minimized to include only the work required. Other work will be done by one-way traffic control.

This construction season window is given by United States Coast Guard to accommodate Marine traffic during summer season. **Construction is scheduled to begin as listed, but is subject to change due to traffic incidents, weather, availability of equipment and/ or materials and construction related issues.**

For more information regarding this project, please contact the Caltrans, District 10 Public Affairs office at (209) 948-7977 or district10publicaffairs@dot.ca.gov



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