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**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**



FROM: Executive Office

SUBMITTAL DATE:
July 5, 2005

SUBJECT: Status report on evacuation plan in the event of a major road closure on Interstate 10 between Arizona and Los Angeles.

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board receive and file this report on the June 30, 2005 meeting to discuss alternative routes on Interstate 10.

BACKGROUND: At the June 21, 2005 Board meeting, the Executive Office was directed to convene a meeting of the various agencies and entities involved with the approximately 12 hour closure of Interstate 10 in the Banning-Cabazon area. The meeting was held on June 30, 2005.

Continued.

Departmental Concurrence

Gary M. Christmas
Gary M. Christmas
Deputy County Executive Officer

FINANCIAL DATA	Current F.Y. Total Cost:	\$	In Current Year Budget:
	Current F.Y. Net County Cost:	\$	Budget Adjustment:
	Annual Net County Cost:	\$	For Fiscal Year:

SOURCE OF FUNDS:	Positions To Be Deleted Per A-30	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Requires 4/5 Vote	<input type="checkbox"/>

C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION:
APPROVE.

County Executive Office Signature
Kenneth W. [Signature]

- Dep't Recomm.: Policy
- Per Exec. Ofc.: Consent
- Consent
- Policy

Prev. Agn. Ref.: | **District:** | **Agenda Number:**

2.5

Form 11
Status Report on Evacuation Plan
July 5, 2005

Participants at the meeting included representatives from the following groups:

County Executive Office
County Sheriff
County Transportation
County Office of Emergency Services
CALTRANS
California Highway Patrol
Morongo Band of Mission Indians
City of Banning
City of Beaumont

The main focus of the meeting was to develop procedures and plans to deal with any future occurrence that may result in the closure of Interstate 10 in the Cabazon area. All parties agreed that the issues raised by the recent Interstate 10 closure should be dealt with in an expedited fashion.

Participants agreed to work on two specific action items:

- 1) County Transportation will work with CALTRANS and other affected agencies to develop alternate evacuation routes in case of future freeway closures in the area.
- 2) The County Office of Emergency Services will work with the CHP and other affected agencies to develop an expedited communication plan of communication for future evacuations or emergencies in the Cabazon region.

Resulting updates will be provided to the Board.

I-10 gridlock fixes sought

FREEWAY: Officials are seeking ways to prevent tie-ups like the one near Cabazon last month.

BY PAUL DeCARLO
THE PRESS-ENTERPRISE

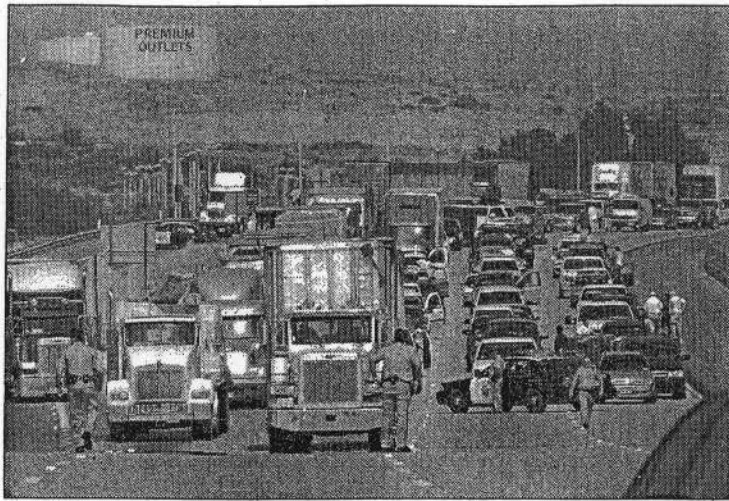
State and local officials say they are making a solution to gridlock in the Cabazon area a regional priority in the wake of a recent 12-hour freeway shutdown that snarled traffic and disrupted lives.

Officials met last week to weigh options for handling full and partial closures of Interstate 10 through the San Geronimo Pass, which has limited exits. Alternate freeway route possibilities for the I-10 corridor between Cabazon and Banning, including a possible new bypass route, are also being considered.

"We're taking it very seriously," said Gary Christmas, Riverside County's deputy executive officer. "There is a lot of groundwork that has to be laid."

The area in question is between Fields Road in Cabazon and Hargrave Street in Banning on either side of the freeway, said Juan Perez, Riverside County's deputy director of transportation. Caltrans and county officials are researching potential bypass options, he said.

Last month's police chase, shootout and crime scene investigation along I-10 closed westbound lanes of the crucial



THE PRESS-ENTERPRISE

Officials say they are working on a solution to gridlock in the Cabazon area. A shootout and crime-scene investigation last month closed westbound lanes along Interstate 10 for hours. The closure came after law enforcement officers and a Coachella Valley homicide suspect fired at least 90 rounds at one another, authorities said.

Inland thoroughfare.

The closure came after law enforcement officers and a Coachella Valley homicide suspect fired at least 90 rounds at one another, authorities said. No one was injured during the shootout, but police said shell casings were scattered across all westbound lanes.

Investigators toiled for 12 hours processing two crime scenes straddling I-10's Fields Road offramp, while traffic backed up for more than 10 miles.

Law enforcement officials have maintained that there wasn't anything that could have been done to expedite the in-

vestigation.

"You can't compare the inconvenience to the integrity of the investigation," said Sheriff Bob Doyle. "If that evidence is flawed, you don't want this guy walking out the door."

With the highway closed, motorists faced limited options. The California Highway Patrol said a 5-ton weight limit had been imposed because a bridge was out on the Morongo Indian Reservation, keeping big rigs from exiting the freeway.

A tiny frontage road south of I-10 was almost immediately choked with other vehicles — no match for four lanes of freeway traffic.

"We were looking at every option to facilitate the movement of traffic but our options were limited," said Border Division Assistant Chief Karen Douglas by phone. "Without changing the entire infrastructure, there is nothing we could do."

Lt. Roman Finale said signs informed motorists of the closure beginning at the Arizona border. They could have taken Highway 95 to Interstate 40 from Blythe or Highway 74 from the Coachella Valley, he said.

Halting traffic prior to the backup, for example, would only be permitted if public safety was at risk, he added. Turning motorists around in the center divide would be "completely unsafe and unworkable."

KKW Trucking, a Pomona-based big rig hauler, had 11 trucks stranded in the closure.

Fleet manager Chris Shaffer estimated the company lost at least \$6,000 in revenue, with deliveries arriving up to 10 hours late.

"When we found out the following morning we were making phone calls like crazy," Shaffer said. "We had a lot of angry customers."

Banning resident Marilyn Hendricks, meanwhile, was just one in a sea of peeved motorists.

"I was in dire agony," Hendricks said during a recent phone interview. "I'm 66 years old and I had to go to the bathroom in the dirt."

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