



Big Bear Grizzly

Big Bear Lake (San Bernardino County) California

The 411 on the 330 closure



Grizzly file photo

Traffic along State Route 330 will be closed to traffic Sept. 9-20 to construct a rock fall barrier and drainage, denying access to Big Bear using that route during the two-week period. Alternate routes to Big Bear include State Route 38 from Mentone and State Route 18 from Lucerne Valley.

Roadwork, road closures on town hall agenda

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Caltrans is spending millions on mountain roadways to replace bridge railings and install rock fall barriers. The projects require traffic flagging, stoplights and a temporary closure, all of which are causing concern for Big Bear.

On Wednesday, July 31, Caltrans representatives will discuss the projects and the closures during a town hall public meeting at the Big Bear Lake Performing Arts Center beginning at 6 p.m. The Big Bear Chamber of Commerce is urging Big Bear resi-

dents and business owners to attend the meeting and share concerns with Caltrans.

The rock fall barrier is a \$5 million project on State Route 330. Rock debris is being removed from the slope, the slope excavated and reduced, and two rock-fall barriers installed. Drainage will also be installed at specific post-miles where the barriers are being placed, and traffic delays are expected.

To accomplish the work, State Route 330 will close between Sept. 9 and Sept. 20. During the full closure, crews will perform rock scaling, slope excavations and construct the barriers.

In April, Caltrans began a \$3.3 mil-

lion project to replace bridge railings on State Route 330. This project is estimated to be complete in the summer of 2020.

A solar traffic signal is in place at the City Creek Bridge site allowing one lane in each direction of travel. The signal is timed for approximately 90 seconds in each direction. Delays are based on the number of vehicles in the queue, and delays could be extensive during high traffic volume periods. Motorists are advised to use Highway 38 from Redlands to Highway 18 from the high desert to avoid delays.

Ellen Clarke, executive director of the Big Bear Chamber of Commerce,

said she is hopeful that business owners attend the July 31 meeting and firmly, but politely, tell Caltrans how weekend closures affect their bottom line. There are two weekends within the planned September closure. If the closures are left unchecked, Clarke said, businesses lose money and could end up closing, which adversely affects the entire community.

Clarke admits she doesn't think there will be any change in the current project and the planned closure dates to allow for traffic to flow on weekends, as it is too late for changes. She

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