

Hiochi feels effects of road project

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A California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) pavement improvement project continues along U.S. Highway 199 this weekend and should reach Hiouchi by Monday.

Hiochi is about 5 miles east of U.S. Highway 101.

The grinding and repaving began after Labor Day, planned for a stretch of Highway 199 from mileposts 4.2-11. Post 11 is about halfway between Hiouchi and Gasquet.

All of the work is performed overnight because of the volume of traffic during the day, said Myles Cochrane, a Caltrans public information officer.

“While this work has already been in progress, we would like Hiouchi residents to be aware the job will move into town Monday night,” said Cochrane in a press release.

One-way traffic control will be in effect in the area from 7 p.m.-7 a.m. for three nights. Motorists should anticipate 20-minute delays and residents should anticipate project noise.

“We realize the delays and noise will be an inconvenience, but the end result will be worthwhile,” said Cochrane.

He added the improvements on this stretch of Highway 199 in Caltrans’ District 1 are part of the state’s \$2.4-million road maintenance project, with sections of highway selected based on need and which have gone the longest without repairs.

The work was interrupted last week because of rain, Cochrane said. It is slated to be completed by mid-October.

Along U.S. Highway 101 southeast of Brookings in the Smith River area, a temporary traffic signal has been installed to direct one-way traffic through the Ritter Creek project site. That work is to fix a failing culvert.

The repair is part of a \$3.25-million overall culvert system improvement that included work along U.S. Highway 197.

Another regional project is taking place at the closure of the Collier Tunnel Rest Area along U.S. Highway 199 between the Oregon and California border. Crews are rebuilding the wastewater treatment system at that site.