

# ***NEWS***

*From the Office of*

## **Brad Mitzelfelt**

Supervisor, First District  
San Bernardino County

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### **New Bridge on Rock Springs Road to Take Major Step**

SAN BERNARDINO – A bridge where Rock Springs Road crosses the Mojave River is expected to take a major step toward becoming a reality Tuesday when the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors will begin seeking a consultant to design the bridge and conduct the environmental review.

“This is a project that Victor Valley residents have needed for years,” said First District Supervisor Brad Mitzelfelt. “This bridge will ensure that commuters have easy access between Apple Valley and Hesperia regardless of weather and will prevent further congestion on Bear Valley Road during major storms.”

Rock Springs Road is a major east-west corridor between Apple Valley and Hesperia that carries up to 12,000 vehicles per day, many of them on their way to or from Main Street in Hesperia and Bear Valley Road in Apple Valley. In the past, the asphalt road surface frequently washed out where it crosses the Mojave River, and in the heavy storms of January 2005, the 1,100-foot-long crossing was destroyed. When County Public Works rebuilt the crossing later that year, it was designed with large concrete culverts and a sloping concrete road surface that could withstand heavy flows without damage. But the crossing still needs to be closed during major storms when water overtops the road, requiring motorists to take a 12-mile detour.

At the request of Supervisor Mitzelfelt, the County is now pursuing funds through the Federal Highway Bridge Program to construct a four-lane bridge. The first step will come Tuesday when the Board of Supervisors is expected to authorize a Request for Proposals to seek a consultant to design the bridge and conduct the required environmental review. Once the project is designed and “shelf-ready” it will be more competitive for the federal funds. The cost of the contract is expected to be about \$2 million. The contract will be awarded in late January with the design and environmental review due to be completed about 18 months after that.

The total cost of the project is projected to be about \$20 million.