

PRESS ADVISORY

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MAC Meeting Sparks Further Consideration of Vehicle Restrictions on Hwy 138

CRESTLINE – Sept. 27, 2011 –Caltrans officials plan to reevaluate options for possible vehicle restrictions on a winding, narrow portion of Highway 138 following discussions that took place at the Crest Forest Municipal Advisory Council (MAC) meeting on Thursday, Sept. 22.

“The MAC is always a terrific forum for residents to express their opinions about issues that affect their community, and the Caltrans heard residents loud and clear at last week’s meeting,” San Bernardino County Second District Supervisor Janice Rutherford said.

During the meeting, Caltrans District 8 Director Ray Wolfe provided MAC members and residents in attendance with an update on Caltrans’ evaluations of possible vehicle restrictions on Highway 138 between Silverwood Lake and Crestline.

“We listened to representatives of the community express concerns about how vehicle restrictions would affect a possible scenic highway designation, recreational access to Lake Silverwood from Crestline, and local business operations,” Wolfe said. “We are now considering the viability of an intermediate level of highway improvements designed to reduce impacts to the community. Restrictions will still be necessary, but not to the level currently proposed.”

Residents concerned about large trucks blocking the highway during a fire evacuation prompted Caltrans to assess whether to implement enforceable vehicle restrictions on Highway 138. Currently, there are signs advising drivers of large vehicles such as tractor trailers with lengths exceeding 30 feet from kingpin to rear axle to avoid using the road.

Residents at the MAC meeting were divided on whether Caltrans should implement enforceable vehicle restrictions on Highway 138. Some said large vehicles are a safety hazard while others argued restrictions could impact businesses by forcing delivery trucks and others to use Highway 18 to access the Crestline communities, which would add more than 30 miles to the trip.

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