

02/10/2016 Caltrans press release - spraying of herbicides to begin in 6 days

-----> **Email from Caltrans to POW SMC**

From: "Navarro, Gidget R@DOT" <gidget.navarro@dot.ca.gov>
Date: Feb 10, 2016 11:22 AM
Subject: Fire Prevention/Pilot Program Route 84 & Route 35 (San Mateo County)
To: Patty Mayall

Date: February 10, 2016
District: 4 - Oakland
Contact: Gidget Navarro
Phone: [510-286-5574](tel:510-286-5574)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Fire Prevention on State Route 84 and State Route 35 in San Mateo County

San Mateo County- Caltrans District 4, in partnership with Cal-Fire and California Conservation Corps (CCC), will conduct a pilot fire prevention abatement in order to maintain a shaded firebreak area of control alongside State Route 84 (SR-84). CCC and Caltrans crews will be manually cutting and removing low-lying tree branches, weeds and undergrowth to reduce the potential for fires. Crews will be using power equipment and chain saws, as well as hand tools, to clear the Right-of-Way. These combined resources will allow Caltrans to accomplish the work this year in a manner that serves the interest of all parties.

When lane closures are required, one-way traffic control will be used for motorists needing to travel safely through the work zone. The work schedule and project limits are as follows:

- From the State Route 84 / State Route 35 interchange to SR-84 / State Route 1.
- Changeable message signs (CMS) will be in place prior to operations.
- Work is anticipated to start Tuesday, February 16.
- Crews will work Tuesday through Thursday for four consecutive weeks.
- Spot spraying of pesticides will be conducted when deemed necessary (see below)
- Crews will comply with the "No Spray-Zone" areas of private properties.
- The application of any chemicals will be in small areas and by hand or small equipment. **No broadcast spraying.**
- If necessary, the project schedule may be extended.

Caltrans anticipates using the following chemicals: *a post-emergent mix of Capstone, Accord XT, and Activator 90 Pro-Spreader. These are considered preventative measures for re-sprouting of Scotch/French broom, jubata grass and any other woody noxious material. Spot treatments to be applied after manual removal. Crews will abide by permitted "No Spray" signs on private property outside state Right-of-Way. Work schedule is dependent on weather conditions.*

Please be alert for workers and "Slow for the Cone Zone." For the latest road conditions, try Caltrans Quick Map: <http://quickmap.dot.ca.gov>.

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Gidget Navarro
Caltrans Public Affairs
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San Mateo County
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-----> **Email to Caltrans from POW SMC**

From: **patty mayall**
Date: Thu, Feb 11, 2016 at 9:34 AM
Subject: Re: Fire Prevention/Pilot Program Route 84 & Route 35 (San Mateo County)
To: "Navarro, Gidget R@DOT" <gidget.navarro@dot.ca.gov>

Thank You, Gidget, and Caltrans for this Notice.

I sent the Notice to our group email list last night and have received mixed responses and some questions that I have listed below. Given that many people will want to post No Spray signs and this is a holiday weekend, I am concerned that they will not have ample time to make and post their signs before Tuesday. **It would be helpful to know exactly where and when the Spot Spraying will occur, please.**

Many thanks for stating that "No Broadcast spraying" will be done in the next weeks on the area of Hwy.84, west of Hwy.35 to Hwy.1.

Will broadcast spraying be done on Hwy.84, east of Hwy.35 and on other San Mateo County state highways in the next weeks, as we know this is the time of year it occurs ? Has it already been done, and if so, where ?

We would greatly appreciate those answers and clarification of some of the information in the Notice, as soon as possible :

Given that Caltrans does know what chemicals are planned for use, then **it must be known where the Spot Spraying will occur, please specify WHERE for residents' and the public's right to know.**

The Notice states, "Crews will abide by permitted "No Spray" signs on private property outside state Right-of-Way". **What is meant by "permitted"?**

Residents emailed me asking : **Does Caltrans spray (spot or otherwise) on private property ? and What is the exact area of "state Right-of Way"?**

Our community and all people using the roads greatly value the mowing work for visibility, fire prevention, and safety. We support and appreciate this effort as most effective for all purposes without the toxic broadcast spraying which would put our health, water sources, and watershed at risk.

With gratitude,

Patty Mayall
Director, Protect Our Watershed San Mateo County
www.protectourwatershed.org

-----> **Email to our POW SMC community with instructions on how to help**

From: **patty mayall**
Date: Thu, Feb 12, 2016 at 9:34 AM
Subject: Re: Fire Prevention/Pilot Program Route 84 & Route 35 (San Mateo County)
To: Undisclosed recipients on POW email list

Greetings All,

My letter to Caltrans, above, will hopefully give some answers regarding the Notice from Caltrans sent yesterday. I think this is GOOD news, as they are stating that NO broadcast spraying is planned for Hwy.84, west of Hwy.35 to Hwy.1...for now. As we know from many years on this issue, seeing is believing, so in the next weeks, please observe, document, photo or video if you do see the Spot spraying being done, or if you see any broadcast spraying. Let Caltrans and our representatives know what you think of this. Please send this notification to others and on local group sites.

It would be best to POST your NO Spray signs NOW along Hwy. 84. You can download and print them from our website, if needed.

Please print out the Caltrans Notice and post on local bulletin boards, Post Offices, and anywhere possible to help notify people. Hand-write in bold letters at the top : Post No Spray signs ! and highlight the last paragraph.

We need to watch and document what will be done in the next 4 weeks along Hwy.84 and on all the other state highway. Please keep me posted, and I will do the same.

With gratitude,
Patty Mayall
Director, Protect Our Watershed San Mateo County
www.protectourwatershed.org

|-----> Email from Caltrans

From: "Silva, Mariela@DOT" <Mariela.Silva@dot.ca.gov>
Date: Feb 12, 2016 2:24 PM
Subject: Response to Email About Fire Prevention/Pilot Program Route 84 & Route 35 (San Mateo County)
To: "pattymayall"
Cc: "Navarro, Gidget R@DOT" <gidget.navarro@dot.ca.gov>

Hello Ms. Mayall,

I am writing in response to your email to Gidget Navarro about the spot spraying that will occur on Route 84 and Route 35 over the next few weeks. I am working with Gidget to answer your questions and concerns.

Crews are set to start working on Tuesday, February 16, every Tuesday through Thursday for 4 consecutive weeks. The tentative end date is March 10th. If needed and hours are available, work may extend beyond March 10th. Crews will concentrate on densely forage areas first and then more grassy areas after. They will maintain areas around guardrails, signs, and site distance curves as well. Spot spraying will occur as needed on Route 84 and Route 35 to prevent the re-sprouting of Scotch/French broom, jubata grass and any other woody noxious material. Spot spraying will be applied after their manual removal. The spot spraying will be contained to the areas being worked on from the State Route 84 / State Route 35 interchange to SR-84 / State Route 1 as needed. No *broadcast spraying *is to occur during this year.

Private property will not be sprayed and crews will honor all "No Spray" signs. The Right-of-Way extends between 35-50 feet from the center line on Route 84 and Route 35.

I hope this answers all of your questions.

Mariela Silva