

State Route 26 work to start

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Tree removal along State Route 26 near the intersection of Country View Drive and St. Andrews Road is scheduled to begin this week.

This work is the first phase of a \$1.4 million safety project to install left turn lanes at those intersections, said Caltrans Public Information Officer Skip Allum.

The tree removal work is being scheduled from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. to disrupt traffic as little as possible, especially during commute and school transportation hours, Allum said.

The construction phase is scheduled to begin June 6 with completion in the fall, depending on the weather. George Reed Construction was awarded the contract.

Allum has been calling businesses in the area to inform them of the impending work.

When construction resumes in June, the 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. work hours have been approved, but that could be changed since school will be out, Allum added.

The safety project is expected to eliminate the bottleneck that occurs on the narrow stretch of State Route 26 in between the two intersections. Those two intersections have been the scenes of numerous rear-end collisions.

A related project, signalization of the intersection at State Route 26 and Vista Del Lago Drive has been delayed a year. That project has been pushed back to summer of 2017 at the earliest, Allum said. In the meantime, PG&E will be doing preliminary utility work in the area.