

INTERSECTION WORK DELAYED

By ***The Record***
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VALLEY SPRINGS - Construction on a long-awaited improvement to the intersection of Highways 12 and 26 in Valley Springs is now expected to begin in 2015 after new California Department of Transportation rules forced additional work on the right-of-way acquisition stage of the project.

The Calaveras County Board of Supervisors on Tuesday unanimously approved spending up to \$65,089 for updating studies of contaminated parcels and other work that must be modified. Environmental studies and other work to prepare for right-of-way acquisition had been completed when the new Caltrans rules required additional work, Calaveras County Public Works Director Tom Garcia said in a report to supervisors.

At one time, transportation planners had envisioned a substantial widening of the highways and expansion of the intersection, which is now often the site of backed-up traffic.

But in 2010, county leaders and Caltrans officials reached a compromise that will use a much less expensive plan to do several relatively simple improvements to speed traffic through the intersection, in particular a nonstopping right-turn lane from eastbound Highway 12 to southbound Highway 26.

At that time, Garcia had said it was possible the improvements could be completed by 2012.

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