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The Valley Oaks Intersection Project is nearing completion and Caltrans is working with the shopping center's owner to solve the flooding problem at the site.

Downtown traffic signal could be completed by end of month

By Nick Baptista

Work to complete and begin operating of a new traffic signal in downtown Valley Springs is entering the home stretch.

Dubbed The Valley Oaks Intersection Project by Caltrans, the traffic signal is

scheduled to be fully erected by the end of April, according to Caltrans Public Information Officer Roland Armstrong, but it will not be operational until PG&E provides service.

"Caltrans is in the process of

scheduling for PG&E to provide the service to activate the traffic signal and is awaiting a confirmed date for service to be provided," Armstrong said.

A preliminary inspection has been

(See Page 18)

Signal

From Page 1

performed by PG&E and that inspection passed, he added.

Work began at the intersection of State Route 12/26 and the north entrance to the Valley Oaks Shopping Center last August and was scheduled to be completed last fall.

However, "due to delays in the availability of electrical material and suspension during winter due to weather conditions, this project could not be completed by Fall 2025," he said.

Although construction has stretched into this spring, "the project is currently within budget, with a total cost of roughly \$3,029,548.88 for all roadway improvements," according to the Caltrans spokesman.

Caltrans is providing an Emergency Vehicle Detection System for the Calaveras

Consolidated Fire Protection District's downtown station to have control over the traffic lights as they require in emergencies. This system will allow the fire station to push a button that turns the traffic signal light red for all directions and allows fire trucks to leave the station safely with traffic stopped in all directions.

The intersection going into the shopping center has been prone to flooding in even the slightest of rains.

"Caltrans has been in contact with the property owner and is working on a solution with them regarding this issue," Armstrong said.

A site of numerous accidents over the years, "The project proposes to reduce the number and severity of broadside collisions at this location through intersection control improvements," Caltrans stated in a description of the project.

George Reed Construction of Modesto has the contract for the project.