

More equipment needed before downtown VS signal lights turned on

By Nick Baptista / The Valley Springs News / July 10, 2026



The traffic signal lights at the Valley Oaks Shopping Center may be operational in September.

It may be another three months before the traffic signal in downtown Valley Springs is operational. Construction crews completed most of the work in April. However, installation of an “Emergency Vehicle Detection System” or EVP for short, needs to be completed before the traffic lights are turned on.

Calaveras Consolidated Fire Protection District didn’t want the signal active until the EVP system was in place because they were worried about safely getting their equipment out during an emergency without the ability to control the light, according to Caltrans’ project manager on the job.

CalCo Fire has its Valley Springs station adjacent to the new traffic signal at State Routes 12/26 and the north entrance/exit to the Valley Oaks Shopping Center.

“The EVP equipment has been ordered and is not expected to arrive until early September,” the project manager said. “I’d anticipate the signal will be operational at the end of September. It should take approximately 10 working days to complete the EVP install.”

Dubbed The Valley Oaks Intersection Project by Caltrans, work began at the intersection last August and was scheduled to be completed last fall.

Although construction stretched into this spring, “the project is currently within budget, with a total cost of roughly \$3,029,548.88 for all roadway improvements,” Caltrans reported in April.

The Emergency Vehicle Detection System will allow the fire station to push a button that turns the traffic signal light to red for all directions and allows fire trucks to leave the station safely with traffic stopped in all directions

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.