



Hwy 76 improvements completed; ribbon cutting set for September 16 at 3 pm

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Northern San Diego County -Granite Construction is pleased to announce the completion of widening and straightening of a key 1.3-mile stretch of the Hwy 76 from Interstate 15 east towards Pala. The project entailed widening the existing roadway from a 2 lane road to a 4 lane from the I-15 interchange to the east 1.3 miles toward the Pala Casino Spa Resort. The widening is intended to accommodate traffic from Granite Construction's Rosemary's Mountain Quarry. Commuter safety was a major roadway design feature and by realigning the roadway, taking out some of the existing dangerous bends, visitors to the Pala Casino Spa Resort and other destinations in the area will experience a safer and quicker trip.

The Pala Band of Mission Indian's 11,000-acre reservation is located about 5 miles east of I-15 on Hwy 76. A majority of the 918 members of the tribe live and work on the reservation. "The Pala Indian Tribe is proud to work with Granite, Caltrans and the County of San Diego to help fund this public roadway", stated Robert Smith, Chairman of Pala Band of Mission Indians. "We trust that this will be a starting point for improving all of Hwy 76 so that citizen's of San Diego County can safely travel from the San Diego Mountains to the coast. It may have taken another 10 years to do this if we had to wait on public funding."

Caltrans, Pala Band of Mission Indians, San Diego County and Granite will host a ribbon cutting ceremony at the west end of the job on Wednesday at 3 p.m.

The estimated cost of the project is over \$26 million, including design and mitigation costs. The \$26 million was funded by the Pala Band of Mission Indians in conjunction with Granite Construction Company. Costs for this funding are to be reimbursed through San Diego County's Transportation Impact Fee Fund (TIFF). TIFF is funded through fees paid by developers in San Diego County.

This was a public/private partnership project where Caltrans oversaw the construction of the highway improvements; with Sukut Construction as the prime contractor.

"Granite is thrilled to have designed and contributed to the completion of the widening and realignment of this public highway," said Pat Kelly, Southern California Branch Manager for Granite Construction Co. "We are very pleased to have worked with the

Pala Band of Mission Indians to fund this much needed project. Given the state budget problems, it is incumbent upon government to work with other stakeholders to find solutions to rebuilding our infrastructure.”

The State of California has previously recognized the dire shortage of permitted reserves in Western Riverside and San Diego counties. While the 1.2 million tons per year of aggregate from Granite Construction’s Rosemary’s Mountain Quarry will help alleviate the shortfall, the region is still in need of an additional 7 to 10 million tons per year of permitted reserves. Caltrans has advised local transportation agencies that more local aggregate reserves need to be permitted to support future road projects.

“Development of the Rosemary’s Mountain Quarry will mean that this region will be less dependent on distant quarries in Riverside County, the desert, and San Bernardino Valley and hopefully reduce the number of trucks coming through Riverside County,” explained Kelly. “Shorter haul distance for aggregates mean less highway traffic, less diesel exhaust, less road maintenance and less emissions that contribute to global warming, which is something all Californians are interested in seeing. This is good for citizens in both Riverside and San Diego Counties.”

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