

Colfax Connections

Microgrid Power Station Coming To Colfax During PSPS Blackouts

By wstockwin@hughes.net

Those Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) events of last October, when PG&E cut power to the city and surrounding area due to forecasted big winds that would increase wildfire danger, are about to become a thing of the past for Colfax starting this year.

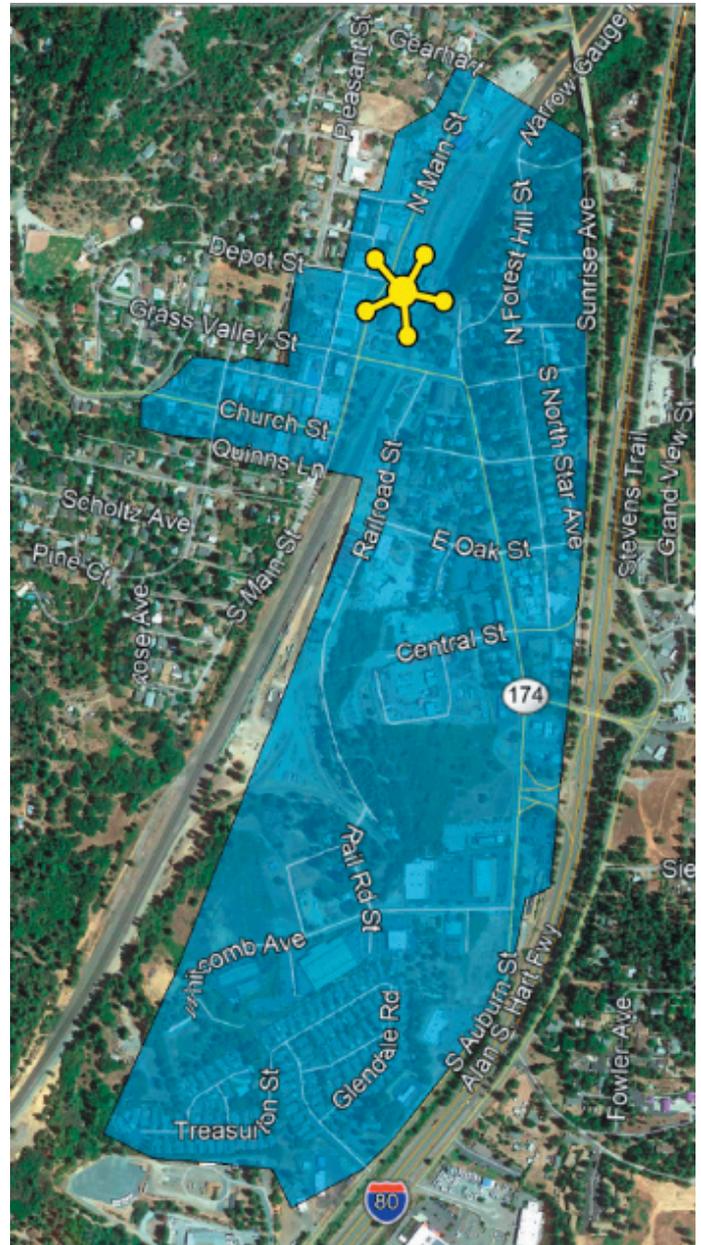
The mayor and city council have been working toward ending the late season blackouts since December of last year, when the city council let PG&E know of its displeasure and concern with last fall's power outages.

Those efforts culminated in a unanimous vote at the council's July 16 special meeting to authorize city manager Wes Heathcock to make sublet agreements with PG&E and Union Pacific in order to install a Microgrid Station in Colfax by the end of September.

The station, to be set up in a fenced area in the Freight Depot parking lot at 7 North Main St., will act as a connection point where large, portable PG&E generators can plug into the local power grid. It will include installation of power connection junctions, overhead power lines, and a concrete pad to support the two emergency generators.

The use of temporary generators allowed PG&E to shorten the design and construction time typically required to ready a Microgrid for operation. The Colfax Microgrid is designed to serve certain customers and key community resources to improve safety and resiliency during future PSPS events. The Colfax Microgrid will feature the following:

- Devices used to disconnect the temporary Microgrid from the larger electrical grid.
- A pre-determined space for backup generation and equipment to allow for rapid connections.



Blue area shows Microgrid Station initial service area. Yellow star indicates Station's location.

When it is operational the Station will provide power to a large portion of the incorporated city limits, primarily in areas deemed by CalFire to pose a Tier 1 wildfire-threat.

During a PSPS event, customers served by the Colfax temporary Microgrid can expect the fol-

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Microgrid from page 1

lowing process/ communications, when possible:

- Standard and ongoing outage notifications and alerts related to the PSPS event.
- An alert from PG&E notifying customers of the potential usage of the Colfax temporary Microgrid.
- An outage while PG&E works to establish temporary generation to serve the Microgrid.
- Temporary generators operating at the generation site behind 7 North Main St.
- A second outage as PG&E works to reconnect Colfax to the surrounding electric grid once it is safe to re-energize lines serving the area.

The helicopter flying low over the city on July 24 was conducting an inspection of power lines for any potential problems in those areas.

For areas outside the incorporated city, PG&E will also provide a Community Resource

Center where people can re-charge their devices and receive assistance to help them to cope with PSPS events.

The power generators will only be on site when needed during a general power shut off and the city manager said there might be a short, two-to-four hour gap before the generators arrive after the power goes off.

All at ZERO cost to the city.

The city manager said that, to his knowledge, Colfax and possibly Foresthill are the only communities in this region that will be getting one, and that the city’s Microgrid service area will be expanded next year.



Proposed site of Colfax Microgrid installation. The purple area will be parking area for generators. The red and green areas will be for distribution and transformer equipment.



Drop Box Now Available at City Hall

- ✦ Want to pay a bill, but it’s after hours?
- ✦ Have some correspondence for us, but we aren’t open?
- ✦ Want to practice social distance?

No problem! We now have a drop box that is accessible outside City Hall front door. No need to come inside – unless, of course, you want to!

Colfax Lions Club Installs New Officers

The Colfax Lions recently celebrated the accomplishments of the prior year's Club leadership and installed the incoming slate of officers.

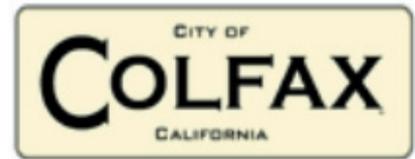
Serving as the upcoming year's officers are:

Paul Houck, President
Earl Coppin, 1st Vice President
Fred Abbott, 2nd Vice President
Secretary, Tim Luckinbill
Treasurer, Christine Houck
Tail Twister, Earl Coppin
Lion Tamer, Brynte Johnson
Two-Year Directors, Judi Cowart-Anderson and Dan Zendner
One-Year Directors, Paul Petrul and Ted Huss
Lions Club International Coordinator, Rose Craighead



To make it official, Out-Going President, Rose Craighead passes the President's gavel to In-Coming President, Paul Houck. Photo by Tim Luckinbill

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NEOWISE Comet Departing

Colfax Connections is a monthly city publication edited by Will Stockwin, who can be contacted via e-mail at wstockwin@hughes.net. All submissions are welcome, the earlier the better.

Deadline is the 20th of the previous month.

STAFF

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Hard Copies of Colfax Connections can be found at City Hall.

Digital copies can also be found on the Chamber's Website at (www.ColfaxChamber.com) and on the City's Website at (www.colfax-ca.gov).



Business Briefs with LindaLou Haines

Locally owned businesses thrive in Colfax, and we have a first anniversary to help celebrate.

For all the area residents who missed the Colfax Pharmacy when it closed some years back, owner Aeneas Chance and staff are doing their best to serve all of your pharmacy needs. One thing you may not know is that Colfax Drug now accepts Medical, which is a big plus for our community. They also have pet meds.

You probably remember Aeneas from when he ran the Leader pharmacy at Sierra Market for a couple years before opening his own independent pharmacy on Depot St. By the way, he can also give shots for pneumonia, flu and shingles with a medical prescription.

The store also has a selection of locally made gifts: Waylon & Willie Boutique (Alta), known for its "Bo-ho Chic styles"; Wild Stallion Soaps (Grass Valley), Cooper Farm Co. (Loomis), lotions, candles, lip balm and more. For more details about these products, check out their website, ColfaxDrugCompany.com/products/ and their Facebook page.

COLFAX DRUG COMPANY, LLC at the flagpole where North Main and Depot St. meet, 9 Depot, Unit #5. 346-1004. Hours are Monday through Friday 9:00

to 6:00 and closed 12:00 to 1:00. Also, on Saturday 9:00 to 1:00.

Another of the businesses at the north end of Main St. is the delightful COLFAX FARM AND COUNTRY STORE at 140 North Main St., 346-2600. They are open seven days a week. Monday through Saturday, 9:00 to 6:00 and Sunday, 10:00 to 2:00.

Founded in 2007 by Carol and Ron Dotto, the store sells a wide variety of items for the farm and beyond. For example, chicken feed, alfalfa hay, garden supplies and live plants and a lot more.

In the winter it is time for the energy logs and energy pellets. When the weather is warm, it is the time for live chicks. And, anytime is the time for pet supplies, including toys, beds,

food, crates, collars and harnesses. You name it; they probably have it.

Colfax Farm is on Facebook, and you can visit their well-designed website, ColfaxFarm-Store.com for more information.

Finally, Colfax area residents, don't assume your favorite restaurant is closed. As of today (7/20), there is no dining inside at restaurants. However, restaurants and pizza shops and others can serve you outside and sell you take-out. Also, don't assume any other kind of business is closed. Stop by or call them to make sure.

Remember that a locally owned business in your town is more likely to go the extra mile for you, like open early or stay late to accommodate you. They deserve our special attention and our business at times like these.

Do you have City of Colfax business news? Contact me, lindalouhaines14@gmail.com.



Aeneas Chance poses for Alan Shuttleworth in front of his store.

PMVCD Board of Trustees Pass Funding Assessments for 2020-2021

The Placer Mosquito Vector Control District board of trustees unanimously approved funding assessments for fiscal year 2020-2021 at its July 20 meeting. The total assessment for residential properties will come to \$30.96 for the year. That was slightly less than the board had expected.

The board was also given a presentation on how the District and the UC Master Gardeners of Placer County have collaborated to produce a guide to help Placer County residents create a modern, low-water and mosquito deterrent landscape. From how to attract pollinators to your garden beds to how to keep mosquitoes from breeding in your ponds, this guide is meant to help people create, maintain and enjoy a beautiful front or back yard. For more information visit the district's Website at: <https://www.placermosquito.org/garden>

HOW TO CREATE A NATIVE LANDSCAPE TO HELP CONTROL MOSQUITOES AT HOME

Placer Mosquito and Vector Control District and the UC Master Gardeners of Placer County worked together to create this guide to help Placer County residents create a modern, low-water and mosquito deterrent landscape. From how to attract pollinators to your garden beds to how to keep mosquitoes from breeding in your ponds, this guide is meant to help inspire you to create, maintain and enjoy a beautiful front or back yard. For more information visit placermosquito.org/garden.

NATIVE, DROUGHT-TOLERANT PLANTS with drip irrigation support pollinators like butterflies while being environmentally conscious and reducing water runoff. Reducing water runoff means less standing water where mosquitoes can develop. All of the below plants attract pollinators.

POLLINATORS
 🐝 bees
 🦋 hummingbirds
 🦋 butterflies

Keep your **LANDSCAPE** drought-friendly with decomposed granite, artificial grass or ornamental grass, gravel and stone.

Keep your **BIRD BATHS** maintained and refill with clean water at least every three days.

Keep your **PONDS** maintained to keep water flowing, reduce algae and prevent mosquito breeding. Mosquitofish and other aquatic predators can help reduce mosquito populations. Placer Mosquito conducts property inspections to see if your pond needs Mosquitofish to eat larvae.

BIRDHOUSES can attract purple Martins and western bluebirds which eat insects like mosquitoes.

Use a **PUMP** to keep water flowing and reduce algae in water fountains. Store-bought products containing BT (*Bacillus thuringiensis* var. *israelensis*) or methoprene are effective for small water bodies like fountains and ornamental ponds.

Inspect your **TREES** for holes that can retain water and attract western treehole mosquitoes. Fill holes with water-absorbing polymer or sand to prevent mosquito development in standing water.

Other ways to prevent mosquitoes and West Nile virus:
 ✓ Dump and drain standing water
 ✓ Wear an EPA-registered repellent
 ✓ Call Placer Mosquito and Vector Control District for questions or help controlling mosquitoes around your home

Properly store or permanently remove **CONTAINERS**, wheelbarrows, wagons, pots and saucers, buckets, toys, tarps or any other empty items that can hold water on your property.

PLACER MOSQUITO & VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT
placermosquito.org | (916) 380-5444

FIGHT THE BITE

by practicing the District's 3Ds of protection:

- 1. DRAIN** any standing water that may produce mosquitoes.
- 2. DEFEND** yourself against mosquitoes by using an effective insect repellent, such as DEET, Picaridin or Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus. Make sure you follow label directions!
- 3. Contact the DISTRICT** for help. We are here to serve you. Call us at (888) 768-2343, or visit us online at www.placermosquito.org.

**30 MOSQUITO SPECIES IN PLACER COUNTY
 2 TRANSMIT WEST NILE VIRUS**

placermosquito.org/getthefacts

USE AN EPA-REGISTERED REPELLENT



Colfax Roundabout Wins Regional Engineering Award

By wstockwin@hughes.net

The American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), Sacramento Section, has chosen the City of Colfax Roundabout Project for its 2019 Small Transportation Project of the Year Award to be given sometime in August.

“Several other projects were considered,” said Christine Rice, Senior Director of the ASCE Sacramento Section. “The Colfax Roundabout Project was chosen for this award, because it overcame tough challenges including steep grades, maintaining access to local businesses during construction, and designing for potential extreme weather conditions including snow and ice.”

She said that each year, the ASCE Sacramento Section recognizes outstanding Civil Engineering projects in the Section’s geographic area that have completed construction in the last couple years.

“The Small Transportation project award recognizes projects with final construction costs less than \$2.7M whose primary focus is on transportation design/construction that showcases advances and/or innovation,” Rice said. “This category includes all modes of transportation (roads, freeways, rail, transit, multi-modal, transportation maintenance facilities, etc.), implementation of new design/construction methods, improvements on existing methods, and/or incorporation of emerging technology.”

Rice’s comments mirror the ASCE Supporting Document, which highlighted the following reasons for the award:

- **Why the project was needed**

The project was needed to relieve traffic congestion, including future congestion related

“This project offers a great model for local agencies to make their dollars go farther and to provide their communities with transportation improvements.”

to the proposed Maidu Village Development to the west and to provide overall operational improvements for the South Auburn Street and Interstate 80 (I-80) westbound ramps intersection. The purpose of the proposed project was to relieve existing and future traffic con-

gestion, improve traffic safety and traffic operations, minimize queues and delay, improve pedestrian and bicycle access and enhance economic viability of the South Auburn St. corridor.

- **Why this project stands out and is worthy of an award**

During design, existing constraints brought forth challenges. One of the toughest challenges was the steep grades through the existing street. The existing profile of South Auburn Street ran at approximately 9% through the intersection. Such grades left truck drivers navigating unsafe rollover conditions for turning onto the existing on-ramp. To mitigate this, the design team was able to adapt the profile through the intersection. Ultimately, this allowed the roundabout to be “table topped”, reducing the maximum adverse grades to 4%. Another challenge was maintaining access to local businesses with tightly spaced driveways, which was achieved with



Photo by Alan Shuttleworth

innovative design modifications that shortened S. Auburn St. north and south approaches to the roundabout, and utilization of two-way left turn lanes.

• **Special relationships generated, obstacles overcome, other accolades**

The City of Colfax collaborated and partnered with both Caltrans District 3 (D3) and Placer County Transportation Planning Agency (PCTPA) to secure adequate funding for the project and help ensure that the project came to fruition. During design, the City of Colfax (including Coastland Engineering acting as City Engineer) and Caltrans D3 coordinated heavily to create optimal outcomes for all parties. Throughout construction, the design team remained involved to deal with varying field conditions and to act on suggestions from people on the construction

site for potential savings.

• **Overall**

As with any project, the construction schedule becomes a fantasy without the correct players involved. The City of Colfax set out aggressive schedule requirements, and the GHD team rose to the occasion. GHD teamed with experts at DeNovo Planning Group to get through the environmental process as smoothly as possible. This strategic move proved invaluable, as the project moved through the required documentation without pause.

The Colfax South Auburn St. Roundabout offered a sustainable solution for years to come. Roundabouts typically contribute half of the emissions of intersections controlled by traffic lights. Additionally, due to the free-flow nature of roundabouts,

any future growth in traffic volumes is mitigated, eliminating the need for future modifications such as additional lanes or widening projects. The Colfax Roundabout also provides safe pedestrian access to freeway off-ramp businesses that was absent before.

The project enhances the gateway into Colfax, relieved congestions, and provided a safety improvement for all users. Pedestrians can now walk from south of the intersections into downtown Colfax safely. The project also validates the cost effectiveness of roundabouts that save capital improvement funds while minimizing maintenance costs for years to come. This project offers a great model for local agencies to make their dollars go farther and provide their communities with transportation improvements.



Photo courtesy of ASCE

Chamber of Commerce Notes and Events

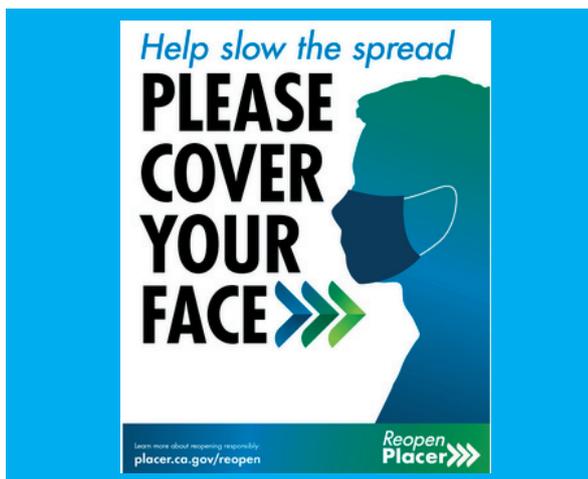
According to the new State order issued in July, the following businesses must shift to outdoor operations or close for a minimum of three weeks:

- Dine-in restaurants, Wineries and Tasting Rooms,
- Family Entertainment Centers, Movie Theaters,
- Zoos, Museums and Cardrooms.

On July 13, Gov. Gavin Newsom also added the following closures that will take place in 30 counties that have been on the state's monitoring list for three or more days, including Placer County: Shopping malls, gyms, indoor church worship and nail salons will shut down again. The State's order allows businesses to modify operations to provide services outside and encourages take-out and delivery. Please go to www.placer.ca.gov, Reopen Placer, if you have any questions as to the do's and don'ts.

In addition, all brewpubs, breweries, bars, and pubs must close, both indoors and outdoors, unless they are offering sit down, dine-in meals as described in <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/Bar-Closure-Guidance.aspx>.

Drivers of increased disease transmission in Placer County include large households, where staying away from others while ill is difficult, community and extended family gatherings and indoor work environments where physical distancing is difficult. The rising number of cases of COVID-19 in Placer County, as well as neighboring Sacramento County, is in turn driving an



increase in hospitalizations.

"I understand how frustrating this is for our local businesses, and my hope is that our whole community will pull together and promote the personal precautions that can help reverse these disease trends," said Placer County Health Officer Dr. Aimee Sisson. "Please wash your hands, maintain physical distance, wear a face covering in public, and do not gather with non-household members."

My family and I have missed family events,



Memorial Day events, 3rd and 4th of July events, etc. I miss the 2nd Sunday of the month Pancake Breakfast in Colfax put on by the VFW. Our local schools are working on their solutions. We are all waiting to hear what is going to happen. I sure hope that High School sports will be back also. Go FALCONS!

Please, shop local and shop smart. Support our local businesses in Clipper Gap, Meadow Vista, Applegate, Weimar, Colfax, Alta all the way up to Cisco Grove and Chicago Park. Each of these businesses have been there when we needed them and we need to be there when they need us.

You can contact your Colfax Area Chamber of Commerce at: colfaxareachamber@gmail.com or 530-346-8888. Our web site is: www.Colfaxchamber.com and/or our Colfax Area Chamber of Commerce page on Facebook. We have many resources available to us. Plus, we are very fortunate to have over 100 businesses, non-profit organizations and associate members we can refer you to.

David Johnson,
President CACC

Opening May 27, 2020

Sierra Vista Center

- **Certified Farmers' Market at 55 School St. in Colfax.**
- **Every Wednesday, 4-7 P.M. May 27 – Oct. 14, 2020**
- **Prepared food vendors welcome**



• **Contact Market Manager Will Stockwin at 530-210-4291 or wstockwin@hughes.net for vendor applications and market rules.**

• **Preference will be given to Placer and Nevada County Growers.**

Churches

Colfax Assembly of God Community Fellowship
252 Culver St., Colfax, CA 95713
Email: colfaxesog@gmail.com
Website: <http://www.colfaxagca.org/>

Colfax Baptist Church
24850 Ben Taylor Rd., Colfax, CA 95713
530-346-8110
Email: pastorgaryhoward@yahoo.com
Website: <http://colfaxbaptist.com/>

Colfax United Methodist Church
59 W. Church St., Colfax, CA 95713
530-346-2267
Website: <https://www.colfaxumc.org/>

Kingdom Hall of Jehovah Witnesses
944 Canyon Way, Colfax, CA 95713
530-346-2525
Website: <https://www.jw.org/en/>

St. Dominic's Catholic Church
589 E. Oak St., Colfax, CA 95713
530-346-2286
Website: <https://www.scd.org/parish/st-dominic-parish-colfax>

Seventh Day Adventist
454 Scholtz Ave., Colfax, CA 95713
530-346-8844
Website: <https://www.colfaxsdachurch.com>

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
1875 S. Auburn St., Colfax, CA 95713
530-346-7702
Website: <https://www.lds.org/>

Social Organizations

American Legion Post 192
22 Sunset Dr., Colfax, CA 95713
530-346-9433
Website: <http://norwellpost192.org>

Colfax Area Chamber of Commerce
99 S. Railroad St., Colfax, CA 95713
530-346-8888
Website: <http://colfaxchamber.com>

Colfax Area Historical Society
Archives: PO Box 185, Colfax, CA 95713
Museum 99 Railroad St., Colfax, CA 95713
530-346-8599
Website: <https://colfaxhistory.org>

Colfax Garden Club
PO Box 1801, Colfax, CA 95713
530-346-7474
Website: <http://californiagardenclubs.com/content/colfax-garden-club>

Colfax Lions Club
PO Box 664, Colfax, CA 95713
530-477-2533
Website: <https://www.e-clubhouse.org/sites/colfaxca>

Gold Country Lionesses
PO Box 1852, Colfax, CA 95713

Illinoistown Clay-Mason Lodge #51 of Colfax
14 N. Main St., Colfax, CA 95713
530-346-6627
Website: <http://lodge51.freemason.org>

Salvation Army Service Unit
320 S. Canyon Way, Ste.A, Colfax, CA 95713
530-346-2722

Sierra Vista Artists
55 School St., Rm. C-4, Colfax, CA 95713
530-320-0433

Sierra Vista Center
55 School St., Colfax, CA 95713
530-346-8726
Website: <https://sierravistacolfax.wordpress.com>

Soroptimist International of Colfax
PO Box 475, Colfax, CA 95713
530-637-4878

VFW Post 2003
22 Sunset Dr., Colfax, CA 95713
530-346-7768
<https://www.colfaxveterans.org/vfw.html>

Caltrans Announces Highway 174 Project Will Begin In August

Caltrans is scheduled to begin construction Monday, August 3 on a \$27.1 million safety improvement project on State Route 174 between Maple Way and You Bet Road in Nevada County.

The project is realigning several curves, widening shoulders, adding a southbound left turn pocket at Greenhorn Access Road and improving the clear recovery zone, allowing errant vehicles to

regain control.

“We are pleased to break ground on a project that will improve the safety of this stretch of State Route 174 by reducing the severity of curves and adding other operational improvements,” said Caltrans District 3 Director Amarjeet S. Benipal. “The project also upgrades pedestrian and bicycle facilities along a beautiful stretch of Sierra-area highway, continuing our commitment to multi-modal methods of transportation.”

Traffic-interfering work will be performed during daylight hours, Monday through Friday between 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. with occasional Saturdays. Reversing, one-way traffic control will be used to manage traffic with 20-minute delays anticipated.

Weather or unexpected events may delay or prolong the work. Caltrans advises motorists to “Be Work Zone Alert.”



One of the brightest comets to be seen in the northern hemisphere since Hale-Bopp sailed past in 1997, Comet NEOWISE has completed its loop around the sun and is now headed back into deep space. Astronomers discovered the comet in March during the NEOWISE mission of the Near-Earth Object Wide-field Infrared Survey Explorer space telescope. July 23 marked the comet's closest approach to Earth, 64 million miles away. If you missed it this time it's due back in the year 8786, so there's plenty of time to get ready for when it visits the neighborhood again.

Alan took this picture on July 18, from the top of Beacon Hill .

