



# NEWS RELEASE

07-058

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **LARGER TRUCKS TO BE ALLOWED ON ROUTE 101 AT RICHARDSON GROVE** *Caltrans works with stakeholders on a realignment plan to improve goods movement*

**Eureka** – Caltrans announced today that moving goods in and out of Humboldt County on U.S. Route 101 would be dramatically improved – especially for cattle haulers – under a realignment plan reached with local stakeholders to allow larger trucks through Richardson Grove.

“I am very proud of Caltrans and its partners for finding common ground on a plan that will improve goods movement along the north coast without impacting old growth redwood trees,” said Caltrans Director Will Kempton. “Realigning Route 101 at Richardson Grove will greatly improve the north coast economy.”

Livestock ranchers in Humboldt, Del Norte, and Mendocino counties have complained for years that they operate at a disadvantage because most of the cattle raised in Northern California are shipped out of state and, due to length restrictions, the industry is limited to using smaller trailers.

Currently, tighter than normal turns along Route 101, particularly at Richardson Grove, limit this segment to California legal trucks. By realigning Route 101, larger, industry-standard trucks will be allowed to travel through Richardson Grove next year.

In preparing the realignment plan, Caltrans formed a technical advisory group that studied environmental issues along with economic objectives. The group was made up of California State Parks, Inter-Tribal Sinkyone Wilderness Council, Sierra Club, Humboldt Cattlemen's Association, Save-the-Redwoods League, Humboldt County Board of Supervisors, California Highway Patrol, California Trucking Association, local government officials, and other stakeholders.

Caltrans will now initiate preliminary engineering and environmental studies for the project. A public meeting will be held as part of the environmental process.

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