



NEWS RELEASE

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District: 2- Redding
Contact: Trisha Coder
Phone: (530) 229-0511

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OLD SHASTA RETAINING WALL ON STATE ROUTE 299 OFFERS A NEW GLIMPSE OF COUNTY HISTORY

REDDING- Caltrans has recommitted to allocating more than \$1 billion over thirty years to improve access to sidewalks and other pedestrian facilities. This, as the nation commemorates the 25th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). You will see that commitment in the Old Shasta ADA project on State Route 299. New pathways, curbs and ramps are being installed in the eastbound direction to allow those with disabilities to travel alongside the highway.

The project also includes the construction of a concrete retaining wall, built to accommodate the new walkways, a future left turn lane, and a possible bike trail along SR 299. The wall is about 20' high (at its highest point) x 220' long. Caltrans has been working closely with California State Parks representatives in an effort to combine the area's rich history with modern materials. The wall will be covered in brick and "Shasta Blend" stone. It will feature three panels that depict Shasta County's history, including one of infamous 19th century writer Joaquin Miller. The clay molds are being handcrafted in Wisconsin. Plant pockets have been installed in the back of the wall and when water restrictions are lifted, beautiful vines will grow on the wall's surface. New trees and shrubs will also be planted around the wall.

"Caltrans is mandated by law to modernize this area and make it accessible to those with disabilities," said Acting District 2 Director Dave Moore. "At the same time, we realized we needed to preserve the area's historic feeling and natural beauty. We have made every effort to do that with the designs featured in this project." The \$1.8 million project is expected to be completed by the end of November. For more information on Caltrans' ADA commitment: <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/paffairs/news/pressrel/15pr077.html>

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