PLACER COUNTY
TRANSPORTATION
PLANNING AGENCY

Freeway Service Patrol Starts Extended-Hour Service in Placer County

FREE emergency roadside service now available on Sundays

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November 17, 2004 **Mike L'Heureux (916) 861-1388 (CHP)**

Auburn, CA – Placer County Transportation Planning Agency (PCTPA), the California Highway Patrol (CHP), the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and the Placer County Air Pollution Control District (PCAPCD) announced today that a no-cost freeway tow truck service – known as the Freeway Service Patrol (FSP) – will begin extended-hour service on Interstate 80 in Placer County on November 17, 2004.

FSP drivers will now patrol Riverside Blvd. to Sierra College Blvd and the I-80/SR 65 interchange on **Sundays from 3:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m**. in an effort to help ease weekend traffic congestion from Bay Area commuters traveling to Lake Tahoe. FSP will continue its traditional service, **Monday through Friday 6:00 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.** and **4:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.**, as well as patrol on select highly-trafficked holiday weekends in order to assist stranded motorists.

"Oftentimes when a commuter breaks down on the freeway, it can cause a backlog to an already challenging commute," said PCTPA Executive Director Celia McAdam. "By adding another level of service during peak traffic times, we help commuters travel more safely and efficiently."

FSP tow truck drivers usually respond first to freeway incidents because they are already patrolling the area. Thanks to their rapid response, FSP provides valuable "real time" information about the incident – e.g., injuries, traffic conditions, required rescue services and equipment – to the CHP Communications Center, allowing CHP officers to plan accordingly.

In addition to increasing traffic flow and easing congestion, FSP's actions also helps vehicles lower fuel use and minimize harmful emissions by reducing the time vehicles spend in traffic.

"The FSP is an invaluable service that not only benefits motorists, but the region as a whole," said CHP Captain Rick Ward. "We are very excited to extend service in Placer County."

Each year, the statewide FSP Program assists approximately 650,000 motorists in ten metropolitan areas. The Placer County FSP will help as many as 120 motorists each month. Funding for the service extension was secured by the PCAPCD through an AB 2766 grant, better known as a "Clean Air Grant."

FREEWAY SERVICE PATROL EXTENDED HOURS

Monday to Friday	**6:00 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.**
	4:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
Sunday	**3:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.**

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