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Metro Freeway Service Patrol will be Expanded Beginning August 1

The Metro Freeway Service Patrol (FSP) will begin two new tow truck routes providing motorists with free road side assistance on long stretches of both the I-210 and I-5 freeways serving the Pasadena, La Canada, Sunland, and Santa Clarita areas of the county beginning Tuesday, Aug. 1.

Funding for these two new routes is being provided by a grant from the Mobile Source Air Pollution Reduction Review Committee (MSRC), (60-percent) and Proposition C (40-percent). The MSRC, which has members representing eight Southern California agencies including the South Coast Air Quality Management District, allocates Clean Transportation Funding from a \$4 surcharge on vehicle license fees, specifically to fund local projects designed to reduce air pollution from mobile sources such as cars, trucks, and buses. Total cost over the life of the three year contract is approximately \$2.7 million.

"This is great news for the thousands of motorists that utilize these busy freeways and may experience various problems along their commute," said LA County Supervisor and Metro Board member Michael Antonovich. "As in other areas where they have been instituted, these two new Freeway Service Patrol routes will go a long way in reducing traffic congestion by quickly assisting a stranded motorist." Antonovich also serves on the MSRC.

The two new FSP routes include a 16.8-mile stretch of the I-5 Freeway from Roxford Street to Lake Hughes Road in Santa Clarita. The second FSP route will include a 26.7-mile route from Fair Oaks Avenue in Pasadena to the I-5 junction at Roxford Street.

A total of three FSP tow trucks will operate on each route during weekday morning and afternoon peak periods, with one tow truck each operating during the mid-days and on weekends.

"Freeway Service Patrols also help reduce air pollution," said Gwenn Norton-Perry, Mayor Pro-Tem of Chino Hills and Chair of the MSRC. "Having more Freeway Service Patrols available to motorists means less congestion, less wasted fuel, and less pollution emitting from the millions of tailpipes of vehicles that negotiate our freeways every day."

The Metro Freeway Service Patrol is an elite team of tow truck drivers patrolling Los Angeles County freeways to provide help to stranded motorists. This service is offered free of charge. Motorist can either use a Freeway Call Box or their own cell phone by dialing #399 to summon freeway assistance.

"We hope that by the addition of tow truck routes to these freeways, motorists can rest assured that if they need help, the Metro Freeway Service Patrol will be there to assist them with minor repairs such as changing a flat tire, jump-starting their vehicle, filling leaking radiators, fixing leaking hoses, or providing a free tow off the freeway to a safe location," said Antonovich.

With the addition of the six trucks, the Metro Freeway Service Patrol program will now have a total of 153 trucks assigned throughout the county. The program assists 25,000 motorists each month, providing over 300,000 assists per year. The operation is a joint partnership involving Metro, the California Highway Patrol and Caltrans.

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