



# NEWS RELEASE

**Date:** March 2, 2012  
**District 7:** Los Angeles & Ventura Counties  
**Contact:** Patrick Chandler  
**Phone:** 213-897-3630

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Fast-Track Repairs Begin on Pomona Freeway (SR-60) Paramount Boulevard Bridge**

**Montebello** - Caltrans today began construction on the new Paramount Boulevard bridge, which was demolished by a fuel tanker truck fire December 14, 2011. The construction has been placed on an expedited schedule to complete the work by summer.

“The effort to reconnect the community of Montebello is on a fast track,” said Acting Caltrans Director Malcolm Dougherty. “We expedited the environmental review and design phase and rapidly secured federal funding to build a replacement bridge as quickly as possible.”

After the fire, SR-60 was closed from the Long Beach Freeway (I-710) to the San Gabriel River Freeway (I-605) for emergency work. In just three days, crews quickly demolished fire-charred sections of the bridge and repaired damaged parts of eastbound SR-60 below the structure. Both sides of the freeway were re-opened on December 17.

This replacement project is necessary to ensure that the damaged 44 year-old structure is built to today’s state and federal safety standards. The bridge, on State Route 60 in Montebello, was built in 1967. The new construction will:

- Widen the bridge to 128-feet, 32-feet wider than the old 96-foot structure;
- Add a northbound lane (east side) with an 8-foot shoulder. There were no shoulders on the original bridge;
- 14-foot center median (current median is 12 feet), and 6-foot sidewalks (current sidewalks are 5 feet).

After the fire, state and federal officials--including Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr., U.S. Representatives Grace Napolitano, Linda Sanchez, and Judy Chu, and U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood--acted quickly to release federal funds for this reconstruction project.

The \$40 million project is funded by the Federal Highway Administration Emergency Relief Program to cover initial clean-up, demolition and construction.

“We will continue to partner with Montebello and surrounding communities as we work to restore access for emergency, commercial and commuter services in Montebello and nearby communities,” said Caltrans District 7 Director Michael Miles.

The latest freeway traffic information can be obtained on the Caltrans website: [www.dot.ca.gov](http://www.dot.ca.gov) by accessing the Quickmap feature.

###