



# MEDIA RELEASE

15-003

**Date:** Friday, January 9, 2015  
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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### MEMORIAL SIGN INSTALLATION FOR CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS AND REHABILITATION (CDCR) SERGEANT GILBERT CORTEZ

**SAN BERNARDINO** – The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), District 8 will install memorial signs to honor California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) Sergeant Gilbert Cortez and his K-9 search dog, Mattie, on Friday, January 9, 2015 at 2:30 p.m. on Interstate 15 (I-15) in Norco, California.

On March 25, 2013, Sergeant Cortez died in a rollover accident on State Route 79 (SR-79) near Warner Springs. Sergeant Cortez was the lead car in a California Department of Corrections (CDC) convoy traveling to La Cima Conservation Camp when he lost control of his vehicle. His female K-9 partner, Mattie, was pronounced deceased at the scene of the accident, while Sergeant Cortez succumbed to his injuries at a local fire station.

Sergeant Cortez, 46, worked in the investigative services unit at the California Rehabilitation Center in Norco and was a 23-year veteran of CDCR.

Senator Richard Roth authored a Senate Concurrent Resolution designating the portion of Interstate 15 (I-15) from Second Street in Norco to Limonite Avenue in Eastvale as the Sergeant Gilbert Cortez and K-9 Mattie Memorial Highway.

Caltrans partners with the California Correctional Peace Officers Association, the California Association of Highway Patrolmen, and other community groups to recognize individuals who provided extraordinary public service or some exemplary contribution to the public good and lost their lives on the State highway system.



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