



# COMMUTER ALERT

16-003(d)

**Date:** Wednesday, January 13, 2016  
**District:** 8 - San Bernardino  
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## ROUTE 243 BOULDER REMOVAL – **ROADWAY REOPEN!**

**RIVERSIDE-** Caltrans District 8 is pleased to announce that all lanes on State Route 243 (SR 243) reopened this evening at approximately 6:30 p.m. after Caltrans Maintenance crews worked for three days to remove a boulder that shut down the highway Sunday at 10:00 p.m. A 48-ton rock fell onto SR 243 between Pine Cove and Idyllwild near Franklin Avenue after snow and rain storms pelted the mountain region over the weekend.

Work began early Tuesday morning to remove the boulder after Caltrans leased a specially fabricated excavator equipped with a “Stinger”, or hydraulic breaker. Operations to break apart the rock with the equipment were halted yesterday afternoon when the “hammer” attachment broke on the excavator.

A new part was attached to the excavator early Wednesday morning and work continued throughout the day to break the rock into a manageable piece that was moved to the shoulder near where it fell.

**All lanes on SR 243 are open until tomorrow**, Thursday, at which time traffic control will begin at 8:00 a.m. and continue throughout the day while crews continue to break apart the rock and remove it from the shoulder. Cones have been placed around the rock to alert motorists.

Temporary asphalt was placed in the roadway where the boulder left an indentation. ***Motorists are advised to reduce their speed and drive with care through the area until permanent asphalt repairs can be made.***

Updates will continue for the traffic control until the boulder is completely removed. **Again, Caltrans thanks the public, residents, partner agencies, and businesses for their understanding and patience during this emergency incident.**

To stay on top of Caltrans roadwork in the Inland Empire go to [www.caltrans8.info](http://www.caltrans8.info) and sign up for commuter alerts. View traffic conditions at <http://quickmap.dot.ca.gov>



Boulder moved to shoulder of SR 243 Wednesday afternoon.

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