



I-5 Corridor Advisory:

Freeway Ramp Meters to be Activated in Encinitas

On Wednesday, May 2nd, Caltrans crews will activate newly installed meters on three Interstate 5 (I-5) northbound freeway entrance ramps in Encinitas. Ramp meters will be activated at Birmingham Drive, Santa Fe Drive and Encinitas Boulevard between 3:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

Notifications will be posted in advance at each ramp entrance to inform motorists of the activation.

How do ramp meters work?

Through detectors embedded in the freeway and the on-ramp, same-direction traffic volume information is relayed to the meter at the end of the on-ramp, which then regulates the number of vehicles that can enter the freeway at one time. The meter is traffic-responsive and the operating rate varies based on traffic flows. As traffic increases, the freeway detectors register increased traffic congestion. In response, the ramp meters adjust to reduce the volume of vehicles entering the freeway. Conversely, when traffic volumes are low, the ramp meters typically deactivate allowing increased volumes of vehicles onto the freeway.

Why are ramp meters needed?

Ramp meters manage the rate at which large groups of cars enter the freeway so that freeway traffic congestion can be reduced. Ramp meters also allow traffic to enter the freeway at a rate dependent on the traffic conditions of the freeway. While a typical driver might be delayed momentarily at an on-ramp meter, overall travel and freeway speeds are improved.

If you have any questions about the ramp meters, please contact the Caltrans Public Information Office at (619) 688-6670. For the latest updates, please visit KeepSandiegoMoving.com.

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