

**California Department of Fish and Game News Release**

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**DONNER DIESEL SPILL UPDATE: EXCAVATION OF SOIL CONTINUES JUNE 15, AFFECTS TRAFFIC EAST BOUND I-80**

Removal of soil contaminated with diesel near Donner Lake will continue tomorrow, June 15. Cleanup operations will require the closure of one lane of I-80 from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The California Highway Patrol will be monitoring the traffic and determining when it is too backed up, which will trigger a temporary suspension of activities until traffic clears.

DFG and Nevada County Environmental Health (NCEH) responded to the spill on May 26 which occurred when a tanker truck overturned and spilled as much as 3,000 gallons of diesel fuel along I-80 on the west side of Donner Lake. Some of the material washed over the side of the interstate into the soil and watershed of Billy Mack and Summit Creeks.

Though the majority of the spilled fuel was deposited in the center divide, some moved down the median and through a culvert to the hillside above Donner Lake resulting in some staining (dark areas of soil where diesel is present). Responders expect to develop a plan that will most likely call for hand crews to remove the diesel-stained soil in this area.

Environmental monitoring of the area continues for water quality and wildlife impacts. Diesel fuel was not detected in recent water samples collected in Summit Creek and Donner Lake. Scientists will develop restoration plans for the area following the soil removal.

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