



News Release

U.S. General Services Administration

Date: September 26, 2011
For Immediate Release

Contact: Christi Chidester
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Construction on Schedule at San Ysidro Border Crossing

SAN FRANCISCO—The U. S. General Services Administration (GSA) is announcing that beginning early this week, Hensel Phelps (HP), the general contractor hired for the construction of the new San Ysidro port of entry, will resume demolition and construction work with no adverse impact to the planned construction schedule.

To further ensure safety, HP will utilize a different demolition method to do away with overhead scaffolding by which the traveling public along with the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) employees will no longer be passing under or working beneath suspended scaffolding. Wayne Lindholm, Executive Vice President of Hensel Phelps Pacific Division states that, "Hensel Phelps places the highest value on safety at all our projects and expects the new demolition procedures to provide a safe environment for everyone working at and traveling through the Port."

The scaffold collapse incident that occurred on September 14, 2011 is currently under independent investigation by the California Department of Occupational Safety and Health Administration (Cal/OSHA) and the Federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). HP, along with subcontractors AMG Demolition and Environmental Services, Miller Environmental and Vertical Access Limited are fully cooperating with the ongoing investigation. GSA will coordinate with HP, Cal/OSHA and OSHA to facilitate the release of further information on the status and findings of the investigation as they are determined.

As previously reported, all areas of the Port resumed full operation and all 24 lanes of North bound traffic were available for use as of late Saturday evening, September 17, 2011.

San Ysidro is the busiest land port of entry in the world, with over 50 million travelers annually and is projected to process 85 million travelers by year 2030.

GSA is embarking on a three-phase construction project to improve traffic flow, safety and security at the port, and will realign Interstate Highway 5 to new Mexican inspection facilities to the west at El Chaparral.

As the federal government's workplace solutions provider, the U.S. General Services Administration works to foster an effective, sustainable and transparent government for the American people. GSA's expertise in government workplace solutions include:

- Effective management of government assets including more than 9,600 government-owned or leased buildings and 250,000 vehicles in the federal fleet, and preservation of historic federal properties;
- Leveraging the government's buying power through responsible acquisition of products and services making up approximately 14 percent of the government's total procurement dollars;
- Providing innovative technology solutions to enhance government efficiency and increase citizen engagement; and,
- Promoting responsible use of federal resources through development of governmentwide policies ranging from federal travel to property and management practices.



News Release

U.S. General Services Administration

Date: September 18, 2011
For Immediate Release

Contact: Christi Chidester
415-581-1788 or Christina.Chidester@gsa.gov

San Ysidro Border Crossing Re-Opened and Resumed Full Operation Saturday Night

SAN FRANCISCO— The U. S. General Services Administration (GSA) announces that as of 11:30 p.m. PDT on Saturday, September 17, all vehicular traffic lanes at the San Ysidro port of entry are available again for processing travelers. U. S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officials overnight re-opened the three additional lanes northbound at the San Ysidro port of entry for vehicle processing. At that time, all areas of the port were re-opened following Wednesday's incident.

The cleanup effort over the affected scaffolding area is now complete. GSA and its construction contractor, Hensel Phelps (HP) have also resumed construction at the port. According to Randy Barr, HP's Operations Manager, "Crews have worked around the clock to return things to normal as fast as possible. We regret, as well, the damage done to the vehicles which were beneath the scaffolding when it fell and we have been working to assist the owners of those vehicles."

GSA and HPs' highest priority is the protection and safety of the traveling public, CBP employees and workers at the site. As such, the traveling public along with the CBP employees will no longer be passing under or working beneath suspended scaffolding. All of the scaffolding suspended beneath the canopy has been removed, not just the remnants of the sections that collapsed.

Although the cause of last Wednesday's accident has yet to be determined, the method of demolition and construction will be re-engineered to ensure the safety to those traveling through and working at this facility. Barr further states, "Hensel Phelps places an extremely high value on safety, and a thorough investigation of the cause of the incident is underway."

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News Release

U.S. General Services Administration

Date: September 16, 2011
For Immediate Release

Contact: Christi Chidester
415-581-1788 or Christina.Chidester@gsa.gov

Safety Top Priority at San Ysidro Land Port of Entry

SAN FRANCISCO— The U. S. General Services Administration (GSA) is working diligently to safely prepare the San Ysidro land port of entry for normal, standard operation following Wednesday morning's scaffolding collapse. GSA and its contractor, Hensel Phelps, are finalizing the clean-up of the affected areas and are working closely with U. S. Customs and Border Protection to keep traffic moving safely through the port.

GSA's highest priority is the protection and safety of the traveling public, CBP employees and workers at the site. GSA is also in the process of determining the time frame of when we can resume construction.

GSA announced that at about 10:45 a.m. (PDT) Wednesday, wood scaffolding that was being used for construction over a section of the eastern side of the northbound vehicle inspection area collapsed at the San Ysidro port of entry. CBP officers were processing vehicle traffic in those lanes at the time of collapse. All northbound lanes were temporarily closed and traffic was re-routed to the Otay Mesa port of entry located five miles east. Northbound pedestrian processing was also temporarily suspended. Nine vehicles that were located under the collapsed area sustained damage.

The San Ysidro port of entry is operational, processing vehicle and pedestrian traffic, in both the north and southbound directions. All who sustained injuries in the collapse were treated and released from care.

Investigations into the cause of the scaffolding collapse are ongoing. We will provide more updates as information becomes available.

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GSA is embarking on a three-phase construction project to improve traffic flow, safety and security at the port, and will realign Interstate Highway 5 to new Mexican inspection facilities to the west at El Chaparral.

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News Release

U.S. General Services Administration

Date: September 15, 2011
For Immediate Release

Contact: Christi Chidester
415-581-1788 or Christina.Chidester@gsa.gov

San Ysidro Land Port of Entry Reopened Following Construction Scaffolding Collapse

Investigation ongoing to determine the cause

SAN FRANCISCO—The San Ysidro port of entry is operational, processing vehicle and pedestrian traffic, in both the north and southbound directions following the collapse of wood scaffolding at the construction site yesterday morning. As well, all 11 people who were transported to local hospitals following the collapse were treated and released from care last night.

Yesterday, the U. S. General Services Administration (GSA) announced that at about 10:45 a.m. (PDT) Wednesday, wood scaffolding that was being used for construction over the eastern portion of the port from north bound lanes 2 through 8 collapsed at the San Ysidro port of entry. CBP officers were processing vehicle traffic in those lanes at the time of collapse. All northbound lanes were temporarily closed and traffic was re-routed to the Otay Mesa port of entry located five miles east. Northbound pedestrian processing was also temporarily suspended. Lanes 12 to 24 were not directly affected by the collapse, but were closed temporarily as a safety precaution. Nine vehicles that were located under the collapsed area sustained damage. Alternate means of transportation were provided for the passengers in the vehicles affected.

At about 6:30 p.m.(PDT) last night, CBP resumed pedestrian processing into the United States. As of midnight (PDT), northbound lanes 12-24, as well as the bus lane, were re-opened at the port. GSA is assessing the course of action and determining a time frame to re-open lanes 2-8.

The structural integrity of the pedestrian processing building was not compromised, only that of the temporary scaffolding that was in place to facility work in that portion of the construction project.

GSA and its contractor, Hensel Phelps, are in the process of assessing the structural integrity of the remaining scaffold, and determining the time frame of when we can resume construction. GSA's highest priority is the protection and safety of the traveling public, CBP employees and workers at the site.

Investigations into the cause of the scaffolding collapse are ongoing. We will provide more updates as information becomes available.

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News Release

U.S. General Services Administration

Date: September 14, 2011

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Construction Scaffolding Collapse at San Ysidro Land Port of Entry Closes North bound Border Crossing

Investigation ongoing to determine the cause

SAN FRANCISCO— The U. S. General Services Administration (GSA) announced that on Wednesday, September 14, 2011 at about 10:45 a.m. wood scaffolding that was being used for construction collapsed at the San Ysidro port of entry. The collapse occurred at the North bound lanes 1 through 8 linking to the pedestrian processing building on the U.S. side. Lanes 12 to 24 have not been directly affected by the collapse.

CBP officers were processing vehicle traffic in those lanes at the time of collapse. Fifteen vehicles that were located under the collapsed area sustained damage. Alternate mean of transportation have been provided for the passengers in the vehicles affected

GSA, the U.S. Customs and Border Protection, San Diego Fire and Rescue and others trained in rescue efforts responded to the port of entry to assist travelers and staff.

Seventeen people were injured, including travelers and construction workers, with 14 being treated on site for minor injuries and released. Of the 17, 3 people were transported to local hospitals for further assessment. Initial reports indicate there are no life-threatening injuries.

All northbound lanes are currently closed at this time and traffic is being re-routed to the Otay Mesa port of entry a few miles east. As a precaution, CBP is not processing any northbound pedestrians or vehicles through the San Ysidro port of entry at this time. While we do not have an estimate of when the border crossing will be re-opened, GSA is in the process of assessing the structural integrity of the remaining scaffold, and determining the time frame of when we can resume operation for northbound traffic. GSA's highest priority is to ensure the safety of the traveling public and CBP employees.

The southbound freeway crossing into Mexico at Interstate 5 and 805 is still open.

The structural integrity of the pedestrian processing building was not compromised, only that of the temporary scaffolding that was in place to facility work in that portion of the construction project.

Investigations into the cause of the scaffolding collapse are ongoing. We will provide more updates as information becomes available.

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