



California Department of Transportation
SHANDON SAFETY ROADSIDE REST AREA
Highway 46 Shandon, California



Driver safety in Central California has been increased by the revitalization and expanded functionality of the Shandon Safety Roadside Rest Area (SRRA). Modern "green" design has replaced worn out 1970's facilities, and brought the rest area up to current standards for ADA accessibility, earthquake, fire, health and safety codes, and groundwater protection. Located in rural San Luis Obispo County, east of Paso Robles, the Shandon SRRA is a single facility serving both directions of traffic on Route 46, a Designated Safety Corridor. The 10 acre site is located in the middle of this significant east-west highway which links California's great central valley with the Pacific coast. The SRRA is heavily used by commercial truck drivers supporting the movement of goods and services, and it is visited annually by almost 1 million travelers, including local commuters, regional school busses, and recreational tourists.

SRRA improvements include extensive rehabilitation of water, septic, and electrical systems, as well as the construction of expanded restrooms, maintenance facilities, a satellite California Highway Patrol office, and many visitor amenities. The architectural design, building materials and site furnishings emphasize low-maintenance, vandal-resistance, energy efficiency, and are complimentary to their natural surroundings and the area's rural heritage. The new and improved Shandon rest area is the result of the creative collaboration of a talented interdisciplinary design team and community outreach. Its aesthetic appeal and the improved reliability of the new facilities encourages more people to stop, rest, and then continue on as refreshed and safer drivers.

Like all State-owned facilities, rest areas must meet strict standards regulating the use and protection of California's natural resources. Best construction practices, energy efficient design, fire protection, water conservation, and the proper handling of wastewater are all part of Caltrans' responsibility to safeguard the health and well-being of people and the environment. At the Shandon SRRA an innovative new wastewater treatment system, the first of its kind in a California rest area, was installed to serve as a "clean and green" solution to wastewater disposal and to meet new, more stringent requirements for the protection of groundwater from nitrate contamination. The success of this pioneering SRRA wastewater disposal system will act as a model for similar "green" designs which may be incorporated into other rest areas in the State.

Construction of the Shandon SRRA was funded by the Federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. The cost to construct the rest area was approximately \$2.9 million dollars. This construction project provided many local construction jobs in tough economic times. Early design charettes and a Value Analysis study helped refine many context sensitive solutions and kept the project's budget on track. The new buildings and many infrastructure improvements have vastly reduced long term maintenance costs and repair times, freeing up resources for other critical route projects.

Since re-opening the Shandon SRRA, Caltrans has received many positive comments from the traveling public about the improved facilities. Visitors have expressed their appreciation for the combination of appealing and functional architecture, many amenities, and beautiful grounds. They have especially noted unique features such as the cultural interpretive displays, and the public information kiosks which provide enhanced insight into this unique place, and valuable guidance to local tourist attractions and events. Caltrans Maintenance has taken a very active role in the running and upkeep of the SRRA which contributes greatly to its on-going value as a safe and attractive stopping opportunity. Traveler use has increased significantly from past traffic counts in just a short period of time; a testament to a successful design and the high quality of user experience.

Clean, safe, attractive rest areas are a vital part of a safe transportation system and a prosperous California economy. The Shandon SRRA is an exceptional project due to the innovative approaches that were used to balance community, aesthetic, historic, and environmental values with cost and transportation safety, maintenance, and performance goals.

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