

# Mendocino Council of Governments

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July 24, 2002

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

End Date: August 31, 2002

**To: Mendocino County News Media**

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## **Mendocino SAFE Installs First 25 Call Boxes**

The first 25 motorist-aid call boxes have been installed by the Service Authorities for Freeway Emergencies (SAFE) of Mendocino County. "You may have noticed these solar-powered roadside call boxes because of their unique yellow color, shape, and design," says Lisa Davey, Mendocino SAFE Program Coordinator. A statewide system of "SAFEs" operates on freeways and highways throughout California, providing motorists with a direct connection to the California Highway Patrol dispatch center.

Installations began in June, which encompassed a total of fourteen call boxes on Routes 20, 101, and 162 in Mendocino County. In July, an additional eleven boxes were installed along those same Routes. Twelve call boxes that lie within the coastal zone are waiting approval through the Department of Planning & Building Services Coastal Development permit process for installations to proceed along Route 1. A total of 37 call boxes are scheduled to be installed along Routes 1, 20, 101, and 162 during the first phase of implementation.

In 1999, Mendocino SAFE approved the Call Box Service Implementation Plan as a means of prioritizing call box installations based on the local county need for remote access to the public safety system. According to the Plan, 23 boxes will be installed during Phase II, with the main emphasis of installations on Routes 101 and 128. A total of 106 call boxes will be installed once all four phases of the Plan have been completed.

The Mendocino SAFE was formed in 1994. The Board of Directors is composed of identical membership to the Mendocino Council of Governments (MCOG), and convenes when needed at the MCOG meetings. The Call Box Program is funded by \$1 per vehicle annual registration fee through the Department of Motor Vehicles, and is administered locally. Funds have been accumulating in an account in preparation for the first installation of call boxes.

For additional information regarding the Mendocino SAFE Call Box Program, contact Lisa Davey at the Mendocino Council of Governments' office, (707) 463-1859, or consult the agency's web site at [www.mendocinocog.org](http://www.mendocinocog.org).

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