

# State Freeway System Will Be Nation's Largest

By VINCENT THOMAS  
 Assemblyman, 68th District  
 Water project construction is not the only type of public works engineering in which California will be setting new records during the coming generation. The 1959 session, in addition to enacting major water legislation, also passed a freeway bill which will provide for the largest system of such highways in any state. Already signed by the Governor, the measure is now law.

The law establishes a new "California Freeway and Expressway System" which will be composed of more than 12,000 miles of existing and new highways. Slightly over 10,000 miles of the existing state highways have been included in the new system, and more than 1600 miles of roads now under local control have also been written into it.

THE CONSTRUCTION and reconstruction program will require at least 20 years, and will surpass the water construction job in size. No final price tag can be put on an engineering project of such magnitude, but it has been estimated at \$10.5 billion in current dollars.

The act declares it to be a matter of public policy and essential to the future development of the state that a statewide system of freeways and expressways be established and constructed without regard to the present jurisdiction over the highways, roads and streets that might be included. It is further declared to be public policy that deficiencies in any part of the state highway system not included in the new one be corrected simultaneously with those in the freeway system in proportion to the relative needs of traffic service.

RECOGNITION IS given in the law to the fact that the dynamic growth of California will require periodic review of the freeway and expressway system. The department of public works is required to report to the Legislature every four years as to changes and revisions needed in the system. Provision is also made for establishment of local advisory committees, and for cooperation with them by the department.

For the first time, the terms "freeway" and "expressway" are legally defined. Under the new law, a freeway is a divided arterial highway on which there is full control of access and grade separations at intersections. An expressway is a highway for through traffic which may or may not be divided or have grade separations, but on which there is partial control of access.

THE STATE highway commission will have the responsibility for designating the portions of state highways to be included in the new system. It will also determine the extent to which access to the designated portions will be limited in order to protect the public investment and permit ultimate development as full freeway or expressway.

This new freeway law is a fine example of forward looking legislation, carefully drafted after intensive investigation of all relevant factors. It is the result of two years of hard work by the Joint Interim Committee on Highway Problems. All levels of government involved in highway matters cooperated in the committee's studies. Many provisions of the law designed to safeguard local interests and yet give the state the best freeway system are the result of their suggestions.

## Officials OK Rancho Days Beard Boycott

Rancho Days officials are not encouraging the growing of beards for the five-day civic event slated to begin Wednesday, it was announced this week.

Chairman Jack Phillips said his group received too many complaints that instead of "cowboys," local supporters were being called "beatniks." Phillips said there are a lot of long side-burns and new mustaches cropping up for the event, but that even he was not growing "foliage" this year.

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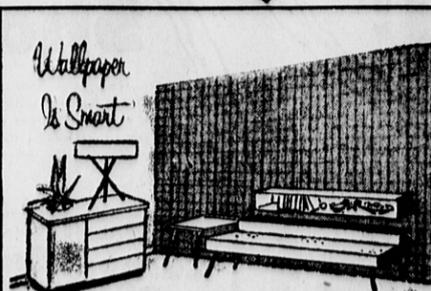
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