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Official says Hwy. 50 carpool lane extension will get funds

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State funds for a \$41 million extension of Highway 50 carpool lanes through El Dorado Hills apparently have been released, El Dorado County Supervisor Jack Sweeney said Tuesday.

County officials canceled a groundbreaking ceremony last month after the state halted funding of public works projects due to the budget crisis.

Because the carpool lane contract was awarded to Benicia-based Nehemiah Construction Inc. in November, the supervisors decided to proceed with the work in hopes the state funds would become available before local money was exhausted.

"It looks now that the state will pay their share ... in a timely fashion," Sweeney said.

Construction of carpool lanes from the Sacramento County line to the Bass Lake Road interchange is part of a three-phase plan to extend the lanes to the Red Hawk Parkway interchange, which serves the new Red Hawk Casino. It is intended to alleviate rush-hour and casino traffic.

– Cathy Locke