

Mud slides shut down Ortega (74) Highway

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Tons of mud loosened by heavy rains slid today onto Ortega (74) Highway, which was expected to remain closed between the San Juan Capistrano area and the Riverside County line through the weekend, authorities said.

The mudslide happened at about 1:30 a.m. near mile marker 4, blocking the highway and drawing Caltrans cleanup crews, California Highway Patrol dispatcher Andrea Nicholas said.

Because of the mudslide and the collapse Sunday of part of the road's shoulder several miles to the east, Ortega Highway was closed in both directions today from Nichols Institute Road to the Riverside County line.

The highway was expected to be fully reopened by Monday morning