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Caltrans worker headed to memorial killed in Highway 99 crash

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A state Department of Transportation employee was killed Thursday morning on Highway 99 in Sutter County while on his way to a workers memorial ceremony at the state Capitol.

Dean Patton, 51, of Grass Valley was traveling with three other employees on motorcycles when he was struck by a driver at the intersection with Riego Road, just north of the Sacramento County line, said Deanna Shoopman, a Caltrans spokeswoman.

According to the California Highway Patrol, a 73-year-old Sacramento woman driving a Toyota Matrix was northbound approaching Riego Road and was slowing to make a left turn onto westbound Riego Road about 8:18 a.m.

Patton was in the No. 2 lane on southbound Highway 99 north of Riego Road. As one motorcycle and another vehicle cleared the intersection, Patton entered the intersection as the Toyota turned left onto Riego Road directly in front of him.

Patton had no time to brake or take evasive action, according to the CHP.

Patton was pronounced dead at the scene. The driver of the Toyota was not injured. CHP officials said neither alcohol nor drugs appear to have been factors in the collision.

Patton spent most of his career with Caltrans, since 2006, working with the storm water crew in Marysville. He recently transferred to Nevada City.

The Bee's Cathy Locke contributed to this report.

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