

## = California State Route 7 =

State Route 7 ( SR 7 ) is a state highway in the U.S. state of California , running from the Calexico East Port of Entry on the U.S.-Mexico border east of Calexico north to its terminus at Interstate 8 ( I @-@ 8 ) , where Orchard Road continues the route north towards Holtville . The route provides convenient access to the country of Mexico from I @-@ 8 . The southern portion of the route opened in 1996 , and the rest of the route connecting to I @-@ 8 opened in 2005 .

## = = Route description = =

The highway begins at the Calexico East Border Station , which is open from 6 am to 10 pm , seven days a week . Just north of the border , the highway splits into two roads to pass through the customs checkpoints before the two roads merge back together ; the fork to the west is for cars , and the fork to the east is for commercial vehicles . SR 7 takes the western fork , which passes over the other fork at the northern end and merges into that highway . From here to I @-@ 8 , SR 7 is an expressway known as Orchard Road . Before reaching I @-@ 8 , SR 7 travels north and has an at @-@ grade intersection with SR 98 and a few other roads . At its northern end , SR 7 turns into County Route S32 ( still Orchard Road ) as it intersects with I @-@ 8 . The entire route runs through the Sonoran Desert and is built to expressway standards .

The route was constructed to allow commercial traffic to travel between Mexico and the United States . SR 7 is part of the California Freeway and Expressway System , and is part of the National Highway System , a network of highways that are essential to the country 's economy , defense , and mobility . In 2013 , SR 7 had an annual average daily traffic ( AADT ) of 2 @,@ 450 at the Calexico inspection station , and 15 @,@ 900 at Menvielle Road along the spur , the latter of which was the highest AADT for the highway .

## = = History = =

SR 7 was added to the state highway system in 1990 , and to the Freeway and Expressway System in 1998 . The segment from the Mexican border to SR 98 was completed by March 1996 to expressway standards ; this cost \$ 9 @.@ 1 million ( about \$ 16 @.@ 9 million in 2015 dollars ) to complete . However , the border crossing was not opened until December 2 , 1996 , due to delays in constructing the Mexican portion of the border crossing . Because of the 1994 economic crisis in Mexico , there was not enough money to complete the construction of the road leading up to the border facility on the Mexican side , as well as the Mexican border facility itself . The segment from SR 98 to I @-@ 8 began construction in March 2004 at a cost of \$ 64 @.@ 5 million ( about \$ 85 @.@ 9 million in 2015 dollars ) ; however , it was completed in mid @-@ 2005 .

## = = Major intersections = =

Note : Postmiles do not necessarily reflect current mileage . " S " refers to mileage on the spur route of SR 7 towards the border . The entire route is in Imperial County .