

= California State Route 177 =

State Route 177 (SR 177) is a short state highway in the U.S. state of California in Riverside County . The route links Interstate 10 (I @-@ 10) midway between the Coachella Valley and Blythe on the California ? Arizona border , to SR 62 near Rice . SR 177 travels along the eastern portion of the Joshua Tree National Park ; like the eastern 100 miles (160 km) of SR 62 , it passes through some of the most desolate areas of the Mojave Desert . The southernmost portion of SR 177 near I @-@ 10 runs concurrently with County Route R2 (CR R2) .

= = Route description = =

SR 177 begins at I @-@ 10 near Desert Center and briefly travels north , intersecting with CR R2 . At this intersection , SR 177 turns northeast and travels across the Mojave Desert , through the Chuckwalla Valley . It passes near the Desert Center Airport and comes near Palen Lake , a dry lake . The highway passes along the southeastern boundary of Joshua Tree National Park before turning due north and crossing the desert for several miles . SR 177 briefly turns northeast again before intersecting with SR 62 and defaulting onto SR 62 eastbound .

The route is two lanes wide for its entire length . SR 177 is not part of the National Highway System , a network of highways that are essential to the country 's economy , defense , and mobility . In 2013 , SR 177 had an annual average daily traffic (AADT) of 1 @,@ 200 at the northern terminus with SR 62 , and 3 @,@ 700 at the southern terminus with I @-@ 10 , the latter of which was the highest AADT for the highway .

= = History = =

The Metropolitan Water District built a road from Desert Center that ran north before turning east to Earp along with portions of the California Aqueduct from February 20 to August 4 in 1933 . This was part of a road system that was built in order to support the construction of the aqueduct by connecting the camps that construction workers resided in during the project . This road cost \$ 389 @,@ 600 (about \$ 48 million in 2015 dollars) to construct ; the roads in the system were paved . SR 177 was added to the state highway system in 1972 by the California State Legislature . As of 1998 , Caltrans had no plans to expand the highway , considering it to be " maintain only " through 2015 .

= = Major intersections = =

Except where prefixed with a letter , postmiles were measured on the road as it was when the route was established , based on the alignment that existed at the time , and do not necessarily reflect current mileage . R reflects a realignment in the route since then , M indicates a second realignment , L refers an overlap due to a correction or change , and T indicates postmiles classified as temporary (for a full list of prefixes , see the list of postmile definitions) . Segments that remain unconstructed or have been relinquished to local control may be omitted . The entire route is in Riverside County .