DID YOU KNOW?

- Litter pollutes our region’s waterways and is one of the most serious contributors to the pollution of the marine environments. The Adopt-A-Highway Program saves taxpayers millions of dollars and promotes civic responsibility and community pride.

- Littering violations include stiff penalties. If you are cited, the fine is up to $1,000 and 24 hours of community service.

- Recycling is also key to Caltrans’ battle with litter. We partner with Keep California Beautiful and the American Chemistry Council to install recycle bins at our rest stops throughout the state.

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STAY CLEAN SAN DIEGO

Litter along our freeways is a major distraction from the beauty of the San Diego and Imperial Region – it can be hazardous for motorists and costs state taxpayers millions of dollars a year. And it is preventable! The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) is doing its best with limited resources to remove litter from our roadways, but motorists need to do their share and think twice before tossing that wrapper or soda can out the window. Truck loads need to be properly secured with cargo netting before hitting the road.

The Caltrans Adopt-A-Highway Program provides businesses, groups and individuals with the opportunity to give back to their communities by adopting a portion of freeway for litter cleanup, vegetation control, tree/shrub plantings, wildflower plantings or graffiti removal. In exchange, adoptees will receive a courtesy sign, letting everyone know that they are doing more than their share to help maintain this paradise we call home. You can get all the information to become part of the program at http://adopt-a-highway.dot.ca.gov.

LITTER FACTS

Caltrans spends more than $6.3 million on removing 33,000 cubic yards of litter a year in San Diego and Imperial Counties. That’s money that would be better spent on freeway safety repairs and maintenance. It would take more than 5,400 large dump trucks to haul away the litter found on area freeways during the past year.

Aside from paper, bottles and cans, there are more tires collected than any other type of litter. Mattresses are the most common household item found on our freeways – with about 50 collected each month. Litterbugs leave more trash on Interstate 5 than any other area freeway. I-805 ranks second. Much of the trash comes from improperly secured and uncovered loads.