CALTRANS WORKERS HIT THE HIGHWAYS TO CLEAN UP CALIFORNIA

CENTRAL COAST - District 5 Maintenance crews targeted litter and debris removal today for Caltrans Annual Anti-Litter Day from Santa Cruz to Santa Barbara counties.

“Caltrans is committed to a clean and litter-free California, but we can’t do it alone. Everyone should think about the impact when trash is discarded from their vehicles onto our highways,” said Caltrans District 5 Director, Tim Gubbins. “Millions of taxpayer dollars are spent each year on this effort. Caltrans would prefer to spend that money on transportation projects.”

Last year, Caltrans picked up almost 3000 cubic yards of litter which would fill more 190 garbage trucks.

One way the public can help is by participating in Caltrans’ Adopt-A-Highway (AAH) Program. To become a volunteer or support the program through a paid sponsorship, call 1-866-ADOPT-A-HWY or go to: http://adopt-a-highway.dot.ca.gov. Currently, more than 12,000 volunteers participate in the AAH Program, saving taxpayers an estimated $16 million annually in litter removal costs.

Cigarette butts are the number one item littered in California - they are discarded by the millions, often causing roadside fires, clogging storm drains, and threatening water quality. Much trash also comes from illegal dumping and improperly secured and uncovered loads. Motorists face injury and even death as the result of debris (ladders, sofas, etc.) that falls from vehicles.

Highway 1 in Monterey County