



NEWS RELEASE

Today's Date: Thursday, April 24, 2014

District: 05 – Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, Monterey, San Benito and Santa Cruz Counties

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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 along five counties from Santa Cruz to Santa Barbara, state officials announced.

“Caltrans is committed to a clean and litter-free California, but we can’t do it alone. Everyone should think about what happens when they toss trash out of their vehicles onto our highways,” said Caltrans District 5 Director, Tim Gubbins. “Litter costs taxpayers millions of dollars each year to clean up. That’s money that could be better spent on transportation projects.”

Last year, Caltrans spent \$62 million on litter removal, collecting enough litter, trash, and debris from freeways to fill more than 9,700 garbage trucks. Parked end-to-end, those trucks would stretch more than 50 miles.

Caltrans’ Parolee Program, established jointly in 2009 with California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, supplements the state’s anti-litter efforts. The program reduces recidivism rates among parolees by providing up to three months of employment after their release from jail. Since 2009, nearly 1,300 parolees in this program have removed more than 110,000 cubic yards of litter from highways, equivalent to 7,000 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. In the 2012-13 fiscal year, AAH Program participants picked up over 133,000 bags of trash from California’s roadsides—enough to almost fill 1,200 garbage trucks.

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 hauling unsecured loads.

(SEE PICTURES BELOW FROM ANTI-LITTER DAY THIS MORNING)





NEWS RELEASE

MONTEREY COUNTY:



**SOUTHBOUND HWY. 1 JUST NORTH OF PALO COLORADO
IN BIG SUR**



NORTHBOUND HWY. 101 AT CHUALAR

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY:



**NORTHBOUND HWY. 17 AT EL RANCHO
NEAR SCOTTS VALLEY**



**SOUTHBOUND HWY. 9 NEAR GLEN ARBOR RD.
IN BEN LOMOND**

NOTE: Photos courtesy of Caltrans Maintenance Crews.

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