



NEWS RELEASE

Today's Date: April 22, 2011
District: District 10 - Stockton
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CALTRANS STATEWIDE LITTER PICKUP DAY

Merced County – The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) held a statewide Litter Removal Day on Friday, April 22, 2011, to pick up litter and debris along the state highway system and to educate the public about this costly issue.

Caltrans maintenance crews in Merced County picked up litter and debris for the entire day along State Route 99 (SR-99), SR-152, and SR-59. They picked up over 299 bags of litter.

The best anti-litter campaign is to ensure trash never makes it onto the highways in the first place. Caltrans encourages you to:

- Carry a litter bag in your automobile and always dispose of trash properly;
- Never discard cigarette or cigar refuse improperly;
- Always cover and properly secure loads of trucks and pick-ups.

With everyone doing their part we can keep California clean for today and the future.

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Last year Caltrans spent approximately \$50 million on litter removal throughout the State Highway System. Over 141,000 cubic yards of litter were collected and disposed. That's about 8,860 Caltrans garbage trucks full of litter.

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In addition to the economic costs, litter presents a wide range of serious threats to the environment and human health: Wildlife can suffer from plastics in the environment; roadside vegetation can be damaged by large debris; fires can be started from burning cigarettes that can threaten human health; harmful chemicals and biohazards can cause a serious threat to human health, litter can clog roadway drainage systems that can lead to wet-weather highway flooding, congestion, and accidents. Litter can aid in the spread of disease.

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Slow For the Cone Zone and Don't Trash California!

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