



# NEWS RELEASE

**Today's Date:** September 14, 2005

**District:** 4 - Oakland

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **“Don't Trash California”, San Francisco Bay Areas District 4 & Golden Gate CHP Resume Anti-Litter Campaign Tomorrow**

**Oakland** - On Thursday, September 15, 2005, Caltrans, in partnership with the California Highway Patrol and local law enforcement agencies, will be increasing their enforcement and public awareness against litter. Caltrans will be collecting litter in orange bags and display the collected bags at designated sites (Bag locations and site interviews available upon request). The CHP will make a special effort to find and cite drivers who litter, which is a violation of section 23112 A of the California Vehicle Code, and can carry a fine of up to \$1,000.

Litter on California highways poses a significant safety risk to motorists and the environment, and often has a direct relation to traffic accidents and freeway congestion. This past fiscal year, Caltrans spent \$41 million for litter and debris removal on California roadways, and approximately \$4 million in the Bay Area alone.

Director Kempton stated that “Litter is everyone’s problem and a preventable cost to California taxpayers.” Kempton reaffirmed the department’s commitment as Caltrans is redirecting \$10 million in departmental resources for picking up blighted areas. In addition, each of the department’s 12 districts will be conducting local public awareness and community outreach campaigns to educate the public of the detrimental effects that litter has on our waterways and its potential harm to marine life.

Citizens and corporations can do their part to help us fight litter by becoming a volunteer, or permit sponsors of the Adopt-A-Highway Program. Motorists are advised to keep a litterbag in the car and to ensure that all loads are properly secured while being transported. Help keep California beautiful and visit **DontTrashCalifornia.info** for more information.

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