



# NEWS RELEASE

**Today's Date:** October 16, 2012  
**District:** 10 - Stockton  
**Contact:** Angela DaPrato  
**Phone:** (209) 948-7176

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Oak Terrace Memory Care Named One of Caltrans' Adopt-A-Highway Program's "Volunteer of the Year"**

**Stockton** – The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) District 10 is pleased to announce the 2011 recipients of the "Volunteers of the Year" for the Adopt-A-Highway Program.

Three groups were selected to receive the Volunteer of the Year Award for 2011: the Manteca Morning Rotary from San Joaquin County; the Valley Springs Good Samaritan Men's Ministry from Calaveras County; and Oak Terrace Memory Care from Tuolumne County.

Oak Terrace Memory Care adopted a three mile section on State Route 108 between Draper Mine Road and Plainview Road in Tuolumne County. The group has been participating in the program since December 2010. Oak Terrace Memory Care picked up trash four times last year, and participated in the Great California Cleanup, helping to collect litter and debris from California's highways, roadways, streets, trails, waterways and parks.

"This is quite an achievement when you consider there are approximately 250 Adopt-A-Highway groups that have adopted a stretch of roadway throughout District 10's eight counties," said Caltrans District 10 Director Carrie Bowen. "We hope more groups join our Adopt-A-Highway Program, and pledge to keep our roadways clean of trash and debris."

District 10 encompasses eight counties – Alpine, Amador, Calaveras, Mariposa, Merced, San Joaquin, Stanislaus and Tuolumne. Caltrans has an Adopt-A-Highway Program which provides an avenue for individuals, organizations or businesses to help maintain sections of roadside within California's State Highway System. Groups have the option to participate as volunteers or to hire a maintenance service provider to perform the work on their behalf. Caltrans provides volunteers with appropriate permits, litter bags, hats, gloves and safety training, as well as a courtesy road sign to recognize their contribution. Volunteers show their community spirit through the cleaning and beautifying of our state highways.

- More -





# NEWS RELEASE

The Adopt-A-Highway program, which began in 1989, has been one of the truly successful government-public partnerships of our time. More than 120,000 Californians have cleaned and enhanced over 15,000 shoulder-miles of roadside.

Participation can include one or more of the following activities:

- Removing litter (work frequency varies with location).
- Planting and establishing trees or wildflowers.
- Removing graffiti.
- Controlling vegetation.

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.

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, and can aid in the spread of disease.

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

#

For more information on the Adopt-A-Highway Program, please visit [www.adopt-a-highway.dot.ca.gov](http://www.adopt-a-highway.dot.ca.gov) or call Kathy Cockayne, District 10 Adopt-A-Highway Coordinator, at (209) 948-7462.

##

[www.donttrashcalifornia.info](http://www.donttrashcalifornia.info)

###

