



NEWS RELEASE

Today's Date: April 25, 2014
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 Thursday, April 24, 2014, 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 over 237 bags of litter and debris at the following locations:

- State Route 59 (SR-59) from Bellevue Road to Oakdale Road (near the Merced County Landfill);
- Along SR-99 on the right shoulder and median between the Merced River Bridge to Bradbury Road;
- SR-152 at SR-33 (near the San Luis Reservoir/O'Neil Forebay).

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.

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

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

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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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