



NEWS RELEASE

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District: 8- INLAND EMPIRE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Corrected

DON'T TRASH CALIFORNIA! **MORE THAN JUST WORDS**

Inland Empire – Caltrans is urging the public to stop littering. Statewide the department spends over \$60 million every year to remove litter from its highways. Not only is litter unpleasant to look at – it is a hazard to you and our workers. Lane closures on Riverside and San Bernardino county state highways will take place all next week to remove large amounts of litter in response to the Statewide Litter Removal Day on March 4th.

How many times have you driven down a freeway and seen large objects lying in the roadway? Those objects have usually fallen off of other vehicles. Unfortunately people have been killed or seriously injured hitting those objects, let alone the countless times vehicles have been damaged with no way for reimbursement. The culprit for most of this type of litter is the “unsecured” load.

Other forms of litter are just as hazardous – to our environment. Cigarette butts are the number one item littering our roadways. Other forms of litter are plastic bags, tires, household items, human waste, cans and bottles, ladders, and much more. If all of this trash had been bagged in one year, at 12 pounds per bag, it would total 2,935,644 pounds!

Caltrans would like to recognize and thank the contributors to the Adopt-A-Highway program. Without their support and assistance, it would be impossible for Caltrans to keep our highways clean. There are over 4,100 volunteers and sponsor groups statewide. The litter picked up last year by Caltrans, Adopt-A-Highway, and special programs (such as probationers) would fill nearly 75 Olympic-sized swimming pools.

Please remember to be alert and watchful for all workers on the highway. Tragically one of our own workers was killed in November 2007 removing “litter” from Interstate 215 in San Bernardino.

Do your part – just quit littering! To learn more about what you can do to help keep California clean, go to www.donttrashcalifornia.info . Make the commitment to be a good steward for everyone’s future. You can also go to our website at www.caltrans8.info for more information about litter and roadwork in Caltrans District 8.

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