



NEWS RELEASE

Today's Date: Wednesday, February 27, 2008

District: 05 – Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, Monterey, San Benito and Santa Cruz Counties

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CALTRANS GREAT AMERICAN CLEAN-UP ON TUESDAY, MARCH 4TH

CENTRAL COAST – As part of the statewide 'Don't Trash California Campaign' and the "2nd Annual Great American Clean-Up Day" the Central Coast Caltrans office has begun an anti-litter campaign. On Tuesday, March 4, maintenance crews and Adopt-a-Highway groups throughout our district will be clearing debris from our highways.

"This campaign is a great way to show Caltrans efforts. We also ask that the public do their part to cover their loads and keep trash inside their vehicles to ensure the beauty and the environment surrounding our highways," said Rich Krumholz, District 5 Director.

Litter is a statewide problem that costs communities millions of dollars each year to clean up – money that could be otherwise spent on transportation projects. Caltrans spends about \$55 million each year removing litter on California's highways. Caltrans employees and Adopt-A Highway groups collectively picked up 7,800 cubic yards / 43,638 trash bags last year.

Below is last year's total trash litter collection statistics by region in our district:

Salinas/Monterey	\$245,567	SLO/Santa Maria	\$247,466
Santa Cruz	\$196,389	Santa Barbara	\$155,994
Templeton	<u>\$171,317</u>	Stripe/Sign Crews	<u>\$ 9,452</u>

Grand Total: \$1,026,185

Motorists are urged to become more aware of how they are contributing to litter on the central coast. A significant amount of trash ends up on highways by "flying out" of the back of pick-up trucks, either from loads that aren't tied down or is carelessly tossed from vehicles.

All trash – including plastic grocery bags, food containers and cigarette butts – must be disposed of in a proper trash container. Once on our roadway, litter travels into storm drains and waterways and pollutes rivers, lakes and the ocean. It's also a visual blight and can be a safety hazard.

Caltrans also reminds motorists that highway littering carries fines up to \$1,000, enforced by the CHP.

