



Highway Litter Impacts & The Adopt-A-Highway Program

FACT SHEET

DID YOU KNOW?

Litter pollutes our region's waterways and is one of the most serious contributors to the pollution of the marine environments. The Caltrans Adopt-A-Highway Program saves taxpayers millions of dollars and provides a great opportunity to promote civic responsibility and community pride.

Littering violations include stiff penalties. If you are cited by a police, you are subject to as much as a \$1,000 fine and up to 24 hours of community service.

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YOU STAY CLEAN SAN DIEGO

Litter along our freeways is a major distraction from the beauty of the San Diego Region – it can even be hazardous for motorists and costs state taxpayers millions of dollars a year. And it's preventable!

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) is doing its best with limited resources to remove litter from our roadways, but motorists need to do their share and think twice before tossing that wrapper or soda can out the window. Truck loads need to be properly secured with cargo netting before hitting the road.

The Caltrans Adopt-A-Highway Program provides businesses, groups and individuals with the opportunity to give back to their communities by adopting a portion of freeway for litter cleanup, vegetation control, tree/shrub plantings, wildflower plantings or graffiti removal. In exchange, adoptees will receive a courtesy sign, letting everyone know that they are doing more than their share to help maintain this paradise we call home.

You can get all the information to become part of the program at <http://adopt-a-highway.dot.ca.gov>.

LITTER FACTS

Caltrans spends more than \$2.5 million on removing 15,000+ cubic yards of litter a year in San Diego County. That's money that would be better spent on freeway safety repairs and maintenance.

It would take 2,000 large dump trucks to haul away the amount of litter found on area freeways during the past year.

Aside from paper, bottles and cans, there are more tires collected than any other type of litter.

Half of all containers found on our highways contained alcoholic beverages.

Mattresses are the most popular household item found on our freeways -- about 50 collected each month.

Litterbugs leave more trash on Interstate 5 than any other area freeway. I-15 ranks second.