



News Release

Date: Friday, December 1, 2023

District: 5 (Central Coast)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Caltrans Unveils Clean California Public Art Project Along State Route 156

Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony with Artists and State and Local Officials Held Today

SAN JUAN BAUTISTA, CA – Caltrans and the San Benito County Arts Council today celebrated the completion of a public mural representing the local community on Highway 156 at the Washington Street undercrossing. The \$900,000 project was made possible by Governor Gavin Newsom’s Clean California initiative, a sweeping \$1.2 billion, multiyear clean-up effort led by Caltrans to remove trash, create thousands of jobs, beautify public spaces and engage communities.

Created by artists Yanoe x Zoueh, the mural, “The Fabric of Life,” depicts the rich cultural stories, symbols and imagery that represent the city of San Juan Bautista. The artists gathered the materials through extensive community engagement, interviews with local and tribal leaders, and archival research. The mural is accompanied with a ribbon-type sculpture that emerges from the 2D painted “fabric” into the 3D sculpture. Project upgrades also include new fencing, highway slope improvements and new landscaping.

“We’re thrilled to deliver one of 12 important beautification projects along our central coast state highway system”, said Caltrans District Director Scott Eades. “It’s always a joy to work with local arts groups, and this project demonstrates how Clean California is positively impacting our communities and encouraging local pride in our public spaces.”

The project is located at Washington Street, a key connection for local residents underneath each side of the highway to and from town (see photos below). Another nearby state beautification project in San Benito County along Highway 25 in Hollister is currently underway. Overall, there are 320 Clean California projects beautifying and revitalizing communities throughout the state.

Since launching Clean California in July 2021, Caltrans has removed an estimated 2 million cubic yards of litter from state highways – or enough to fill 634 Olympic-size swimming pools. The program has also created nearly 8,700 jobs that have helped Californians overcome barriers to employment and drawn more than 10,000 volunteers to events ranging from community cleanups to large debris collections for appliances, tires, and mattresses.

For more information, visit [CleanCA.com](https://www.CleanCA.com).

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Art murals representing the local culture at the Highway 156/Washington Street undercrossing in the City San Juan Bautista, San Benito County