The Caltrans Adopt-A-Highway Program was established in 1989. California was the 20th state in the nation to develop an Adopt-A-Highway Program.

The Adopt-A-Highway Program allows the public to donate materials, equipment, and services for roadside maintenance or enhancement.

Adoption opportunities include litter removal, graffiti removal, vegetation control, tree planting, and wildflower planting.

In addition to the aesthetic benefits of cleaner and more beautiful roadsides, participants help to prevent potential pollutants from entering our waterways.

The Adopt-A-Highway Program provides a great opportunity for both volunteer and sponsor groups to promote civic responsibility and community pride.

An Adopt-A-Highway courtesy sign is erected to recognize participants for their contributions.

As of July 2016 there are approximately 3,033 active groups, representing an estimated 11,594 participants.

- 73% of the groups are volunteers who perform the services themselves.
- 27% of the groups are sponsors who hire a contractor to perform the work on their behalf.

Approximately 9,706 shoulder-miles of highway are currently adopted for litter removal.

From July 2012 through June 2016, program participants collected over 77,000 cubic yards of litter from California’s roadsides, a value of approximately $18,000,000 a year to California’s taxpayers.