



DON'T TRASH CALIFORNIA

www.DontTrashCalifornia.info

C A L T R A N S

Facts at a Glance

- The California Department of Transportation spends more than \$41 million per year on litter removal.¹
- Maintenance constituted about 12 percent of the California Department of Transportation highway expenditures in 2000-2001. This includes roadway repairs, landscape maintenance and improvements, and snow and litter removal.²
- The California Department of Transportation, District 4, which is responsible for San Leandro-area freeways, conducted an intensive litter clean-up program as a test of the effort necessary to keep highways clean on a weekly basis and found that it would cost \$50,000 just to clean five miles of highway.
- According to the California Department of Transportation, the number one littered item found along California freeways is cigarette butts.³
- According to the Earth Resource Foundation, the current projected annual cost to public agencies in California for litter prevention, clean up and disposal is \$375.2 million. The state will spend in excess of \$72 million annually just to collect and dispose of cups and bags.
- Research indicates that litter comes from seven primary sources: pedestrians, drivers, household garbage cans, commercial dumpsters, construction sites, loading docks and uncovered trucks.⁴
- Other litter found on freeways includes food cartons, Styrofoam cups, napkins, plastic utensils, snack-food wrappers, matches, soft drink bottles and cans, paper bags, tissues, plastic sheets, film, boxes, clothes, newspapers, magazines, metal, foil, anti-freeze and motor oil containers, grease, paint and paint thinners, tires, and much more.⁵
- Littering can cost drivers and their passengers a misdemeanor fine of \$1,000 in the State of California.⁶

For additional information, please visit www.DontTrashCalifornia.info.

Footnotes

- 1 Caltrans Maintenance Program, October 2005
- 2 Traveling in California: Transportation Revenues and Expenditures (II), "Half of Caltrans Highway Expenditures are for Capital Outlay Projects," http://www.lao.ca.gov/051100_cal_travels_finance-2.html
- 3 California Department of Transportation, "Please Don't Tarnish the Golden State!" www.dot.ca.gov/dist07/trash_in_bins/trash_bin.swf
- 4 Keep California Beautiful, "Litter and its Impact on California and its Cities," www.keepcaliforniabeautiful.com
- 5 Ibid.
- 6 Ibid.