

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

DIVISION OF MAINTENANCE
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October 22, 2003

LitterButt.Com
Attn: Mr. Christopher Woolson
445 Derry Drive
Aston, PA 19014

Dear Mr. Woolson:

I have been requested to respond to your letter to Governor Gray Davis regarding cigarette butts and other litter and debris along the State Highway System.

I want to assure you that the California Department of Transportation (Department) is also deeply concerned about California's litter problem and that we do have a very active litter removal program. Each year we have increased the amount of time and money spent on litter collection, but it has been difficult to keep pace with the increasing amounts of litter generated by the travelling public.

Last year alone, the Department removed approximately 147,000 cubic yards of litter from the State Highway System. The Department expended \$26 million to remove this litter and another \$14 million to sweep litter and picking up large debris from the pavement and gutters. The Department also uses supplemental forces to help combat litter. And, the Department has one of the largest and most successful Adopt-A-Highway Programs in the nation.

Although your web site offers an innovative and easy way for the public to report people who violate litter laws, we are unable to participate at this time. There are no statutory laws in place that would allow the Department to entertain this type of program. Although the Department installs regulatory signs that prohibit littering, enforcement of littering laws falls under the jurisdiction of the California Highway Patrol.

The Department is working with other State agencies to educate the public about the effects of littering. We are looking for innovative ways to reduce the litter by stopping it at its source. We hope that public education, combined with our efforts to promote enforcement of fines for littering, will result in decreased littering behavior. Current efforts include working with the California Department of Highway Patrol and local law

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enforcement agencies to enforce litter violation, and partnering with local communities and private businesses to develop and expand educational campaigns to urge the public to not litter.

Thank you for sharing your concerns over the appearance of California's roadsides. We appreciate the opportunity to let you know that the Department is actively involved in finding a solution to the litter problem. If you have any further questions, please contact Terri Porter, Office of Roadside Maintenance, at (916) 651-2014.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T. P. Hallenbeck".

THOMAS P. HALLENBECK
Acting Chief
Division of Maintenance