

San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board
1515 Clay Street, Suite 1400
Oakland, CA 94612

November 7, 2018

Re: Trash on Bay Area Caltrans roads

Dear Chair Young and Board members,

As local and county level elected officials representing the Bay Area, we urge the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board to take immediate enforcement action against Caltrans for failing to implement trash control measures and protect the Bay from roadway pollution. The agency has been in violation of its stormwater permit requirements for several years, and still does not have a credible plan for reducing trash in our region, despite the Board's December 2016 Notice of Violation (NOV).

On the Bay Area's roads, Caltrans' failure is all too visible. Litter on Bay Area freeways and state roads continues to pile up, blow and flow through storm drains into creeks and San Francisco Bay, where it poisons fish and wildlife, smothers wetland habitat, and defaces the shoreline. Caltrans' neglect also places a heavy burden on our cities to clean up trash that originates on Caltrans roads. Once trash from state roads enters a storm drain or creek, the cost to remove it shifts from Caltrans to local jurisdictions already striving to meet their own trash reduction requirements.

While Caltrans has partnered with a handful of Bay Area communities to prevent and clean up trash, the agency needs to do much more to address its pervasive trash problem. We urge the Board to require the following immediately in an enforcement order to Caltrans:

- Install trash capture devices in "very high" and "high" trash generation areas wherever feasible;
- Increase frequency of trash removal; and
- Collaborate with municipalities and local agencies to implement these solutions.

As we work to protect the Bay Area and California from rollbacks of federal environmental protections, you must ensure that Caltrans obeys the law and complies with the Clean Water Act. You should require the agency to clean up trashy roads, install full trash capture devices in the most littered areas, and pursue appropriate penalties for its many years of permit violations.

Sincerely,

Supervisor Diane Burgis, Contra Costa County
Supervisor David J. Canepa, San Mateo County
Supervisor David Pine, San Mateo County
Supervisor Warren Slocum, San Mateo County
Supervisor Ken Yeager, Santa Clara County
Supervisor Keith Carson, Alameda County
Supervisor Wilma Chan, Alameda County
Supervisor Nate Miley, Alameda County

Supervisor John Gioia, Contra Costa County

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Mayor Jesse Arreguin, Berkeley
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Mayor Rob Rennie, Los Gatos
Mayor Rich Tran, Milpitas
Mayor Lenny Siegel, Mountain View
Mayor Alan Nagy, Newark
Mayor John Richards, Portola Valley
Mayor Tom Butt, Richmond
Mayor Gary Phillips, San Rafael
Mayor Deborah Penrose, Half Moon Bay
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Vice Mayor Annie Campbell Washington, Oakland
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Vice Mayor Marsha Grilli, Milpitas
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Vice Mayor Harvey Rarback, Half Moon Bay
Vice Mayor Laura Davis, San Bruno

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Council Member Nick Pilch, Albany
Council Member Monica Wilson, Antioch
Council Member Ben Bartlett, Berkeley
Council Member Cheryl Davila, Berkeley
Council Member Lori Droste, Berkeley
Council Member Linda Maio, Berkeley
Council Member Susan Wengraf, Berkeley
Council Member Janet Abelson, El Cerrito
Council Member Scott Donahue, Emeryville
Council Member Dianne Martinez, Emeryville
Council Member Vinnie Bacon, Fremont
Council Member Myrna deVera, Hercules
Council Member Bob Carling, Livermore
Council Member Bob Nuñez, Milpitas
Council Member Rich Constantine, Morgan Hill
Council Member Rene Spring, Morgan Hill
Council Member Desley Brooks, Oakland
Council Member Lynette Gibson McElhaney, Oakland
Council Member Abel Guillen, Oakland
Council Member Dan Kalb, Oakland
Council Member Rebecca Kaplan, Oakland
Council Member Larry Reid, Oakland

Council Member Noel Gallo, Oakland
Council Member Kirsten Keith, Menlo Park
Council Member Mike Bucci, Newark
Council Member Mike Hannon, Newark
Council Member Greg Tanaka, Palo Alto
Council Member Jennifer Cavanaugh, Piedmont
Council Member Teddy Gray King, Piedmont
Council Member Tim Rood, Piedmont
Council Member Shelly Masur, Redwood City
Council Member Jael Myrick, Richmond
Council Member Sergio Jimenez, San Jose
Council Member Tam Nguyen, San Jose
Council Member Pete Ballew, San Leandro
Council Member Ed Hernandez, San Leandro
Council Member Benny Lee, San Leandro
Council Member Joe Goethals, San Mateo
Council Member Pat D. Gacoscos, Union City
Council Member Gary Singh, Union City
Council Member Carlos Romero, East Palo Alto
Council Member Charles Stone, Belmont
Council Member Debbie Ruddock, Half Moon Bay
Council Member Warren Lieberman, Belmont