

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE

STATE CAPITOL
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA
95814

January 9, 2019

Caltrans
Director Laurie Berman
P.O. Box 942873
Sacramento, CA 94273-0001

RE: Litter in the San Francisco Bay Area

Dear Director Berman,

It is no secret California's roads and highways are in need of attention. The backlog from years of deferred maintenance has finally caught up with us and with it, a whole host of negative consequences associated. From the number of potholes and dilapidated bridges to an increase in homeless encampments filled with people looking to seek refuge on Caltrans property. This along with the increase in traffic congestion in the Bay Area from long commutes due to the soaring cost of housing has ultimately caused an increase in heavy litter and trash on our roads.

I applaud Caltrans for actively collaborating with the San Francisco Regional Water Quality Control Board to pursue accelerated implementation of control measures at trash hotspots in the Bay Area. Examples of accelerated efforts include installation of trash capture devices and manual trash clean-ups within Caltrans right-of-way (ROW) as well as funding of trash control projects in local municipalities outside of Caltrans ROW. However, this effort is still inadequate. Caltrans needs to act quickly to reduce and eliminate trash in storm water flowing to creeks in the San Francisco Bay. Action needs to go beyond the minimum to protect the health and well-being of our community.

We know that our freeway conditions are nowhere near where we want them to be, but this is going to help us get where we want to go. Thank you for your attention- We look forward to working with you in the months to come.

Sincerely,

Jim Beall
California Senator Jim Beall

Ash Kalra
California Assemblymember Ash Kalra

Karen Chu
