

CITY OF OAKLAND

AGENDA REPORT

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
2007 APR 12 11:5:29

TO: Office of the City Administrator
ATTN: Deborah Edgerly
FROM: Public Works Agency
DATE: April 24, 2007

RE: A Progress Report On Caltrans Maintenance Activities in the City Of Oakland

In December 2005, the City of Oakland and Caltrans signed a Letter of Understanding (LOU) which formalizes the structure for the on-going relationship between the City and Caltrans in the maintenance of Caltrans properties. The LOU aims to maximize the clean-up activities by Caltrans within Oakland while recognizing the limited public resources that are available. This progress report to the City Council is the second of four semi-annual reports provided for by the LOU. The first report was heard by the Public Works Committee on May 9, 2006. The second was heard on October 24, 2006. This report responds to questions raised at those committee meetings and presents information required for the April 2007 meeting. After the first two years, reports will be provided annually.

Caltrans has complied with all of the tasks agreed to in the LOU including:

- Meeting monthly and responding in a timely manner to issues brought to them
- Providing monthly maintenance records for all activities listed in the LOU
- Providing records of all non-freeway properties owned by Caltrans in Oakland
- Providing records of clean-up costs for the top 25 cities in Caltrans District 4

FISCAL IMPACT

This is an informational progress report only; therefore there is no direct fiscal impact. There is an indirect cost to the City. Staff from various City agencies attend monthly Oakland Caltrans Working Group meetings.

BACKGROUND

On December 21, 2005, as a result of the public nuisance action filed by the City, Caltrans signed a ten-year monitoring and maintenance commitment with the City of Oakland. As required under this Letter of Understanding (LOU):

- ◆ Caltrans and Oakland established a joint working group to meet monthly to discuss, coordinate, prioritize and strategize Caltrans clean up activities in Oakland
- ◆ Caltrans submits monthly maintenance records of their work in Oakland

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- ◆ The City and Caltrans submit a semi-annual progress report on abatement activities in Oakland to the City Council
- ◆ Caltrans provided a comprehensive listing of all Caltrans properties in Oakland so that the information can be integrated into the City's computerized mapping system
- ◆ Lessees of Caltrans properties are being held accountable to the LOU.

From July through December of 2005, City and Caltrans representatives held informal monthly meetings to discuss projects of mutual interest. In January 2006, after the LOU was signed, this informal group became the Working Group established by the LOU. The Working Group has met monthly to encourage communication and coordinate abatement efforts of blighted conditions such as illegal dumping, litter, graffiti, overgrown vegetation and other fire and health safety hazards in the City. The monthly meetings are attended by representatives of Caltrans, the City's Public Works Agency, Police Department, Community and Economic Development Agency, and Fire Department. Representatives bring their lists of Caltrans issues to the table. The meetings include discussions of citizens' concerns regarding homeless encampments, litter, fire abatement and the appearance of their neighborhoods. All issues are discussed and a timetable for resolution by Caltrans is established. As a result of the LOU and Working Group, joint inspections and cleanups of various sites have been performed more quickly and on a more regular basis. Communication has greatly improved and Caltrans has become an active partner in cleaning up Oakland.

At each monthly meeting since the LOU was signed, Caltrans representatives have provided monthly reports, which include results for each abatement activity in the City:

- ◆ rights of way swept
- ◆ overgrown vegetation removed
- ◆ graffiti removed
- ◆ illegal dumping removed
- ◆ signs installed, fencing installed or repaired
- ◆ homeless encampments removed
- ◆ pavement project coordination and
- ◆ other cooperative or joint projects

The activities in Caltrans' reports include their regular activities as well as responses to lists provided by City staff of locations that require attention regarding weeds, homeless encampments, high litter areas, potholes, and fence repair.

Blight issues such as homeless encampments have been abated in a timely manner. Caltrans has installed signs to deter the homeless from camping. Caltrans has taken immediate action to remove combustible material around parcels in the Wildfire Prevention Assessment District that were under direct threat of fire damage. Routine maintenance such as street sweeping, graffiti removal, fence repair, and litter removal has also been performed in a timely manner. In addition, Caltrans' Adopt-A-

Highway program has 20 volunteer groups that pick up litter in Oakland. This has reduced complaints of unsightly trash along the freeway.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

At the May 9, 2006 Public Works Committee, City Council members directed staff to continue working with Caltrans on property maintenance and to address the status of the following issues:

1. Property maintenance to be based on regular schedules and not strictly complaint driven. Response: *Caltrans has prepared schedules based on their monthly and semi-annual reports to Oakland (Exhibit A). Their sweeping, trash removal and vegetation management are schedule driven. Graffiti removal, downed fences and illegal dumping are handled as they occur. Caltrans also responds to complaints.*
2. Contract with non-profit agencies such as the East Bay Conservation Corps (EBCC). Response: *Caltrans has since contracted with the EBCC for six crews for various projects. Two crews work in Alameda County.*
3. Caltrans herbicide/pesticide use to match those policies adopted by the cities in which they work. Response: *Caltrans reviewed the City's Integrated Pest Management Plan and is in compliance. Both the City and Caltrans have a variance for medians and rights-of-way where there will be no public contact with herbicides.*
4. Clarification on who is responsible for property around freeway ramps. Response: *Caltrans is generally responsible for removal of trash, litter and illegal dumping around freeway ramps. Freeway ramps at some point touch City rights-of-way so Caltrans and City crews coordinate on a case-by-case basis to clean up these locations.*
5. Trash and illegal dumping at commuter lots. Response: *Caltrans is responsible for trash, litter and illegal dumping at State of California operated Park and Ride sites.*

Caltrans' cost for clean-up in Oakland compares favorably with the costs in other cities in District 4.

The attached Exhibit B is Caltrans' Progress Report for July through December 2006. The report highlights the following accomplishments:

- ◆ Right-of-way swept – 1009 miles
- ◆ Overgrown vegetation removed – 80.25 acres pruned
- ◆ Graffiti removed – 54,316 square feet cleaned
- ◆ Fencing repaired – 3903 linear feet
- ◆ Homeless removal – 262 sites cleared
- ◆ Adopt-A-Highway – 1100 litter bags

Caltrans has provided the City with a comprehensive listing of all properties in Oakland so that the information can be integrated into the City's computerized mapping system. Staff believes that Caltrans has demonstrated a commitment to work collaboratively with the City by responding to and abating blight throughout Oakland in a timely manner.

SUSTAINABLE OPPORTUNITIES

Economic: The involvement of Caltrans staff in litter and debris removal and beautification will improve the physical appearance of the City of Oakland and will help stimulate economic growth, retain business, and promote civic pride.

Environmental: Removal of dumped materials and litter will reduce the amount of debris that enters the storm drain system polluting our creeks and waterways.

Social Equity: Enhancement of communication and coordination between the City and Caltrans will improve the appearance of the City and enhance the overall living conditions and safety of all Oakland residents.

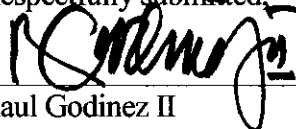
DISABILITY AND SENIOR CITIZEN ACCESS

The decreased amount of litter and increased beautification will improve the quality of life and safety for the disabled and senior citizens.

ACTION REQUESTED OF THE CITY COUNCIL

Accept this third progress report on the Caltrans Letter of Understanding.

Respectfully submitted,

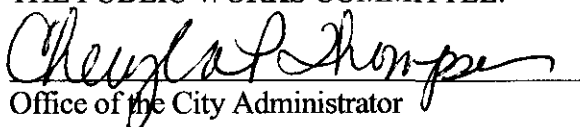


Raul Godinez II
Director, Public Works Agency

Reviewed by:
Brooke A. Levin
Assistant Director, Public Works Agency
Department of Facilities & Environment

Prepared by:
Jocelyn Combs
Public Works Agency
Department of Facilities & Environment

APPROVED AND FORWARDED TO
THE PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE:



Office of the City Administrator

Attachments:
Exhibit A – Caltrans schedule
Exhibit B – Caltrans Progress Report, July through December 2006

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Exhibit A

City of Oakland – Caltrans Schedule

SWEEPING

Location	
I-13	EVERY OTHER MONTH
I-24	ONCE A MONTH
I-880	TWICE A MONTH
I-580	TWICE A MONTH
I-980	ONCE A MONTH
Other	

LITTER REMOVAL

Location		
I-13	ONCE A MONTH	
I-24	ONCE A MONTH	
I-880	ONCE A WEEK BY CONTRTACTOR	
I-580	ONCE A WEEK BY CONTRTACTOR	
I-980	ONCE A MONTH	
Other	ADOPT A HIGHWAY	
	GROUPS	TIMES PER YEAR
I-13	3	4
	1	12
I-24	7	4
	3	12
I-580	9	12
	4	4
I-880	1	4
	1	3
	2	24
I-980	1	4

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VEGETATION REMOVAL

AS NEEDED

Graffiti removal

WEEKLY

Illegal dumping removed

WITHIN ONE WEEK ON AVERAGE

“No Dumping” and “No Trespassing” signs installed or replaced

AS NEEDED

FENCE WORK

AVERAGE OF 11 TIME PER MONTH

HOMELESS REMOVAL

AVERAGE 5 DAYS PER MONTH

360742-1

Exhibit B

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

111 GRAND AVENUE
P. O. BOX 23660
OAKLAND, CA 94623-0660
PHONE: (510) 286-5950
FAX: (510) 286-5903
TTY: (510) 735-2929



*Flex your power!
Be energy efficient!*

PROGRESS REPORT July 1, 2006 – December 31, 2006

The Progress Report is a summary of monthly maintenance expenditures of various activities conducted by Caltrans. The monthly report documents the maintenance activities with a breakdown of completion dates, locations of the work performed and the production results.

Caltrans has a cooperative working agreement with the Oakland Fire Department to remove vegetation and establishing fire breaks. A schedule for this work was established and is actively monitored for compliance. An alternative solution for eliminating foliage was the use of goats on steep hillsides and areas where vehicular access is difficult. The resources expended to remove homeless encampments continue to rise. In some locations, they have been deterred from returning with the help of the California Highway Patrol. The City of Oakland receives a monthly schedule indicating when and where homeless encampment removal activities will take place. This allows for both parties to work together cooperatively in different neighborhoods.

Listed below is a breakdown of maintenance activities from July to December 2006.

Activity	Production	Cost
Right of Way Swept	1009 Miles Swept	\$165,421.00
Overgrown Veg./Fire Break	80.25 Acres Pruned	\$ 182,312.00
Graffiti Removal	54316 Sq. Ft. Cleaned	\$ 23,587.00
Fencing Repaired	3903 Linear Feet	\$ 78,795.00
Homeless Removal	262 Sites Cleared	\$ 88,086.00
Adopt-A-Hwy	1100 Litter Bags	\$ 11,000.00
	Total	\$549,210.00

Exhibit B

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

111 GRAND AVENUE
P. O. BOX 23660
OAKLAND, CA 94623-0660
PHONE: (510) 286-5900
FAX: (510) 286-5903
TTY: (510) 733-2929



*Flex your power.
It's energy efficient.*

March 1, 2007

The Honorable Ignacio De La Fuente
City Council President
City of Oakland
City Hall-One Frank Ogawa Plaza
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Mr. De La Fuente

Enclosed is the semi-annual progress report as agreed upon by the Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and the City of Oakland in the January 2006 Letter of Understanding (LOU). The report addresses maintenance activities performed by Caltrans within the City of Oakland from July 1, 2006 through December 31, 2006. Additional progress reports will be provided to the City Council on a semi-annual basis.

This third progress report summarizes the State's maintenance activities in the city for such activities as homeless encampment removal, clean-up of illegal dumping, graffiti removal, overgrown vegetation removal, fence repair, and sweeping of the State right of way. This report also includes an estimate of Caltrans' expenditures for those maintenance activities.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (510) 286-5900 or Usen Inyang, Deputy District Director of Maintenance at (510) 286-5893

Sincerely,


BIJAN SARTIPI
District Director

Enclosure