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OAKLAND

CITY OF OAKLAND

AGENDA REPORT

2008 DEC -4 AM 9: 53

TO: Office of the City Administrator
ATTN: Dan Lindheim
FROM: Public Works Agency
DATE: December 16, 2008

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

In December 2005, the City of Oakland and Caltrans signed a ten-year Letter of Understanding (LOU) which formalizes the structure for the ongoing 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. From 2005 through 2007 there were four semi-annual reports. This report marks the first annual progress report.

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

Highlights from Caltrans from October 2007 through October 2008 included:

- Union Pacific Railroad has been participating in monthly Caltrans meetings
- Coordinated response to vandalism and homeless encampments along Highway 980 (23rd Street and MLK to the Grove Shafter Park.), with the Oakland Police Department, Public Works Agency, provider of homeless services and BART Police
- Support from the Union Pacific Railroad and BART Police
- New weed barrier and mulch at the 880 and Hegenberger and 98th Avenue gateways to Oakland International Airport
- Continued use by Caltrans of the Civicorps Schools for cleanups
- Caltrans has committed to removing trash at least monthly from all freeways in Oakland
- In Early 2009 Caltrans plans to begin modifications under 580 between Grand and Lakeshore to eliminate pigeon droppings.

The Public Works Agency continues to take service requests via e-mail pwacallcenter@oaklandnet.com or by phone at the Public Works Call Center at 510-615-5566.

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Public Works Committee
December 16, 2008

FISCAL IMPACT

This is an informational progress report only; therefore there is no direct fiscal impact.

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
- ◆ The City and Caltrans submit semi-annual progress reports for two years and then annual reports 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

The attached Exhibit A is Caltrans' Progress Report for July 2007 through June 2008. The report highlights the following accomplishments:

- ◆ Rights-of-way swept – 4,079 miles
- ◆ Overgrown vegetation removed – 110.45 acres pruned
- ◆ Graffiti removed – 153,045 square feet cleaned
- ◆ Fencing repaired – 3,167 linear feet
- ◆ Homeless encampment removal – 723 sites cleared
- ◆ Adopt-A-Highway – 2,080 litter bags

During the twelve months covered by this report, the Caltrans Working Group has resolved complaints from the public in the many categories covered above. The Working Group has also worked on long term solutions to particularly stubborn issues by being innovative and experimenting with new ideas. A monthly schedule for homeless camp removal is prepared by Caltrans and the work is supported by the California Highway Patrol and the Oakland Police Department. Graffiti has been cleaned on an expedited schedule to remove tags quickly from high impact areas to lessen competition from other taggers.

In an effort to keep the lines of communication open between right-of-way agencies in Oakland, Union Pacific Railroad (UP) has been participating in monthly Caltrans meetings.

Based on numerous complaints from neighbors and BART riders to the City, Caltrans and BART, the Working Group prepared and executed a coordinated response to vandalism and homeless

encampments along Highway 980 (23rd Street and MLK to the Grove Shafter Park), with the Oakland Police Department, Public Works Agency, providers of homeless services and BART Police. While this area will continue to be problematic, there was a reduction in complaints.

In an effort to beautify the gateways to Oakland, Caltrans is installing new weed barrier and mulch at the 880 and Hegenberger and 98th Avenue gateways to Oakland International Airport. This project was delayed due to the late budget approval in Sacramento, but has started up again.

Caltrans continue to contract with the Civicorps School for cleanups along the freeways in Oakland. Caltrans has also committed to removing trash at least monthly from all freeways in Oakland.

The community has asked that pigeons be removed from the freeway structure above the Farmers' Market. In early 2009 Caltrans plans to begin modifications to the underside of 580 at Grand to eliminate pigeon droppings. Due to the cost, this will be a long, phased project. The project follows the successful eradication of pigeons by Caltrans under 880 at the Police Administration Building parking lot.

Staff believes that Caltrans continues to demonstrate its commitment to work collaboratively with the City by not only responding to and abating blight throughout Oakland in a timely manner but also by partnering and problem-solving on other projects of mutual interest. Also, the addition of the Union Pacific Railroad staff at monthly meetings has enhanced interagency cooperation.

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 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

Attachment:
Exhibit A – Caltrans Progress Report, July 2007 through June, 2008

Item: _____
Public Works Committee
December 16, 2008

FILED
OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
OAKLAND

2008 DEC -4 AM 9:54

STATE OF CALIFORNIA—BUSINESS, TRANSPORTATION AND HOUSING AGENCY

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER, Governor

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

111 GRAND AVENUE
P. O. BOX 23660
OAKLAND, CA 94623-0660
PHONE (510) 286-5900
FAX (510) 286-5903
TTY 711



*Flex your power!
Be energy efficient!*

November 12, 2008

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

Dear Council Member De La Fuente:

Enclosed is the 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, 2007 to June 30, 2008.

This annual progress report summarizes the State's maintenance activities including the production of work and cost expenditures. The maintenance activities include sweeping of state right of way, graffiti removal, fence repair, overgrown vegetation and homeless encampment removal.

If you need any further information, please contact Nader Eshghipour, Deputy District Director of Maintenance at (510) 286-5893.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bijan Sartipi".

BIJAN SARTIPI
District Director

Enclosure

Exhibit A

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
111 GRAND AVENUE
P. O. BOX 23660
OAKLAND, CA 94623-0660



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PROGRESS REPORT

July 1, 2007 – June 30, 2008

The Progress Report is a summary of “Attachment A” reports that have been submitted for review at the monthly meetings with the City of Oakland, Public Works Department. This is the annual report as required by the Letter of Understanding between the State of California, Department of Transportation and the City of Oakland, Public Works Department.

During the past year the *working group* has worked cooperatively on public issues: the homeless issue continues to be a major focus point. The Department shares a schedule with the City each month for a joint effort in the removal of the homeless from state and city property. It was determined that if the removal was completed together then the results could allow for an area to be cleared of homeless and removal of debris on both sides of the fence.

One area in particular was the Grove Shafter Park that borders Interstate 580. This work included removing lower branches on trees and shrubs, fence repair and removing hazards such as hypodermic needles, human waste, and hazardous materials. This area is monitored by Oakland Park Rangers, Oakland Public Works and Caltrans. Another homeless location is at Martin Luther King, Jr. Way and 23rd Street. This area previously contained over twenty encampments where homeless are engaged in heavy drug use, particularly in the use of heroin. Caltrans disposed of over 500 hypodermic needles that were scattered in the ivy, drainage culverts and on the embankments. The homeless still occupy this area, but the number of encampments has been reduced to approximately seven camps. The California Highway Patrol and Oakland Police Department were requested to provide assistance and enforcement in removing the homeless from this location due to the unsafe nature of this environment. In the past year, The Department has cleared 723 homeless camps at a cost of one hundred and fifty thousand dollars.

The Department received a request from the City of Oakland regarding a problem at the Oakland Police Department’s parking lot under Interstate 880. The lot is leased from Caltrans and the issue there was pigeon excrement falling on the police vehicles, the parking lot and police officers. This consisted of a health hazard and the Department hired a hazardous spill contractor to remove and dispose of the excrement. The Department also secured spikes to the columns as a deterrent to prevent the pigeons from roosting.

The Department and the City of Oakland continue to work together effectively to solve identified problems. Complaints and issues are discussed and prioritized. An action plan, which includes an estimated time-table for work is established at the monthly meetings.

Listed in the table below is a breakdown of maintenance activities from July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008:

Activity	Production	Cost
Right of Way Swept	4,079 Miles Swept	\$365,929.00
Overgrown Veg./Fire Break	110.45 Acres Pruned	\$568,666.00
Graffiti Removal	153,045 Sq. Ft. Cleaned	\$ 45,317.00
Fencing Repaired	3,167 Linear Feet	\$ 69,736.00
Homeless Removal	723 Sites Cleared	\$150,008.00
Adopt-A-Hwy	2080 Litter Bags	\$ 15,613.00
		Total \$1,215,269.00