

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
2006 OCT 24 10:56

CITY OF OAKLAND
AGENDA REPORT

TO: Office of the City Administrator
ATTN: Deborah Edgerly
FROM: Public Works Agency
DATE: October 24, 2006

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

SUMMARY

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. This report responds to questions raised at that committee meeting and presents information required for the October 2006 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 attends 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):

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- ◆ 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
- ◆ Caltrans submitted records of funds spent on clean-up in Oakland and the top 25 populated cities in District 4 (which includes Oakland)
- ◆ City and Caltrans bring 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 called for in 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. Caltrans partnered with the City to spruce up areas around the Coliseum prior to opening days for professional sports teams. 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 in the October 2006 report:

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.*

This second semi-annual Progress Report to the City Council and each subsequent report will include information regarding overall staff hours and cost to the Department for clean-up efforts in each of the 25 most populated cities in Caltrans District 4. 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 January through June 2006. The report highlights the following accomplishments:

- ◆ Right-of-way swept – 1322 miles
- ◆ Overgrown vegetation removed – 40.75 acres pruned
- ◆ Graffiti removed – 48,703 square feet cleaned
- ◆ Fencing repaired – 3150 linear feet
- ◆ Homeless removal – 90 + sites cleared
- ◆ Adopt-A-Highway – 354 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 second progress report on the Caltrans LOU.

Respectfully submitted,



RAUL GODINEZ II, P.E.

Director, Public Works Agency

Reviewed by:

Brooke A. Levin

Assistant Director, Public Works Agency

Department of Facilities & Environment

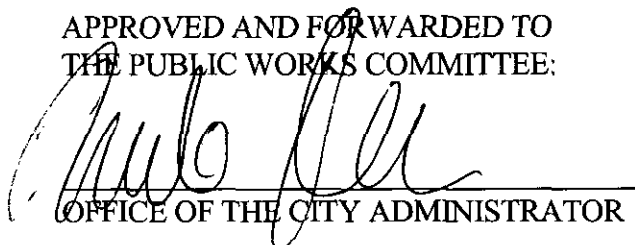
Prepared by:

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, January – June 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

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 TIMES PER MONTH

HOMELESS REMOVAL

AVERAGE 5 DAYS PER MONTH

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

600 Lewelling Blvd.
San Leandro, CA 94579



*Flex your power!
Be energy efficient!*

**PROGRESS REPORT
January 1, 2006 – June 30, 2006**

In reference to the Letter of Understanding between the State of California, Department of Transportation and the City of Oakland, a Progress Report to the Oakland City Council is required. This is the second report from the period of January 1, 2006 to June 30, 2006.

The Progress Report is a summary of monthly maintenance expenditures of various activities conducted by the Department of Transportation. The tracking of these maintenance activities was agreed upon in monthly meetings between The City of Oakland, Public Works Department and the Department of Transportation. The monthly report, "Attachment A", lists the maintenance activities, dates of completion, locations and production results.

The "Attachment A" document is a useful tool to establish patterns of repeat maintenance work and problem areas. This can assist both agencies to shift personnel and resources to address the situation. This also helps in answering concerns from the public in regards to their neighborhood. With this information, the public can be informed of the effort put forth by the Department of Transportation maintenance forces.

The monthly meetings included discussions of homeless encampments, litter removal, fire abatement, fence repair, graffiti removal and sweeping the right of ways. As other complaints or requests arose they were placed on the agenda for further investigation and compliance. The meetings continue to function in a cooperative environment to fulfill the commitment of the Letter of Understanding.

Listed in the table below is a breakdown of maintenance activities from January to June, 2006:

Activity	Production	Cost
Right of Way Swept	1322 Miles Swept	\$136,107.00
Overgrown Veg./Fire Break	40.75 Acres Pruned	\$ 90,638.00
Graffiti Removal	48,703 Sq. Ft. Cleaned	\$ 26,366.00
Fencing Repaired	3150 Linear Feet	\$ 53,341.00
Homeless Removal	90 + Sites Cleared	\$ 76,099.00
Adopt-A-Hwy	354 Litter Bags	\$ 4,834.00
		Total \$387,385.00