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OAKLAND

CITY OF OAKLAND

AGENDA REPORT

2011 APR 27 PM 12:57

TO: Office of the City Administrator
ATTN: P. Lamont Ewell, Interim City Administrator
FROM: Public Works Agency
DATE: May 10, 2011

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. The LOU requires annual reports to the City Council. This report covers Caltrans activity from July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010.

In the five years since the LOU was signed, the City and Caltrans have expanded the partnership beyond the Public Works Agency to include Fire, Human Services and the Community and Economic and Development Agency. Outside Agency partners now include BART, Union Pacific, the East Bay Regional Park District and Alameda County.

The partnership has continued and grown despite the staffing reductions experienced by all of the agencies involved. Working together on issues affecting all agencies has provided the public with cost savings, where more is being done for less.

Last year, Caltrans provided the City with access to their right of way digital imaging layers that georeference the Caltrans Maintenance and Freeway Lease Agreements on Google Earth. This has helped determine responsibility more quickly and more accurately.

Service requests to Caltrans should go through their website at www.dot.ca.gov/contactus.htm; click on "to submit a Maintenance Service Request".

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

FISCAL IMPACT

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

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Public Works Committee
May 10, 2011

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, Department of Human Services, 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 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 29 volunteer groups, up from 20 last year, 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 2009 through June 2010. The following table highlights those accomplishments as well as those of previous years.

Task	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
Rights-of-way swept in miles	2,922	1,934	4,079	3,993	2,082
Overgrown vegetation removed in acres	65.75	155.75	110.45	76.75	107.9
Graffiti removed in square feet	108,978	126,757	153,045	241,647	230,174
Fences repaired in linear feet	5,050	5,811	3,167	3,712	2,210
Homeless encampments removed	140	446	723	812	336
Adopt-a-Highway by litter bags collected	1,454	1,957	2,080	2,534	1,822

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 Department of Human Services and other agencies. Graffiti has been cleaned on an expedited schedule to remove tags quickly from high impact areas to lessen competition from other taggers.

Other than vegetation removal, numbers have dropped in the last year, some because of additional enforcement and others due to drops in staffing.

Caltrans has also committed to maintaining their property in Oakland according to the attached schedule. (*Exhibit B*)

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.

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.

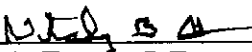
DISABILITY AND SENIOR CITIZEN ACCESS

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,

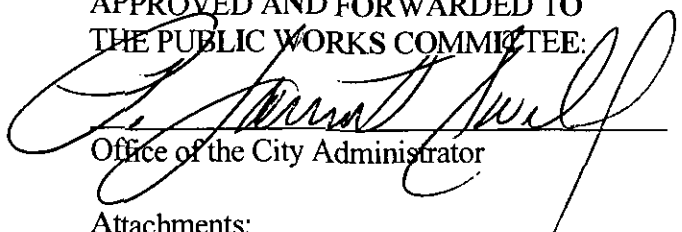


Vitaly Troyan, P.E.
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Department of Facilities & Environment

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

APPROVED AND FORWARDED TO
THE PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE:



Office of the City Administrator

Attachments:

Exhibit A – Caltrans Progress Report, July 2009 through June, 2010

Exhibit B – Caltrans maintenance schedule in Oakland

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EXHIBIT A

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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



*Flex your power!
Be energy efficient!*

October 4, 2010

The Honorable Jane Brunner
City Council President
City Hall-One Frank Ogawa Plaza
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Ms. Brunner,

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, 2009 to June 30, 2010.

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, illegal dumping removal, 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,


BIJAN SARTIPI
District Director

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



*Flex your power!
Be energy efficient!*

PROGRESS REPORT

July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010

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 this past year the Department and the City of Oakland have worked cooperatively on many issues: the homeless issue as in previous years still continues to be a major social problem generating many public complaints. The Department shares a homeless clean up schedule with the City each month for a joint effort in the removal of the homeless from state and city property. In the past year, the Department cleared 336 homeless camps.

Graffiti is also another serious problem facing the Department and the City of Oakland. In the past year, our maintenance crews cleaned a total of 230,174 square feet of graffiti within the City limits of Oakland. This number represents an 11,500 square foot decrease from the previous year due in large part to the enforcement efforts of the California Highway Patrol and the Oakland Police Department in catching and prosecuting those individuals engaging in this illegal activity. We feel that illegal tagging will continue to increase in the coming years due to an ever increasing number of graffiti coming from local gangs as they compete for territory. In light of this and in an effort to help law enforcement identify and prosecute these local gangs, the Department's Graffiti Clean-up Crew attended a gang tag identification class sponsored by the Oakland Police Department's Gang Unit earlier this year.

In the hopes of providing better service to our customers, the Department and the City of Oakland met on two occasions earlier this year in front of Oakland City Council to get a better idea as to our assigned areas of responsibility in regards to maintenance at Caltrans leased lots and freeway undercrossing and overcrossings throughout the City of Oakland. For example, the Oakland City Council wanted to know who maintains the outside of the Caltrans leased lots and the freeway undercrossing and overcrossing within the City of Oakland. The Department provided the City with a copy of the Caltrans' Delegated Maintenance Agreement for State Highways in the City of Oakland to help better address these questions. The Department also provided the City with access to our right of way digital imaging layers that geo reference the Caltrans' Maintenance and Freeway Lease Agreements within (Google Earth) within the City of Oakland which the City in turn can incorporate with their digital right of way maps to establish their boundaries.

In closing, the Department and the City of Oakland continue to partner together with the same resolve and determination as ever in meeting our goals and the needs of the public to which we serve.

Listed in the table below is a breakdown of maintenance activities from July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010:

Activity	Production	Cost
Right of Way Swept	2.082.3 Miles Swept	\$178,590.00
Overgrown Vegetation/ Fire Break	107.9 Acres Pruned	\$594,261.00
Homeless Removal	336 Sites Cleared	\$128,993.00
Fencing Repaired	2,210 Linear Feet	\$ 65,477.00
Graffiti Removal	230,174 Sq. Ft. Cleaned	\$ 65,767.00
Adopt-A-Hwy	1,822 Litter Bags	\$ 23,151.00
Illegal Dumping Removal	18 Cubic Yards	\$ 2,453.00
		Total \$1,058,692.00

Exhibit B

City of Oakland – Caltrans Schedule

SWEEPING

Location	
I-13	EVERY OTHER MONTH
I-24	ONCE A MONTH
I-880	ONCE A MONTH
I-580	ONCE 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 MONTH	
I-580	ONCE A MONTH	
I-980	ONCE A MONTH	
Other	ADOPT A HIGHWAY	
	GROUPS	TIMES PER YEAR
I-13	1	12
I-24	1	12
I-580	5	24
I-880	3	24
I-980	1	12

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

AS NEEDED

HOMELESS REMOVAL

AVERAGE 3 DAYS PER MONTH

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