

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT OCTOBER 5, 2004 MARK MAZZAFERRO, CITY OF VALLEJO, (707) 649-5462 ARNOLD JOE, CALTRANS ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY COORDINATOR, (510) 286-4421

## CITY WORKING WITH CALTRANS DISTRICT 4 ON ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY PROGRAM

VALLEJO – The City of Vallejo is working with the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) to encourage businesses, organizations and individuals to participate in the state's Adopt-A-Highway program.

"These highways go right through the main part of our city, and are the first impression people have of Vallejo, in many cases," said Nimat Shakoor-Grantham, the City of Vallejo's Code Enforcement Manager. "Our goal is to get all the available segments of highways and state routes in Vallejo adopted by local groups or businesses."

The Caltrans Adopt-A-Highway Program provides an avenue for individuals, organizations, or businesses to help maintain sections of roadside within California's State Highway System. In addition to the aesthetic benefits of cleaner and more beautiful roadsides, participants help to prevent potential pollutants from entering our waterways and save California taxpayers millions of dollars every year.

The Adopt-A-Highway Program provides a great opportunity to promote civic responsibility, community pride, and camaraderie within organizations. Adopt-A-Highway courtesy signs also provide prominent recognition for participants.

Currently there are seven segments of roadways in Vallejo available for adoption. They include:

- The northbound and southbound sides of Highway 29 from Highway 80 to Ford Alley
- The northbound and southbound sides of Highway 29 from Ford Alley to Sereno Drive.
- The eastbound and westbound sides of Highway 80 from the 780 junction to Redwood Street

(More)

- The eastbound and westbound sides of Highway 80 from Redwood Street to Highway 37
- The eastbound side of Highway 780 from Lemon Street to the Vallejo City limits.

Several portions of highways in Vallejo have already been adopted. Almost two miles of highway, from Nebraska Street to Highway 37, have been adopted by Vallejo Auto Mall West; Highway 27, from the Vallejo City limit to White Slough, has been adopted by the Vallejo Jaycees; the westbound direction of Highway 80 from Redwood Street to Highway 37 has been adopted by the Soroptimist International of Vallejo Gateway; while the eastbound stretch of the same portion of highway has been adopted by Team Chevrolet.

Portions of Highway 37 that are under construction are not available for adoption, but will be once the work is completed.

Adopt-A-Highway Encroachment Permits are issued for a period of five years. You may renew for an additional five-years, provided that you (or your contractor) have satisfactorily met the terms of the existing permit and the site remains suitable for adoption. Encroachment permits cannot be transferred to another organization.

There is no cost to participate in the Adopt-A-Highway program. Along with a sign recognizing your group's participation in the program, Caltrans will also provide an Adopt-A-Highway Encroachment Permit, a safety orientation for group safety leaders, safety gear for volunteer participants (hard hats, vests, gloves, safety glasses, and litter pickers) and safety-training materials for group use, Adopt-A-Highway litter bags and collection and disposal of filled Adopt-A-Highway litter bags and other debris cleared from the adoption site.

Depending on the adoption site and subject to Caltrans approval, minors, aged 16 and older, may participate. Groups including minors must have at least one adult supervisor over the age of 21 at the site for every five minors present.

For information about the Adopt-A-Highway program, please call toll free 1-866-ADOPTAHWY.

To get more information or to download applications for participating in the Adopt-A-Highway program, go to http://adopt-a-highway.dot.ca.gov.