

News from Marin Clean Highways Action Team

✓ Tip of the Month: Adopt-a-Highway in Marin!

By Vicky Dehnert and Maureen Parton

These days are about seeing a challenge and taking action.

Aside from traffic, another popular concern among residents is the amount of trash and debris on Marin's streets and highways. **Marin Clean Highways** is the Action Team in the **Clean Marin Coalition** laser focused on highway trash and litter.

Here's the "tip of the month" to get a handle on roadside trash along our State highways. We've all heard of the **Adopt-a-Highway** program and seen freeway signs listing the names of people and organizations that have helped underwrite the clean-up of miles of roadway. Admit it; you've even imagined your name, your employer's name or the name of a service organization you belong to listed on one of those signs. But, you didn't pursue it because you thought adoption was a long, bureaucratic slog. Not true!

Here's a fast, easy four-step process showing how to **Adopt-a-Highway** right here in Marin. We have a few "orphan" areas left to adopt.

Think about it! Here's something to do about roadside litter right away. Please share this message with your friends and networks and spread the word.

An Easy, 4-Step Process to Adopt-a-Highway

One of the most prominent not yet adopted spots is the much-visited Vista Point Overlook at the north end of the Golden Gate Bridge. This viewing spot, adjacent to the Bay waters and the Golden Gate, sure could use the tender loving care of litter clean up.

You, your business or an organization may participate directly as volunteers or you can contract with a Caltrans approved maintenance provider to perform the work on your behalf. The cost of using a contractor is dependent on the size and scope of work, usually totaling a few hundred dollars a month.

Here are possible adoption opportunities:

- Landscaping
- Litter removal
- Graffiti removal
- Vegetation control

Here's the easy 4 step process for adoption:

1. Go to <http://www.dot.ca.gov/d4/adoptahighway/> to identify an available site to adopt. (Click on "District 4 Bay Area Maps.")
2. Next, fill out application. (Click on Program Application.)
3. Contact James Kennard, District 4 Adopt-a-Highway Coordinator at james_kennard@dot.ca.gov.
4. If your organization is performing the work, view a brief safety training video and receive instruction about how to perform a clean-up.

Taking action on the front lines of litter is satisfying on so many levels. Your investment helps keep Marin beautiful and promotes safety for all highway users. What you might not expect is this: prepare to be seen as orange-vested, cleanliness Super Heroes!

For further information about Marin Clean Highways and to join the MCH Action Team, please write to Vicky Dehnert at marincleanhighways@gmail.com.