

The Mission

The Los Angeles County Adopt-A-Highway Program provides individuals, families, businesses, organizations, and public agencies with a unique opportunity to gain prominent recognition while beautifying the environment within their own communities. By collecting roadside litter or removing graffiti on walls and bridges, participants foster community pride and save taxpayer dollars.

Why participate in the *Adopt-A-Highway Program?*



Photo courtesy of John Ford

There are over 3,100 miles of roadways in the unincorporated areas of the County. Unfortunately, every day, people carelessly litter those roadways by throwing gum wrappers, cans, and paper out their vehicle windows. Large bulky items such as tires and old furniture are also purposely dumped by the side of the road.

But, litter is not the only problem we must contend with each day. Unsightly graffiti sprayed carelessly on walls approaching bridges also mars the natural landscape throughout our communities. As you can imagine, ongoing maintenance and clean up is quite a task.

What can we do? It's simple. We're asking for your help! By taking part in the County's Adopt-A-Highway Program, our overall reach is greatly extended. Participants get personal satisfaction by knowing that they are truly supporting their community.

Is it easy to participate?



YES. We welcome individuals over 11 years of age, businesses, public agencies, and organizations. We simply ask you to adopt a section of roadway in an unincorporated area for a period of two years. You may choose to either pick up litter or remove graffiti along your section. Or, if you wish, you can even do both! Either way, it doesn't take too much of your time. In fact, the work can be done by using your own people or by hiring a contractor. Regardless of the method you use, you are recognized for your effort.



What are the benefits?

Self satisfaction coupled with the ability to help ensure the beauty of our diverse landscape rank high among the numerous benefits! Community residents and tourists alike benefit from your efforts.

BUT, THERE'S MORE! WE COMMIT TO THE FOLLOWING INCENTIVES:

- **We will pay for and install** two 72" x 54" recognition signs at the beginning of your adopted stretch of highway in each direction of traffic. Each sign will include a panel that prominently displays your name with an attached flip-down traffic warning sign. Both signs will remain at the designated locations during the entire two-year period. Participants may also choose, at their cost, to provide us with customized recognition panels that incorporate

logos or insignias. (Products, slogans, telephone and fax numbers, Internet or E-mail addresses, and street names or directions may not be placed on customized panels.)



- **We will acknowledge** your contribution to the Adopt-A-Highway Program in a press release to local community newspapers. A copy of the release will be forwarded to you for your records.
- **We will provide** your group leader with safety training before your volunteer time begins. We will also lend you safety gear, including hard hats, orange vests, and gloves for the duration of the agreement.
- **We will provide** trash bags as well as free trash collection and disposal.
- **We will provide** you with postcards on which you can record the number of trash bags you fill each time you remove litter from your stretch of roadway. The Department will pay the return postage.
- **We will issue** the necessary permit free of charge.
- **We will give** you an attractive Certificate of Appreciation when your project is over.

IN RETURN:

- **You commit** to litter and/or graffiti removal along a two-mile section of roadway in an unincorporated area for a period of two years (medians and pavement not included).
- **You commit** to picking up litter and/or removing graffiti—cleaning or painting over—a minimum of four times a year, or more, if needed.
- **You commit** to notifying your local District Coordinator at least 48 hours prior to each volunteer effort.
- **You commit** to returning the free postage-paid postcards to the Department each time you pick up

litter or remove graffiti from your adopted highway.

- **You commit** to reviewing and following all safety and permit requirements before each cleanup effort begins.
- **You commit** to replacing, if needed, customized panels initially provided to us by you or your organization any time during the term of the agreement.




Are there some *highways that cannot be adopted* by volunteers?


Yes. While many highways in the unincorporated areas of the County may be adopted through this program, certain stretches may be excluded due to safety or other considerations. For example, sites with extremely heavy traffic, limited access or visibility, narrow roadsides or shoulders, or rugged terrain may not be appropriate. Other sites may also be unsuitable for your group's age level or experience or require more frequent cleanup efforts. If you are planning to participate in the Adopt-A-Highway Program by hiring a professional contractor, however, most areas can be adopted.


Where are the *unincorporated areas* of the County?


This map gives you a general idea of where the unincorporated areas of the County are and in which of the County Maintenance Districts they fall.

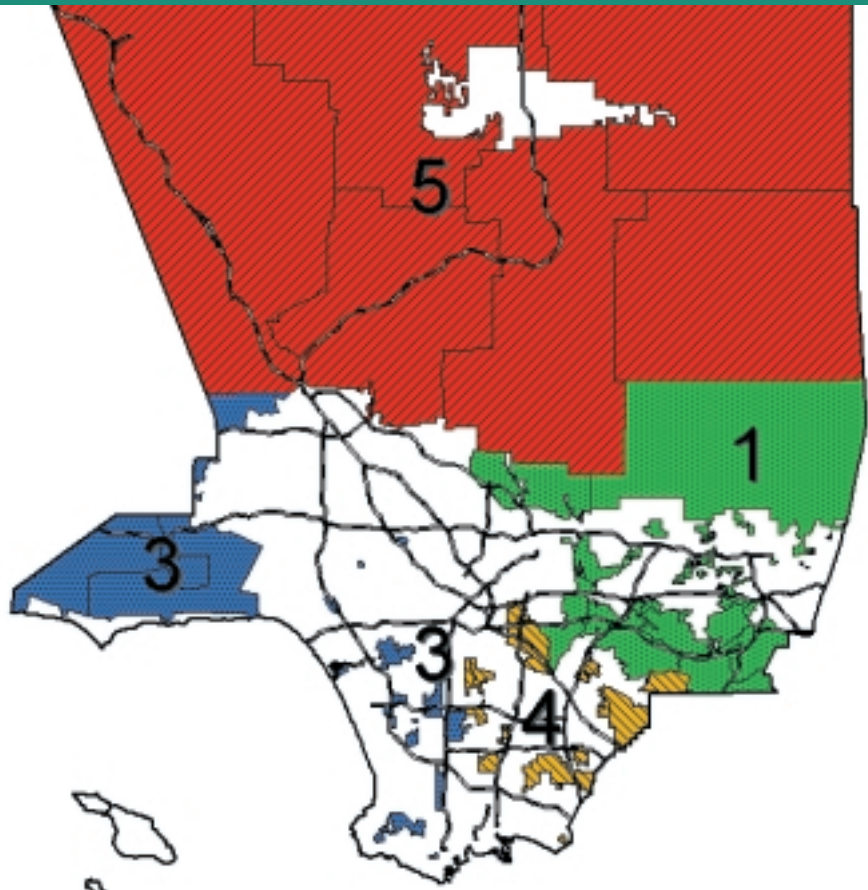
ROAD MAINTENANCE DISTRICTS

 **District 1 – Baldwin Park**
14747 Ramona Blvd.
Baldwin Park, CA 91706
(626) 337-1277

 **District 3 – Westchester**
5530 W. 83rd Street
Los Angeles, CA 90045-3309
(323) 776-7552

 **District 4 – Hollydale**
11282 S. Garfield Avenue
Downey, CA 90242
(562) 869-1176

 **District 5 – Palmdale**
38126 N. Sierra Highway
Palmdale, CA 93550
(661) 947-7173



Visit our website for updated site information at www.dpw.co.la.ca.us

Do I have to *sign an Agreement* to participate?



Yes. A designated representative from your group must sign the Adopt-A-Highway Agreement. The purpose of the agreement is to ensure that the group acknowledges the hazardous nature of the work and is willing to accept responsibility for any liability resulting from their activities. The agreement also outlines the commitments made by the participants and Public Works to help guarantee the program's success.

Is a *Permit* necessary?

Yes. Approved permits are necessary for all activities conducted within the road right of way. We issue permits to all participants free of charge because we appreciate your contribution to our communities.

The permit issued to each individual, business, or group participating in the County's Adopt-A-Highway Program is valid for two years and outlines the type of work that will be done and the specific location to be adopted. The permit may not be transferred to another group. Participants must read and understand the permit and the permit must be displayed at your adopted location each time your group picks up litter or removes graffiti.



Is a *One-Day Permit* for graffiti or litter removal available?

Yes. While we wish everyone could be actively involved in our Adopt-A-Highway Program, we realize that a two-year commitment may not be possible for some. We make it possible, therefore, for interested individuals or groups to apply for and receive a special one-day permit to either pick up litter or remove graffiti at a specific location.

When do I sign these documents?



After the District Coordinator receives your application, a meeting with a representative from your group is scheduled. At that time, both the permit and the agreement are reviewed. After all your questions are answered, you're asked to sign the documents.

After that, you're ready to begin!

How do I get started in the Program?

It's Easy! To find out more about the program or to discuss a potential location for adoption, simply call and speak to the local District Coordinator in your area.

If you have a particular section of highway in mind and that section is available for adoption, you can discuss the project and the services you would like to provide during your two-year commitment.

If the section you want to adopt is not available for either litter or graffiti removal, your District Coordinator can offer alternatives, including:

- other potential locations available for adoption.
- the opportunity to put your name on a waiting list for that location.
- the ability to take over the section of roadway if the current adopter wishes to stop participating in the program.

Once you and your District Coordinator decide a suitable location for adoption, all you have to do is fill out and return the completed Adopt-A-Highway Application on the last page of this booklet.

When your District Coordinator receives your application, you will be invited to attend a meeting to finalize your participation in the program. At that time, you will sign the Adopt-A-Highway Agreement, receive the free permit and necessary supplies, and go over the safety rules and regulations.



Common sense and personal responsibility are “musts” for each program participant!

Locations are selected to reduce risk; however, everyone must realize that they are working in potentially hazardous surroundings. While we want our roadways to be litter and graffiti free, your safety comes first.



We ask that you protect yourself and others by taking the following precautions:

Clothing

- Put the hard hats, orange vests and gloves on when you arrive at your adopted location. Baseball or other soft caps are no substitute for a hard hat.
- Wear light-colored clothing, and long pants. Bring plenty of sunscreen.
- Wear comfortable and sturdy shoes or boots.

Vehicle Safety at the Location

- Carpool whenever possible. Park vehicles off roadways and shoulders.
- Do not park in grassy areas. Your vehicle’s exhaust system may start a fire.
- Never park on a bridge, in a tunnel or on any other structure.

- Do not use your emergency flashers while parked.
- Display a copy of your permit in your windshield for identification purposes. Remember: an improperly parked vehicle may be ticketed or towed.
- When leaving your location, pull out carefully. Use your signals and consider the speed and flow of traffic.

Personal Safety at the Location

- Exit and enter your vehicle on the side away from traffic.
- Always face oncoming traffic. Be alert.
- Never walk on roadways, bridges or in tunnels with less than a 3’ pedestrian walkway.
- Do not enter drainage facilities.
- Do not work in roadway medians.
- Do not run, throw objects, or engage in horseplay or any other activity that may distract drivers or interfere with motorists.
- Always be cautious when crossing roadways. Use crosswalks and signals whenever possible.
- Drink water to prevent dehydration. Be careful not to overexert yourself.

Work Conditions

- Do not work on holiday weekends or 24 hours preceding a holiday weekend.
- Do not work during rush hour traffic.
- Do not work when it is raining or foggy or when dust is blowing. Avoid working when other conditions reduce visibility for drivers.
- Do not work when the road is wet or icy.
- Stop working before dusk.
- Do not touch hazardous substances such as powders, chemicals, weapons, sharp objects or dead animals. When in doubt, contact your District Coordinator.
- Be alert for snakes, stinging insects, and poison oak or ivy.
- Do not consume alcoholic beverages or drugs before or while participating in your cleanup effort.



Remember: Always be Prepared.

Be sure to have a first-aid kit on hand, know the location of the nearest hospital or emergency room, and always have transportation available.