



# County of Fresno

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September 10, 2019

The Honorable Gavin Newsom  
Governor, State of California  
State Capitol Building, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

*RE: Caltrans Resources for the Fresno-Clovis Metropolitan Area*

Dear Governor Newsom,

We are writing on behalf of Fresno County to respectfully request the California Department of Transportation dedicate the necessary resources and staff to maintain California Highways located in the Fresno-Clovis metropolitan area.

For years the residents of Fresno County have seen dramatic increases in the amount of waste and homeless encampments littered along highways in the Fresno-Clovis metropolitan area. In a recent meeting between the City of Fresno and Caltrans District Six officials, Caltrans expressed their dire need for more resources and staff to effectively maintain local highways. Approximately twenty workers maintain more than 1,100 acres of landscape in our region with as little as ten percent of the District's budget utilized for the entire Fresno-Clovis metropolitan area.

Fresno is centrally located and major state routes such as Highways 41, 99, 168 and 180 pass through this metropolitan area. Not only are the residents of this area impacted but also those who travel these major corridors. Hazardous waste can lead to median fires and debris that blows into the free flow of traffic can cause fatal accidents. County residents contribute valuable tax revenue and indeed deserve services from the state in return.

As you are aware, California has allocated additional funding to state highway improvement projects. Historically, a vast majority of Fresno County has been neglected and underserved. While we recognize there are projects with high-priority status throughout the state, Fresno County is in urgent need of resources to ensure that California drivers are not subjected to hazardous environments. The lack of critical funds further exacerbates the quality of life issues in Fresno County.

We appreciate the focus your administration is directing to the needs of the Central Valley and hope you will take the necessary action to address this hazard in the Fresno-Clovis metropolitan area. Thank you in advance for your attention to this matter. We, the undersigned, anxiously await your response.

Sincerely,

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NATHAN MAGSIG  
Chairman, Fresno County

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BUDDY MENDES  
Vice-Chairman, Fresno County

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BRIAN PACHECO  
Supervisor, Fresno County

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STEVE BRANDAU  
Supervisor, Fresno County

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SAL QUINTERO  
Supervisor, Fresno County