

## **SHAME ON CALTRANS**

The southern approach to Pacifica should be as grand and impressive as the highway's colorful Cabrillo Highway moniker. This scenic "S" curve between Tom Lantos Tunnels at Devil's Slide and Linda Mar/Pedro Point should deliver a safe, clean passage for tourists and commuters. But wait! What's wrong with this picture?

Weeds obscure the "Welcome to Pacifica" sign. Several of the warning signs along both sides of the road are way out of date (Road Work Ahead, Machinery Ahead, Slide Ahead). The shoulders on both sides of the road are littered with trash, weeds, leaves, and tree branches. The entire roadway looks like Caltrans never inspects or sweeps up the mess. Rock slides, mud slides, and fallen tree branches dangle perilously close to moving traffic.

Bicyclists trying to go up and down the hill safely have almost no shoulder to ride on because of all the debris, so they ride in traffic lanes, endangering themselves and motorists trying to navigate around them. It's only a matter of time before someone gets injured or killed on this deadly stretch of poorly maintained road. I would think that special-interest groups (bike coalitions, AAA auto club) would protest and try to do something about this disgraceful stretch.

Last year I filed an official complaint with Caltrans on the state transportation agency's website. Nothing ever came of it. I also reported it to State Senator Jerry Hill and Pacifica City Council. I think we need public pressure to do something about conditions on Highway 1. I urge you to join me in calling on all city, county, and state representatives and agencies to address this problem immediately. If our government can't maintain our infrastructure, maybe it is time for local citizens to take matters into their own hands. All it takes is a shovel and a broom. Or a little courage from our elected officials.

## **ETHICS TEST**

Ask yourself if any of the following behaviors are morally acceptable: Driving through a red light when no cars are in sight. Throwing a cigarette butt on the sidewalk. Pretending to be younger or older to get a discount or freebie. Taking free samples from a store without buying anything. Taking home packets of condiments from a restaurant. Keeping extra change from a cashier and not honestly reporting it. Downloading music illegally. Buying pirated or bootleg copies of movies or music. Finding a wallet with cash and credit cards

but keeping the cash while turning in the wallet and credit cards. Keeping a delivered box of expensive stuff on your doorstep NOT addressed to you but not reporting it. Moving into a new place and finding that a neighbor has an open, unlocked Wi-Fi network, you use the free Internet service without notifying anyone. While parking, you accidentally damage another car but don't leave a note. You accidentally eat a coworker's lunch from the company refrigerator. You borrow money from a friend, who forgets about it, and you don't say anything. A friend or colleague asks for your help, but you lie and say you're too tired to help. A friend or colleague gets in trouble for something you did, but you don't admit it. You break something important or valuable, but there are no witnesses so you don't fess up. You steal someone's great new idea and benefit from it, but you don't own up to it.

### **SWAMI SEZ**

"The first 40 years of childhood are always the hardest." (Swami Umami)

### **MAYBURRITOVILLE**

- Email: [Mayburrito@Goofbuster.com](mailto:Mayburrito@Goofbuster.com)
- Blog: [PacificaRiptide.com](http://PacificaRiptide.com)
- Copy Editor: [Goofbuster.com](http://Goofbuster.com)