



November 10, 2005

Next Step in Oakland's Public Nuisance Lawsuit Against Caltrans

STATEMENT by Oakland City Attorney John Russo

"We're gratified the Court recognizes this is the first case of its kind and has given us an opportunity to amend the complaint in the next thirty days. We knew from the beginning that changing the culture of a recalcitrant state agency like Caltrans would not be a quick or easy victory.

Given the sad history of Caltrans' failure to perform basic maintenance and their unwillingness to follow through on a public promise to negotiate a basic maintenance agreement with the city, we won't shirk from our responsibility to the people of Oakland impacted by Caltrans' negligent actions. We will do everything within our power to satisfy Judge Brick's concerns.

Since October 2004 when we first requested information about their maintenance in Oakland, Caltrans has dragged their feet and taken the position that as a state agency they have no moral or ethical responsibility to be a good neighbor. The people of Oakland should not have to tolerate the dangerous, demoralizing and unsightly conditions of Caltrans' properties in Oakland."

For an interview, please contact: Cheryl Moore – (510) 238-3812 or Alex Nguyen – (510) 541-9941.

Alameda County Superior Court case number: RG05226698