

Friday, Sept. 6th

Caltrans is responsible for maintaining the state's transportation network. This work includes assessing encampment sites for safety threats. Threats may include excavation at or near structures that increase the risk of collapse; encampments that physically block traffic or pathways; and encampments that put individuals experiencing homelessness, the traveling public, Caltrans' maintenance crews, first responders, and the nearby community at risk.

When Caltrans prepares to remove an encampment that presents a threat to infrastructure or people, Caltrans' Encampment Coordinators work to notify social service providers and local governments of the estimated removal date and time so that those providers can conduct outreach to connect people experiencing homelessness with essential services and available shelter/housing options that can be used now or in the future.

Caltrans partners with local government agencies that are funded, trained, and equipped to help people sheltering on state right of way to find alternative placement for shelter options. Caltrans has Encampment Coordinators in all its 12 districts who work directly with stakeholders, partners, and local communities to address encampments on state right of way.

Caltrans' Encampment Coordinators are tasked with not only coordinating encampment removals but also identifying, assessing, and tracking encampments to assist local partners in outreach efforts. Caltrans will notify local social service providers and request outreach be conducted to engage people experiencing homelessness with offers of shelter and other available assistance, often well in advance of posting a notice to vacate.

Typically, Caltrans provides at least two weeks' notice to its local partners to perform outreach. Caltrans also provides a notice posted at encampment sites at least 48 hours in advance of any encampment removal, except in circumstances posing an imminent risk to life, health, safety or infrastructure. Caltrans works diligently to label and collect personal belongings left behind at encampments. Caltrans holds the items for 60 days or until they are retrieved and posts a phone number to call to arrange retrieval.

California has made unprecedented investments and provided ample funding for local government to address the homelessness crisis – with \$27 billion invested since 2019, including \$1 billion geared toward local communities to help individuals living in encampments through Encampment Resolution Grants, and an additional \$40 billion invested to create new housing.