



Antelope Valley Illegal Dumping Task Force Meeting Summary of April 3, 2019

Attendees:

County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors

Donna Termeer, Supervisor Kathryn Barger's Office
Charles Bostwick, Supervisor Kathryn Barger's Office

County of Los Angeles Departments

Adriana Ornelas, LA County Public Works
Bonitto Housen, LA County Public Works
Louis Darbeau, LA County Public Works
Tiffany Caldwell, Department of Regional Planning
Karen Tandler, Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office
Ariel Verayo, Department of Agricultural Commissioner Weights and Measures
Edgar Chavarria, Los Angeles County Sheriff Department

State and other Local Municipalities

Mica Schuler, City of Palmdale
Stephanie Autry, City of Palmdale, Maintenance Division
David Jones, City of Lancaster

Town Councils and other local Organizations

Guy Randles, Green Valley Town Council
Erika Schwerdt, I Heart Lake LA
Shirley Harriman, Lake Los Angeles News
Annamarie Dyemartin, Littlerock resident
Lisa Henenway, Waste Management, Inc.
Ali Van Dereyk, Waste Management, Inc.
Ashley Cortes, Waste Management, Inc.
Josh Mann, Waste Management, Inc.
Tracey Woody, Resident
Gil Hernandez, California Highway Patrol, Antelope Valley

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call – Donna Termeer (Committee Chair)

Approval of February 6, 2019, meeting minutes – Donna Termeer

Donna Termeer, Fifth District Supervisor's Office motioned to approve the minutes from February 6, 2019. Karen Tandler, Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office approved the minutes and Ariel Verayo, Department of Agricultural Weights and Measure seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Replacement for Task Force Treasurer – Donna Termeer

Donna Termeer, Fifth District Supervisor's Office requested to table the item as the Bylaws of the Antelope Valley Illegal Dumping Task Force (AVIDTF) are currently being drafted. The Task Force Treasurer will be discussed upon approval of the Bylaws.

Report on Task Force Budget and Expenditures – Donna Termeer

Donna Termeer, Fifth District Supervisor's Office reported the account balance is \$98,363.95.

Donna reported \$52,000 funds pending for \$45,000 truck scales and \$7,000 Lamar billboard – Stop Illegal Dumping advertisement for a balance of \$46,363.95.

Report on Mattress Recycling Collection Events – Adriana Ornelas

Adriana Ornelas, LA County Public Works reported on the Mattress Recycling Program. During calendar year 2017, Public Works conducted 6 mattress collection events resulting in 844 mattresses collected and recycled. During calendar year 2018, Public Works conducted 8 mattress collection events resulting in 1,425 mattresses collected and recycled. Lessons learned consisted of the public is not aware of the resources available to properly dispose of their used mattresses. Connecting the public to resources such as the Bye-Bye mattress program, and the retailer take-back requirements in the 2013 Used Mattress Recovery and Recycling Act is necessary. Establishing permanent collection/drop off locations would be convenient for residents. In addition, during calendar year 2017, LA County Public Works Road Maintenance crews (four field yards) collected a total of 68 illegally dumped mattresses on the public right of way in the Antelope Valley area. In 2017, illegally dumped mattresses were collected in the month of May and a few during November. In 2018, Road Maintenance crews collected a total of 270 illegally dumped mattresses from May through November. January through April is Storm Duty Season where road crews are dedicated specifically to storm watch. Mattresses may not be collected in a timely manner or not at all. Public safety is first and foremost important unless a mattress impedes the road right of way.

Adriana requested to fund an event banner to advertise the mattress collection events. Tiffany Caldwell, Department of Regional Planning reminded us funding cannot be moved to vote if the request was not listed as an agenda item for the Task Force meeting scheduled April 3, 2019. Task Force Chairperson tabled the request for funding a banner on the June 5, 2019 agenda item.

Report on Free Dump Day at Lancaster Landfill – Lisa Henenway

Lisa Henenway, Waste Management, Inc. reported on the Free Dump Day at Lancaster Landfill held on October 13, 2018. There were 322 loads, 410 tons of solid waste, 14 tons of green waste, 42 appliances, 46 cathode-ray tube (CRT), 17 tires and 61 mattresses. There was an increase of 40 attendees from 2017 and 2018. The next scheduled Free Dump Day at Lancaster Landfill is Saturday, April 13, 2019, 8am to 2 pm. Karen Tandler, County of Los Angeles District Attorney's Office inquired about a monetary competition for areas within Antelope Valley with the highest total dropped off tonnage during the event. The Task Force agreed to look in to the monetary competition further.

Inquiry on Youth Outreach Concept – Ariel Verayo (for Ray Smith)

Ariel Verayo, Department of Agricultural Commissioner Weights and Measures (ACWM) Weed Abatement Division shared Mr. Ray Smith retired from the County of Los Angeles and will discuss the Youth Outreach Concept. Between ACWM and the County Fire Department, both agencies oversee fire hazards on private property where ACWM is responsible for vacant parcels and the Fire Department for parcels with structures. There are 29,999 LA County parcels and 11,834 Antelope Valley parcels monitored and regulated by ACWM. Annual weeds and bush clearing program including trash resulted in 80 tons of debris collected in 2017 and 19 tons from 26 Lancaster/Palmdale parcels in 2018. Since then, the Weed Abatement Division is developing a bi-lingual education program for kids providing outreach material on anti-dumping values and awareness of the effects of illegal dumping. There was discussion on obtaining clearance for use of cartoon characters, provide before and after photos of illegally dumped locations and use of positive, reinforced verbiage. The Task Force agreed to look in to the program further.

Present on Traffic signs: No Littering vs. No Dumping – Bonitto Housen (for Adriana Ornelas)

Bonitto Housen, LA County Public Works presented and clarified the difference between No Littering verses No Dumping traffic signs. The Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) oversees traffic signs. LA County Public Works created and placed unapproved "No Dumping" signs on County road right of way. The approved "No Littering" sign are used to cite violators, such as nuisances of illegal dumping. Two

types of signs are available. Signs placed on private property are requested through the 5th District Supervisor's Office, Deputy Donna Termeer. Traffic signs on road right of way are requested through Public Works, Bonitto Housen. A Request for Service conducted by Road Maintenance and Traffic and Lighting Division determines if signs are warranted for placement. There was discussion on the word littering which is listed in the vehicle code and used by law enforcement for citing.

Presentation on Crime stoppers – Bonitto Housen (for Dep. Justin Cham)

Bonitto Housen, LA County Public Works provided information on Crime Stoppers since Deputy Justin Cham, regional coordinator for Crime Stoppers wasn't available. LA County Public Works received a request from the Board of Supervisors asking if the agency had an incentivized program for reporting illegal dumping. Public Works reached out to Crime Stoppers to possibly integrate the illegal dumping program with the Crime Stoppers program as they also receive reports of illegal dumping. The Crime Stoppers program allows residents to report incidents of illegal dumping and if investigation leads to an arrest the anonymous caller may receive up to \$1,000. We will update the Task Force once the agency receives a decision.

Report on iHeart Lake LA Cleanup Project – Erika Schwerdt

Erika Schwerdt, iHeart Lake LA presented on the upcoming Lake LA Cleanup project. Shirley Harrison, iHeart Lake LA met with Senator Scott Wilk about how to collaborate at various levels of government agencies on the effects and enforcement of illegal dumping. Karen Tandler, County District Attorney discussed Senate Bill 409, a cleanup dumping bill of amendments to an existing statute in the California Penal Code 374.3, the Dumping Statute. The DA's Office connected with Senator Scott Wilk who agreed to author amendments to the Dumping Statute. Five items were discussed and supported by the Public Safety Committee in Sacramento except for #2. Since the Public Defenders Association (PDA) and the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) objected, the Public Safety Committee accepted the changes on the following items, except #2:

- 1) Truckers who transport for the purpose of unlawful dumping would be held responsible. Currently, the DA's Office has to wait until trucker dumps the load onto private property to cite them. The proposed item cites the trucker for violating the Penal Code.
- 2) Under SB409 change the infraction into a misdemeanor for non-commercial waste.
- 3) Raise the fines for the dumping of non-commercial waste.

4) Expend the agencies who can declare a property a public nuisance, a public safety hazard and/or a fire hazard based on the dumping of any material. Currently, the statute reads only the Department of Public Health, Environmental Health, Fire Department or Forestry Department can declare a property a public nuisance, a public safety hazard or a fire hazard. However, other agencies that investigate unlawful dumping on properties do not and need to be included.

5) Because of a loophole in the dumping statute where a property owner gives consent and allows the dumping cannot be cited as well as the trucker committing the unlawful dumping. The new amendment would make it unlawful to dump or to receive material if the state or local agency requires permits or licenses issued. The amendment would cut out the loophole of consent.

Although item #2 was not approved to change, another statutory provision that is a misdemeanor for someone to be cited for non-commercial waste dumping is under Health and Safety Code 117555.

Karen encouraged the public or an affiliated group write to their legislature or Senator Wilk's supporting SB409.

Erika Schwerdt presented on the South Bay Center for Counseling (SBCC) focusing on the needs of the community voicing current issues such as illegal dumping. SBCC identified Lake LA's illegal dumping issue and the iHeart Lake LA group was formed. Meeting with Senator Wilk's allowed partnerships to form and provide on civic processes as well as inform the Senator of the ongoing illegal dumping issue not only in Lake LA but in the Antelope Valley area. The issue of illegal dumping allowed the group to present at the Committee on Appropriations to gain their support. Furthermore, SBCC's Executive Director encouraged the group to reach out to the opposing organizations, such as PDA and ACLU to understand their support to oppose amendment #2. The group's goals are to reach State and Federal levels of said issue. iHeart Lake LA will update when additional information becomes available.

Tiffany Caldwell, Department of Regional Planning suggested contacting the City of Los Angeles, Council District 12 for consideration as a stakeholder interest due to Brown Canyon and the illegal dumping issue in that area. There was discussion on generating signatures from Antelope Valley communities supporting SB409 before approaching the Committee on Appropriations.

There was additional discussion on the iHeart Lake LA ongoing projects such as, highway billboards resulting in a successful cleanup, awareness of beautifying the area, community relationship building as well as creating art under the billboards. Currently, a "Trash Tag" hashtag incentive challenge where residents who post before and after illegal dumping cleanups receives a \$5 gas card. Coordination for an upcoming Red Day community cleanup event including Southern California Real Estate Agents, Waste

Management and Keller Williams Real Estate who adopted Red Day is scheduled for May. 253 units of mattresses were rounded up and dropped off during the mattress recycling collection event. An incentive program for tire round up and recycling is in development. A training and manual on organizing an “iHeart” community group for local communities is in development. Those interested may reach out to Ms. Shirley Harriman or Ms. Erika Schwerdt. Creating a training video for others to follow was suggested. Currently, outreach to Keppel school educates and encourages kids on the picking up trash and the benefits of recycling.

Report on Illegal Dumping at East Avenue P-8 – Brian Murphy

Donna Termeer, Fifth District Supervisor’s Office requested to table the item as the presenter is not present.

Inquiry on Community Cleanup (Sunnyside Farms) – Guy Painter

Donna Termeer, Fifth District Supervisor’s Office requested to table the item as the presenter is not present.

Public Comment

Annamarie Dyemartin, Littlerock resident requested an update on the County Working Group. The Working Group is a group of various County agencies that meet to discuss illegal dumping Countywide issues and report to the Board of Supervisors. Action items were requested by the Board. Upon response from the Working Group the Task Force will update the public.

Meeting adjourned.