



Antelope Valley Illegal Dumping Task Force

County of Los Angeles
Fire Department, Fire Station No. 129
42110 6th Street West, Lancaster, CA 93534

Regular Meeting Summary of October 2, 2019

Attendees:

County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors

Donna Termeer, Supervisor Kathryn Barger's Office, Antelope Valley Field Office
Charles Bostwick, Supervisor Kathryn Barger's Office, Antelope Valley Field Office
Jarrod DeGonia, Supervisor Kathryn Barger's Office, San Fernando Valley Field Office

County of Los Angeles Departments

Adriana Ornelas, LA County Public Works, Environmental Programs Division
Terri Alex, LA County Public Works, Environmental Programs Division
Monique Brackett, LA County Public Works, Environmental Programs Division
Robert Castaneda, LA County Public Works, Road Maintenance Division
Jackson Piper, Department of Regional Planning (Alternate for Tiffany Caldwell)
Karen Tandler, LA County District Attorney's Office, Code Enforcement
Ariel Verayo, Department of Agricultural Commissioner Weights and Measures
Adrian Zavala, Department of Agricultural Commissioner Weights and Measures
Amber Bissell, LA County Sheriff Department
Brad Witkosky, LA County Sheriff Department
Micheal Jeffrey, LA County Sheriff Department
Robert Hill, LA County Sheriff Department
Edgar Chavarria, LA County Sheriff Department

State and other Local Municipalities

Benjamin Lucha, City of Palmdale (Alternate for Mica Schuller)
David Jones, City of Lancaster
Donald Watkins, City of Lancaster

Town Councils and other local Organizations

Tom Lapworth, Antelope Valley Board of Trade
Guy Randles, Green Valley Town Council
Josh Murphy, Antelope Acres Illegal Dumping Committee
Winnie Murphy, Antelope Acres Town Council
Jackie Livingstone, I Heart Lake LA
Erika Schwerdt, I Heart Lake LA
Shirley Harriman, Lake Los Angeles News
Kevin Guillen, I Heart Lake LA
Barbara Lods, Antelope Valley Air Quality Management District
Victoria Wood, Lockheed Martin

Lisa Henenway, Waste Management, Inc.
Josh Mann, Waste Management, Inc.
Monique Mischeaux, California Highway Patrol, Antelope Valley
Desiree Tainatongo, Tarzana Treatment Centers
Ruth Morales, Tarzana Treatment Centers
Stephen Updyke, Tarzana Treatment Centers

Passing of Richard Campbell and Tom Ward – Donna Termeer

Donna Termeer, Chairperson shared the passing of Mr. Richard Campbell, Antelope Valley Conservation Research District. As well as Tom Ward a great community leader. Meeting was held in a moment of silence in their honor.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call – Adriana Ornelas

Approval of August 7, 2019, meeting minutes – Donna Termeer

Donna Termeer, Chairperson motioned to approve the minutes from August 7, 2019. Ariel Verayo, Department of Agricultural Weights and Measure approved the motion. Karen Tandler, Los Angeles County District Attorney’s Office seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Report on Task Force Budget and Expenditures – Donna Termeer

Donna Termeer, Chairperson reported the account balance is \$91,421.95. Account balance does not reflect a deposit of two checks. \$25,482.31 and \$3,483.12 leaving a balance of \$113,421.14.

Finance Report reflects two checks for the following amounts:

Waste Management overpayment (38838 Mesquite Rd)	\$482.31
LA County Auditor Controller	<u>\$25,000.00</u>
Subtotal	\$25,482.31

Outstanding check	<u>\$3,483.12</u>
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Actual Account Balance	\$113,421.14
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Approved expenditures not expended, Truck Scales and Mattress Recycling event promo banners.

Legislative Update – Karen Tandler

Karen Tandler, LA County District Attorney's Office presented an update on the legislative proposal, Senate Bill (SB 409) beginning January 1, 2020. SB 409 dictates proper disposal of household and construction waste with correcting several loopholes in the current California State Illegal Dumping Statute, California Penal Code Section 374.3. One loophole provides that if the property owner gives consent to allow dumping of either household waste or commercial waste onto a property, the truck driver or waste hauler dumping the waste cannot be prosecuted. The request to update Legislation would change the statute to say that if a property owner gave consent to allow the dumping on the property, and if permits are required by the City, County or State and the property owner doesn't have the proper permits, the owner is in violation of the California Dumping Statute. The current consent loophole does not make the driver responsible for unlawful dumping on a property where the owner gives consent to the truck driver or waste hauler allowing the dump. Amending SB 409 would make the owner and driver both responsible for dumping on a non-permitted sight when a permit is required. With the amended SB409, permits are required first *before* dumping is allowed on a property. Amending the current statute with SB 409 would eliminate each loophole in the existing dumping penal code statute.

Karen handed out Senator Wilk's Signature of Support Forms to hand out to communities in support of the new legislation. When filling out the form it was agreed that using a voter address is sufficient. It was encouraged to turn in the completed forms by the December 4 ,2019 Task Force meeting.

There was discussion about increasing fees. However, commercial waste dumping fees will not be increased. Currently, commercial waste penalty fees first offense is \$1000-\$3,000 assessment violating the code. The second offense is \$3,000-\$6,000 and a conviction. The third offense is \$6,000-\$10,000. Commercial waste dumping fines are sufficient. Commercial waste dumping waste fees are high already with court penalty assessments added on top of the fees.

Karen will draft the updates on the existing statute with the proposed changes and bring them to the next meeting, Dec 4, 2019.

Update on Farm and Ranch Cleanup Grant – Ariel Verayo

Ariel Verayo, Agricultural Commissioner Weights and Measures, Weed Abatement Unit provided an update regarding the Farm and Ranch Cleanup Grant.

The program mission is to protect the health, safety and property of citizens, and improve environmental quality through the elimination of hazardous weeds, brush and rubbish on unimproved property. Also, to provide assistance to the LA County Fire

Department and Public Works with hazard abatement on improved properties pursuant to the agency's authority under the California Fire, Health and Safety Codes.

Fiscal Year 2019/2020, Los Angeles County has a total of 30,394 parcels declared by the BOS as public nuisance. In Antelope Valley, Zone 8, has 11,759 parcels on Dec List excluding two Probation Camps. Weeds and brush clearing, and mowing season was completed on September 27, 2019. The Weed Abatement Unit cleared an estimated 25% more than last year due to the previous rainy season. Tumbleweed inspection and clearing is scheduled for October through December. Since Zone 8 does not have staff for illegal dumping but utilizing weed abatement workers to pick up trash, the crew will address rubbish removal between October and November. ACWM is committed to help and respond to the Board of Supervisors illegal dumping request. Last year, ACWM collected 26.6 tons of trash.

In response to the LA County Board of Supervisors' motion to address illegal dumping campaign, ACWM is inquiring and seeking a grant for funding from the State CalRecycle. On January 29, 2019, a resolution was approved by the Board of Supervisors authorizing ACWM to apply for one or more of the CalRecycle Farm and Ranch Solid Waste Cleanup and Abatement Grants for up to \$200,000 per year for a period of five years. On August 21, 2019, ACWM applied for the said grant. If awarded, the funds will be used to clean up four Agricultural Zoned sites of heavily concentrated illegal dumping. One site near Sun Village approximately one fourth square mile, and three separate sites in the Roosevelt district approximately 3/8 square miles. The total amount requested is \$130,383.00. Currently, the grant application is under review.

There was a suggestion to post before and after photos of cleared areas to educate the public and encourage prevention of illegal dumping.

Discussion and Possible Action on Lancaster Landfill Vouchers for Unincorporated Antelope Valley Residents – Charles Bostwick

Charles Bostwick, Fifth District Supervisor's Office presented a proposal on the Landfill Voucher Pilot Program for unincorporated Antelope Valley residents. The proposal includes income qualifications, total tons per voucher, total vouchers allocated per household per year.

The Landfill Voucher Pilot Program proposes vouchers would be produced and distributed by the 5th District Supervisor's Office – Antelope Valley Office. Vouchers would be printed on resistant copy paper to prevent counterfeiting. Waste Management company would allow vouchers redeemed at either Landfill, Lancaster and Palmdale sites. The County of Los Angeles would be invoiced at the rate of tonnage for various materials such as household waste rates at \$67.57/ton at the Palmdale Landfill, green waste rates at \$48.78/ton. Those who meet the annual surveyed and published Federal

Government established low and moderate income families living in unincorporated LA County would qualify to receive a landfill voucher. For example, in 2019 an LA County moderate income limit for a family of four is \$87,700 per year. Under California medium income it is \$99,360. Income amounts are based on medium incomes surveyed. Although both City of Lancaster and City of Palmdale pay up to one ton vouchers, Waste Management suggested LA County pay up to ½ ton vouchers as one pickup truck of household discards equals ½ ton of trash. LA County would be charged half the rate of landfill charges mentioned earlier. It was discussed how many vouchers per family per year, the limit to redeem a voucher and who may redeem the voucher. Vouchers would be non-transferrable. However, owners may contact Waste Management's commercial customer service line and inform the company of authorized vendors cleaning said property. Thereby, bin service loads correspond with identifying information at said landfill and the authorized vendor may dump. Vouchers would then need identifying information as well. Any resident would qualify for the voucher, including dumpster service residents. Although, the previous voucher program provided vouchers to residents in need of assistance, the voucher was handed out on a discretionary basis and verified by Department of Regional Planning Zoning Inspector if there was a need.

For properties under a criminal case investigation the District Attorney's Office and County Counsel discuss the property. If the pending criminal case is assigned to LA County Public Works Property Rehab Unit, the agencies would work together and assist in getting a Nuisance Abatement Warrant from a Civil Court judge. The warrant enables the agency's Property Rehab to clean the property. The fees are assessed on the Property Title of said property.

Someone requested the Palmdale Landfill contact phone number which is (661) 223-3437 and the hours of operation are Monday through Friday 6am to 5pm and Saturday from 6am to 1pm.

The Landfill Voucher Pilot Program begins October 2, 2019 until June 30, 2020. Thereafter, the program will be analyzed further.

Donna Termeer, Chairperson moves to vote on the Landfill Voucher Pilot Program. Karen Tandler, District Attorney's Office approved the Landfill Voucher Pilot Program from October 2, 2019 through June 30, 2020 to use existing funds that are budgeted through December 31, 2019 and then if necessary, renew in the budget in 2020 funds for said program and everything on this proposal landfill voucher pilot program will stand except an established deadline date of June 30, 2020. And we request a ½ ton voucher versus a one ton voucher. And in this proposal for the pilot program only no financial limit. However, the Antelope Valley Illegal Dumping Task Force has the discretion to distribute based on need and neighborhood cleanup requirements to be analyzed further. Jackson Piper, Department of Regional Planning seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Report on iHeart Lake LA Cleanup Project – Erika Schwerdt

Erika Schwerdt, iHeart Lake LA presented on the Desert Tour and Picnic scheduled on October 29, 2019. The purpose of the picnic is to strategize, plan and challenge communities, schools, local churches to support SB409. The tour with assistance from Senator Wilk's Office and Tom Lackey Co-Chair of the Public Safety Committee for the Assembly would be to invite the Chairman of said Assembly who in the past is reluctant to allow this bill to pass. Inviting the Chairman and staff to tour Lake LA would help bring awareness of the importance of passing the bill. Committee members who do not live in Lake LA would not know the extent of illegal dumping issues. The group would tour the areas I Heart Lake LA cleaned up but redumped again. The tour would also highlight drugs such as marijuana dumped and areas near schools where illegal dumping continues. As well as highlight where commercial trucks continue to illegally dump. The tour would end at the Antelope Valley Indian Museum. The picnic was allowed at the State Park per Peggy Ronning, Curator.

iHeart Lake LA is requesting funds of up to \$200 to cater the event.

The tour raises community awareness, legislative awareness, and showing the affected areas impacts the need to pass SB409. A student will give a speech on the importance of cleaning illegal dumping and a parent within the community will speak on the principal success program as she walks her children daily to school seeing illegal dumping. A local resident and a waste hauler will speak on the purpose of fining commercial trucks who willfully illegally dump. The group has reached out to Katie Hill's Congressional Office, District 25 since this is her District and bring awareness to them. As well as Waste Management, the 5th District Board Office and Karen Tandler, District Attorney's Office.

Karen Tandler, District Attorney's Office moved to approve up to \$200 to cater the picnic. Jackson Piper, Department of Regional Planning seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

Project Avenue X – Adriana Ornelas

Adriana Ornelas, LA County Public Works inquired on the status of Project Avenue X. Jackson Piper, Department of Regional Planning couldn't provide a status at this time. He mentioned he would reach out to Oscar Gomez of the same Department for the status and report back. Jackson also mentioned, Edgar De La Torre has been reassigned to a special project thereby dividing the 2,000 acre affected area and cleaning up section by section between other inspectors. Ariel Verayo, Agricultural

Commissioner Weights and Measures reported the cleanup of parts of Project Avenue X has been completed except for a small area south of the Aqueduct. "No Dumping" signs were placed at the entrance of said area.

Solar Farm in the Neenach area – Adriana Ornelas

Adriana Ornelas, LA County Public Works inquired on an update from Jeff Zimmerman regarding a solar farm in the Neenach area. Mr. Zimmerman was not present at the meeting therefore the item was tabled.

#Trashtag A Social Media Challenge – Ben Lucha

Ben Lucha, City of Palmdale shared on the City's press release on #Trashtag A Social Media Challenge encouraging residents to post pictures of trash and post before and after photos. About 130,000 post have been tagged around the world. Karen Tandler, District Attorney's Office encouraged to share at High Schools. Erika Schwerdt, IHeart Lake LA shared a Facebook post if community members tag @iheartlakela on #Trashtag the resident would receive a Chevron gas card.

Drug Take Back Event – Stephen Updyke

Stephen Updyke, Tarzana Treatment Centers presented on the Drug Take Back event scheduled Saturday, October 26, 2019 held at the Kaiser Permanente facility on Avenue L at the Butterfly Building from 10am – 2pm to drop off prescription drugs. The event coincides with the Task Force collection efforts. In addition, a Train the Trainers event on opioid awareness open to the community and community leaders. The event will be held two times each day, first day is Wednesday, October 16, 2019 at the Chimbole Cultural Center in Palmdale. And on Thursday, October 17, 2019 at the Antelope Valley Hospital Community Resource Center. Registration is encouraged.

Calls for Service, Household versus Commercial Waste Cleanup - Karen Tandler

Karen Tandler, District Attorney's Office requested LA County Public Works disseminate calls for service by household waste and commercial waste (construction waste). Karen reached out to Terri Alex, LA County Public Works after the meeting to discuss further.

Mattress Recycling Council – Ben Lucha

Ben Lucha, City of Palmdale shared Ms. Mica Schuller was invited to an illegal dumping interactive workshop by the Mattress Recycling Council scheduled in October 2019 in Oakland, Ca. The interactive workshop will be gathering State of California County representatives in breakout sessions to brainstorm illegal dumping and how to prevent it. Ben will report on the results at a future meeting.

Prevention Program Events – Adriana Ornelas

Adriana Ornelas, LA County Public Works presented on the upcoming prevention program events such as, Free Disposal Day at Lancaster Landfill on Saturday, October, 12, 2019, Tire Recycling Collection event on Saturday, December 7, 2019 and Mattress Recycling Collection events. Event flyers are available at the table at the back of the room near the Community Outreach area. Attendees are encouraged to take the flyers back to their communities to assist with participation as well as bring awareness of reporting illegal dumping by taking Stop Illegal Dumping Brochures.

Adriana will follow up with translating the Stop Illegal Dumping Brochure in Spanish.

Mattress, Tire, Bulky Item concern – Josh Murphy

Josh Murphy, a resident of Antelope Acres inquired on mattress and tire drop off locations as he encountered a refusal to take units of mattresses and tires at last year's events. Don Watkins, City of Lancaster mentioned if Josh encounters a similar experience, he may drop off mattresses and tires at the City of Lancaster permanent drop off facility, 615 West Avenue H, Lancaster. Josh also inquired on the large item pickups as residents of his community were informed no items would be collected or fees have been increased. Waste Management Customer Service Bill of Rights for dumpster service include one event of up to five items or five item pick up at no charge. Cart service is a per item service with a charge in the unincorporated LA County area. City of Lancaster and City of Palmdale service agreement collect up to 3-bulky items 4 times a year, free of charge. Adriana Ornelas, LA County Public Works encouraged Josh to provide the date and Road Maintenance Yard the event was held at should an issue about dropping off tires or mattresses arise.

LA County Sheriff Department updates on violators of illegal dumping – Ariel Verayo

Ariel Verayo, Agricultural Commissioner Weights and Measures asked if the Sheriff Department representative, Deputy Edgar Chavarria would provide an update on violators of illegal dumping for future meetings. Deputy Chavarria agreed and stated he has filed close to ten cases with seven office conferences and 3 arrest warrants issued.

Meeting adjourned.