

Illegal Dumping Prevention and Groundwater Protection

The Trash Responsibility Ordinance

History

Illegal dumping has been occurring for many years in the Antelope Valley



Impacts

Illegal dumping is costly not only in terms of dollars spent. It also wastes resources and has other negative impacts.

Illegal dumping poses a significant risk to public health & safety, and also harms the environment and damages wildlife habitat.

Impacts

- Visual impact of trash in massive piles



Impacts

- **Costs to cleanup illegal dumping sites**

Cleaning up 13 major illegal dump sites cost over **\$1,000,000.00**



Coordinated by Health Services with the California Integrated Waste Management Board, these cleanups collected over **22 million pounds of trash!**

Impacts

- Harm to natural habitat



Amber Blythe

Impacts

- Contamination of local groundwater



Impacts

- Breeding ground for mosquitoes, rodents and other disease-carrying “vectors”



Impacts

Illegal dumping contributes to local blight and lowers the quality of life for residents of the Antelope Valley.

It is in everyone's best interest to do all we can to combat this unsightly problem, as each incidence of dumping encourages more dumping in the future.

“Trash Attracts Trash”

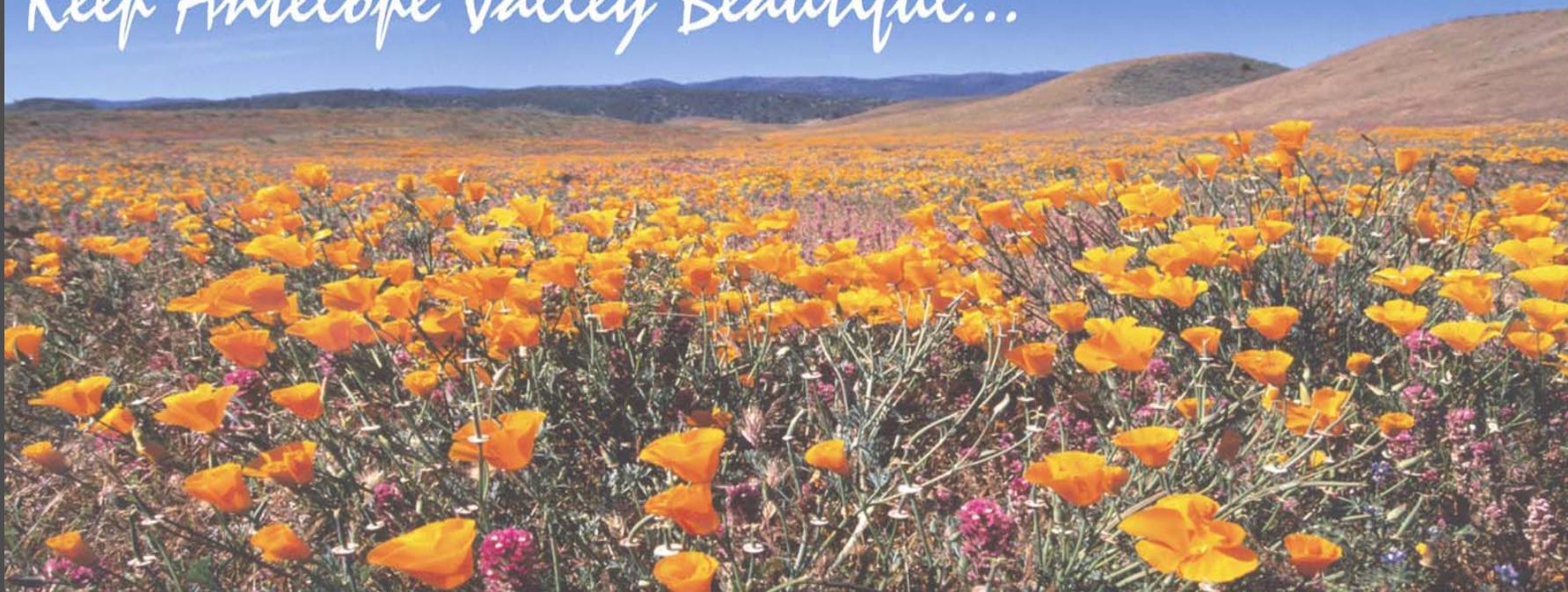
Background

- In 1996, on a motion by Supervisor Antonovich, the Board of Supervisors created the Antelope Valley Illegal Dumping Task Force to address the illegal dumping issue
- The Task Force, which meets monthly, consists of all the “major players”
 - Cities of Palmdale and Lancaster
 - County agencies, including the Sheriff
 - Local town councils
 - Waste Management, Inc.
 - Residents

Background

- Based on Task Force findings and recommendations, numerous programs were implemented
 - Increased patrolling
 - Increased public awareness via newspapers articles and television stories
 - Coordinated/conducted numerous clean-up projects
 - Increased educational efforts
 - Established a toll-free hotline (1-888-8 DUMPING)

Keep Antelope Valley Beautiful...



Photograph by Kay Hendrickson



REPORT ILLEGAL DUMPING - 1-888-8 DUMPING

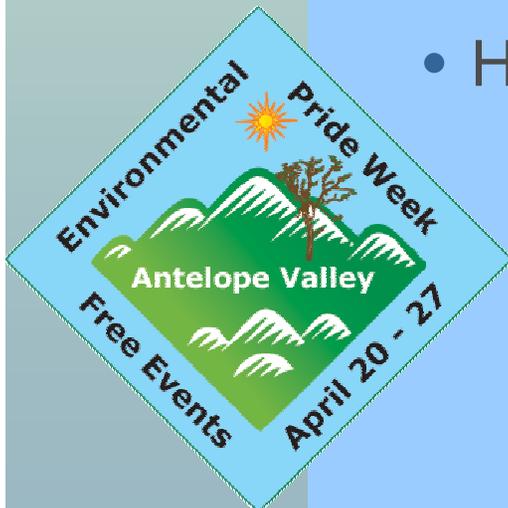
Michael D. Antonovich, Supervisor, 5th District



Background

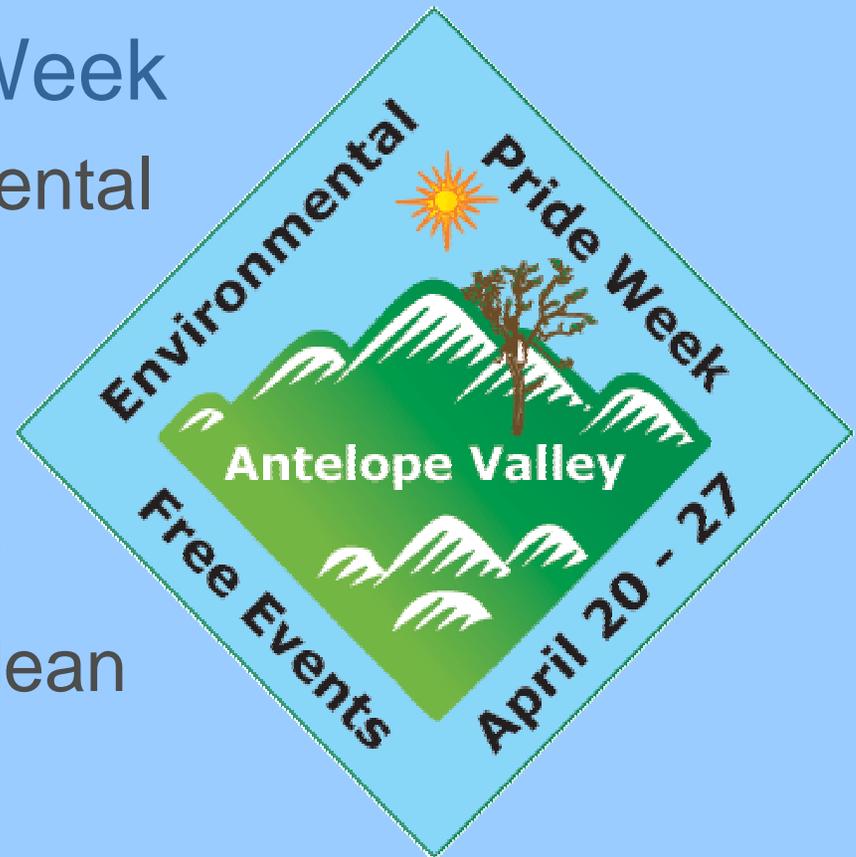
However, the Task Force believed more public involvement was needed

- **Antelope Valley Environmental Pride Week**
A series of collection events and cleanup project each Spring beginning 2001
 - Waste tire collection events
 - Household hazardous waste collection events
 - Electronic waste collection event
 - Cleanup of illegal dumpsites by volunteers



Antelope Valley Environmental Pride Week

- Purpose of Pride Week
 - Increase environmental awareness
 - Instill good stewardship of our environment
 - Keep AV looking clean and pristine



Antelope Valley Environmental Pride Month

- Antelope Valley Environmental Pride Week has expanded to become Antelope Valley Environmental Pride Month. Added events include:
 - Additional Community Cleanup Events
 - Free Trash Disposal Day at the Lancaster and Antelope Valley Landfill for unincorporated County residents.
 - Antelope Valley Environmental Collection Center (AVECC) collection events

Trash Responsibility Ordinance

- **Background**

- In early 1998, the County conducted 8 community meetings to receive feedback on a proposed mandatory trash collection Ordinance
 - Would require all AV property owners and occupants to contract with a permitted waste hauler for weekly trash collection
 - Those opting to self-haul their waste must get a free permit from Health Services

Trash Responsibility Ordinance

- **Purpose of Ordinance:**
 - Protect public health and safety
 - Protect the environment
 - Improve the quality of life

Trash Responsibility Ordinance

- **Attendees expressed that**
 - There was no need for an ordinance since it would not curb illegal dumping
 - Better, cheaper and more convenient means of managing bulky items (e.g., sofas, refrigerators) is needed
 - Construction and demolition debris and contractor waste make up a large percentage of those materials dumped

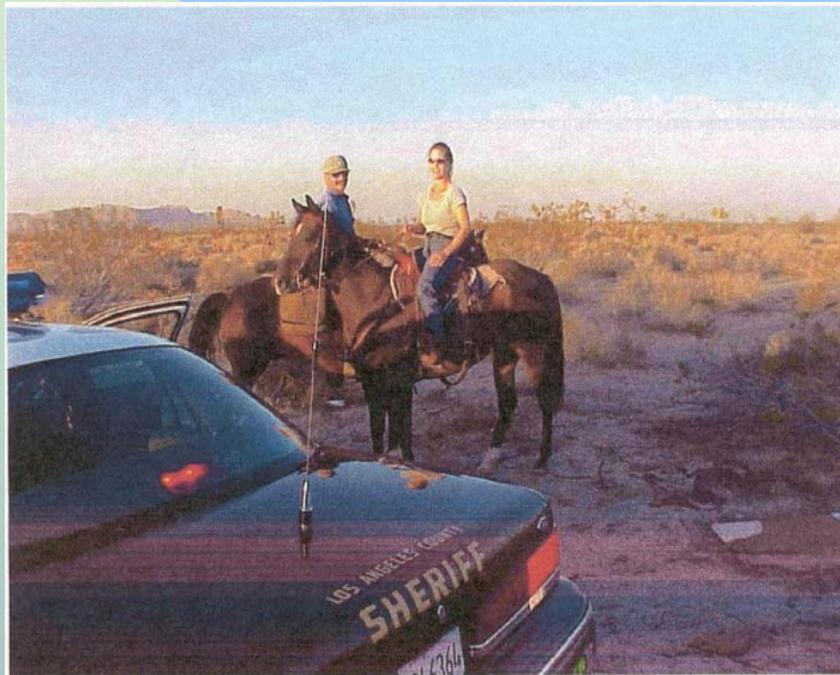
Trash Responsibility Ordinance

- **End Result**
 - Based on community input, Public Works and Health Services recommended to the Board of Supervisors not to pursue adoption of the ordinance

Trash Responsibility Ordinance

- Illegal dumping continued despite implementing many new public education, collection, and enforcement programs
 - Establishing a hotline
 - Coordinating cleanups of numerous sites
 - Enhancing school programs
 - Conducting special collection events
 - Periodic stakeouts by Sheriff

Trash Responsibility Ordinance



Deputies 'fish' for dumpers

By BART WEITZEL
Valley Press Staff Writer

LANCASTER — Sheriff's deputies from the Lancaster Sheriff's Station spent Sunday fishing on the aqueduct — fishing for illegal trash dumpers, that is.

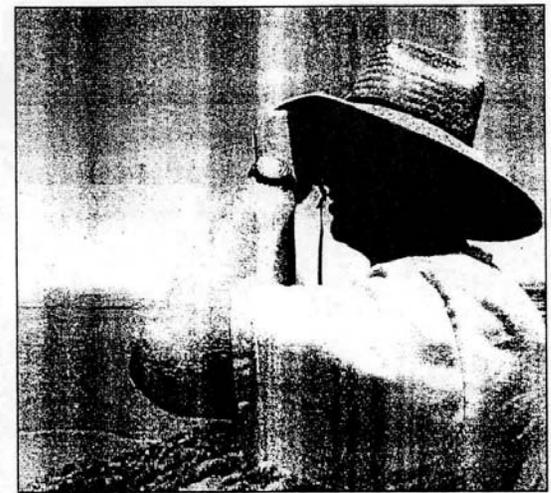
The result, however, was that the illegal dumpers — and the fish — didn't want to be caught.

Deputies spent 12 hours Sunday on the shores of the aqueduct posing as fishermen and keeping an eye on the desert.

The deputies were posted every half mile or so along the aqueduct between 70th and 110th streets east. Some of the dirtiest illegal dumping sites in the Antelope Valley are in the desert surrounding the aqueduct.

But the only arrest made was one man who was stopped for suspicion of dumping — but was not, as it turned out. Deputies allegedly found some marijuana among his belongings and gave him a ticket for possession of a controlled substance.

See DUMPERS on A4



BART WEITZEL/Valley Press

DESERT SEARCH — Deputy Bobby Rush of the Lancaster Sheriff's Station searches the desert with binoculars, looking for people illegally dumping trash.

Trash Responsibility Ordinance

- On January 9, 2007, the Trash Responsibility Ordinance was passed by the Board of Supervisors.
 - The Ordinance gives the County an additional mechanism to curb illegal dumping by requiring everyone to properly dispose of their trash weekly

NOTE: Most residents and businesses **will not be affected** since they *already* dispose of their trash properly on a weekly basis

Trash Responsibility Ordinance

- **Overview**

- All AV property owners/occupants must contract with a permitted waste hauler for once a week trash collection
- Self-haul by residents is allowed provided they obtain a FREE permit from the Department of Public Health each year
 - Residents must show proof that they are taking trash to a landfill once a week

Trash Responsibility Ordinance

- **Penalties**
 - \$100 for first offense
 - \$250 for second offense
 - \$500 for each offense thereafter

Trash Responsibility Ordinance

- **Q & As**
 - Which communities are affected?
 - All County unincorporated areas north of and including Acton

Trash Responsibility Ordinance

- **Q & As**

- How does the ordinance affect me?
 - Property owners are required to dispose of their trash on a weekly basis
 - If you have trash collection services, the ordinance will not affect you
 - If you don't have trash collection services, then you are required to contract for trash collection services from a permitted waste hauler or apply for a self-haul permit

Trash Responsibility Ordinance

- **Q & As**

- What is a self-haul permit? How and where would I apply for one? How much would it cost? How often would the permit be renewed?
 - The permit would be granted by the Department of Health Services at no charge. The permit would need to be renewed once a year. Visit 888CleanLA.com for more details.

Trash Responsibility Ordinance

- **Q & As**
 - What if I share trash collection services with a neighbor(s)?
 - Sharing trash collection is ok provided proof can be shown upon request by the Department of Public Health.
 - However, self-haul permits cannot be shared.

Trash Responsibility Ordinance

- **Q & As**

- What if I am out of town for part of the year, do I have to pay for trash collection services?
 - No. You would make arrangements with your permitted waste hauler similar to what is done with suspension of home delivery of newspapers, etc.

Trash Responsibility Ordinance

- Q & As

- What if I do not own property, but I am renting?
 - Many apartment owners provide trash collection services for renters and this monthly fee is included in the rent payment.
 - However, some owners leave this responsibility to the renters.
 - Whether you are an owner or renter, *you* are responsible for ensuring that trash is collected once a week.

Trash Responsibility Ordinance

- **Q & As**

- How does the ordinance affect existing trash collection service in the Antelope Valley?
 - Trash collection services in the County unincorporated areas are conducted on a free-market basis. Thus, residents and businesses negotiate their waste collection services with permitted waste haulers. This ordinance does not modify this arrangement.

Trash Responsibility Ordinance

- **Q & As**

- Will the County be creating a solid waste franchise area in the Antelope Valley?
 - Yes. The County is in the process of establishing franchise areas where only approved haulers would be allowed to provide services. Customer service would be improved and new types of programs/services will be implemented.
 - The County will conduct community meetings to solicit feedback prior to implementation

Trash Responsibility Ordinance

- **Q & As**

- How was Ordinance adopted?

- Several community meetings were conducted in the AV (in coordination with town councils) to obtain community input
- At these meetings, all issues and concerns were discussed.
- All oral and written comments were considered in preparing the final draft ordinance.
- The Board of Supervisors officially adopted the Ordinance on January 9, 2007