



## **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 February 5, 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

##### County of Los Angeles Departments

Adriana Ornelas, Public Works, Environmental Programs Division  
Monique Brackett, Public Works, Environmental Programs Division  
Tiffany Caldwell, Regional Planning  
Karen Tandler, District Attorney's Office, Code Enforcement  
Vincent Jauregui, Alternate, Agricultural Commissioner Weights and Measures  
Edgar Chavarria, Sheriff Department  
Regina, Parks and Recreation

##### State and other Local Municipalities

Ben Stewart, Alternate, City of Lancaster  
Mica Schuller, City of Palmdale  
Ben Lucha, City of Palmdale

##### Town Councils and other local Organizations

Erika Schwerdt, I Heart Lake LA  
Shirley Harriman, Lake Los Angeles News  
Josh Mann, Waste Management, Inc.  
Lisa Henenway, Waste Management, Inc.

#### **Pledge of Allegiance**

#### **Roll Call – Adriana Ornelas**

#### **Approval of October 2, 2019 and December 4, 2020 meeting minutes – Donna Termeer**

Donna Termeer, Chairperson motioned to approve the minutes from October 2, 2019 and December 4, 2019. Tiffany Caldwell, Task Force Treasurer requested a change on the October 2, 2019 minutes under the Task Force Budget account balance is \$91,421.95. Karen Tandler, Deputy District Attorney's Office, suggested amendments to

the October 2, 2019 landfill vouchers, page 4, the generic statement of total tons per voucher to clarify the Task Force hands out half ton vouchers. On page 5, second paragraph, last sentence, fees are assessed on the Property Tax changed to Property Title.

Donna motioned to approve the October 2, 2019 minutes as amended. Mica Schuller, City of Palmdale approved the minutes. Ben Stewart, City of Lancaster seconded the motion. Donna motioned to approve the December 4, 2019; Tiffany approved the minutes. Karen seconded the motion. Both minutes passed unanimously.

### **Report on Task Force Budget and Expenditures – Tiffany Caldwell**

Tiffany Caldwell, Task Force Treasurer reported as of December 31, 2019 the account balance is \$115,274.62. Pending charges from the redeemed Landfill Vouchers totaled \$279.82. The Task Force has not been invoiced for the redeemed vouchers by Waste Management. And a monthly bank charge for January 2020 is pending. Since the bank statements arrive after the Task Force meeting, actual expenditures are roughly estimated. As of December 31, 2019, Charles Bostwick, Fifth District Supervisor's Office mentioned 9 vouchers have been redeemed with a total of 184 handed out thus far. On February 10, 2020 the Board Office will receive a Waste Management redeemed voucher report. Tiffany inquired if Waste Management would invoice the Task Force quarterly. Lisa Henenway, Waste Management mentioned the company bills monthly. There was discussion about the Landfill Voucher Pilot Program resulting in Town Councils and residents utilizing the program and are satisfied.

Karen Tandler, Deputy District Attorney's Office inquired why is the Task Force getting charged monthly bank fees. Tiffany Caldwell, Task Force Treasurer will provide an update at a future meeting.

### **Funding for camera for Illegal Dumping Investigations – Edgar Chavarria**

Edgar Chavarria, Sheriff Department requested funding for a digital camera and memory card to use when conducting Illegal Dumping Investigations. Court cases filed on illegal dumping require proof of alleged violations of illegal dumping. Photos would be included when filing said court cases. Karen Tandler, Deputy District Attorney's Office clarified the camera is the property of the Antelope Valley Illegal Dumping Task Force and not of the Sheriff Department as funding for the digital camera and memory card would be paid by the Task Force. The Sheriff Department would be the custodian of said property. There was discussion on a camera case resulting in the Task Force Chairperson donating a case. Chairperson moved a motion to approve the purchase of a digital camera and memory card in the amount not to exceed \$500. Karen approved the motion to provide the camera to the Sheriff Department for enforcement of illegal dumping and for the purpose of using by the Antelope Valley Illegal Dumping Task

Force to photograph area events and activities. Adriana Ornelas, Task Force Secretary seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**Funding for Kan't Kopy Security Paper to produce Landfill Vouchers – Charles Bostwick**

Charles Bostwick, Fifth District Supervisor's Office requested funding for Kan't Kopy Security Paper to produce Landfill Vouchers. Charles explained paper cannot be duplicated thus photocopying a voucher produces a fraud mark on the photocopy. The total cost for 250 sheets of Staples brand paper to produce 500 vouchers is \$61.20. Chairperson moved a motion to fund the security paper for \$61.20. Karen Tandler, Deputy District Attorney's Office approved the motion. Mica Schuller, City of Palmdale seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**Funding for Transportation for Advocacy work for the Public Safety Committee vote on SB409 and Present SB409 documentary between Senator Scott Wilk & iHeart Lake LA – Erika Schwerdt**

Erika Schwerdt, iHeart Lake LA presented a mini documentary with Senator Scott Wilk's Office. Various community groups were engaged to participate in the documentary. According to Senator Wilk's Office the documentary would serve in lieu of providing testimony to the Public Safety Committee in support of SB409. However, the possibility of having to attend the Public Safety Committee meeting requires transportation funding of an Enterprise rental van, vehicle insurance and gasoline. SBCC would provide funds for lodging and snacks for 15 participants. There was discussion about attending the Public Safety Committee and funding sources resulting in Mica Schuller, City of Palmdale approving the motion to fund a reimbursement of up to \$760 for an Enterprise rental van, vehicle insurance and gasoline to transport 15 participants to the Public Safety Committee testimony for SB409. Tiffany Caldwell, Task Force Treasurer seconded the motion. Karen Tandler, Deputy District Attorney's Office abstained from the vote. Motion passed.

**Inquiry on LA County Ourspot program collaboration with iHeart Lake LA – Erika Schwerdt**

Erika Schwerdt, iHeart Lake LA introduced the students from the Ourspot program at Sorenson Park that will present. Erika reminded us that iHeart Lake LA moved to community training on educating the effects and decrease of illegal dumping. The collaboration between LA County Sorenson Park's Ourspot program is an after-school program social places and opportunities where teens meet from 3 pm to 7 pm to train, work and educate on substance abuse prevention. After the teens inquired about participating in a community cleanup event, Erika suggested the teens plan it and present themselves to the Task Force. Divine Arsiga and Robert Macias in collaboration with the Ourspot program presented a teen community cleanup and the benefits of

cleaning the community by protecting the environment and wildlife. Trash has made the endangerment list 41,416 times. Humans generate 230 million lbs. of trash per year. 4.6 lbs. per person per day. 138 lbs. per person per month. Recognizing that less than a quarter of trash is recycled. Most of the trash began in 1985. The teens are requesting funds to supply the community clean up. Reimbursement of recycled items collected at the event would go towards benefitting the community including planting trees in the future.

Erika shared iHeart Lake LA is providing trainings from January to May 2020 where teens in the Ourspot program will encourage other teens in the program throughout LA County. A proposal to fund the teen community event was discussed resulting in \$962 plus \$750 funding of a roll off bin for a total of \$1,712. Waste Management is open to donating the roll off bin. In the event the roll off bin donation is not provided, a condition for the Task Force will fund the roll off bin. The bin will be secured in Sorenson Park's park property during on working days. Karen Tandler, Deputy District Attorney's Office moved a motion to approve \$962 plus a conditional amount of \$750 funding of a roll off bin should a donated bin not be provided for a total of \$1,712. Adriana Ornelas, Task Force Secretary seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Karen Tandler, Deputy District Attorney's Office commented that perhaps in the future the teens could include educating the committee about unlicensed drivers for hire to remove discarded household items for proper disposal. However, drivers illegally dump the items in the desert.

### **Illegal Dumping Program Overview 2019-2020 – Task Force Members**

The Task Force members presented on the Illegal Dumping Program Overview for 2019-2020. Each member provided a statistical report of the number of incidents or cases or tonnage by their respective enforcement agencies then presented 2020 goals for decreasing illegal dumping in the Antelope Valley area.

Deputy Sheriff Edgar Chavarria, Sheriff Department Illegal Dumping Unit provided 20 incidents filed since tasked to the Department's illegal dumping unit in 2019 with 35%-40% of office conferences due to unlawful dumping of household waste. Edgar shared the Department's 2020 goals continue using resources, partner with communities and residents to learn more about illegal dumping issues. Partner with other County Departments and City agencies to learn more about illegal dumping issues. Identify illegal dumping Hot Spot locations for better and more efficient enforcement. Explore funding to conduct surveillance operations and enforce illegal dumping laws in identified Hot Spot locations. Such as, document hired help to dispose of household waste that end up in the desert. Continued efforts to search for illegal dumping, investigating cases to deter and regulate illegal dumping issues. Continue regulating issues of illegal dumping to make our communities and deserts clean again!

Tiffany Caldwell, Department of Regional Planning Zoning Enforcement shared there are 4 inspectors with a caseload between 100-300 cases of land use violations which includes illegal dumping. Tiffany provided 42 cases opened and 31 cases closed in 2019. Tiffany shared the Department's 2020 goals would be to secure additional resources specifically staff to investigate, combat, and prevent illegal dumping in the Antelope Valley. Achieve a one-to-one close to open case ratio. Continue to support the Antelope Valley Illegal Dumping Task Force to develop educational and outreach opportunities to combat and prevent illegal dumping in the Antelope Valley. Investigate feasibility of implementing a Pilot Drone Project for proper surveillance using drone technology to combat and prevent illegal dumping on vacant lots and secluded areas of the Antelope Valley.

Vincent Jauregui alternate for Ariel Verayo, Agricultural Commissioner Weights and Measures Weed Abatement Division that in 2019, vacant parcels are up to code. During an investigation the Department runs into illegal dumping. Cleanups are focused during the month of May and October of each year. In January 2020, parcels cleaned near Avenue S and 116<sup>th</sup> Street collected 55 tons, 27 unit of mattresses, 55 unit of tires and 2 gallons of oil. Parcels cleaned near Avenue I and 117<sup>th</sup> Street East collected 27 tons and 14 unit of tires. Parcels cleaned near Avenue I and 120<sup>th</sup> Street collected 38 tons, 27 unit of tires, 13 unit of mattresses and 15 gallons of paint. Parcels cleaned near Avenue G and 40<sup>th</sup> Street collected 11.5 tons, 5 unit of mattresses and 16 unit of tires. A total of 63 parcels were cleaned. There are 127 scheduled parcels for clean up in 2020. Vincent shared the Department's 2020 goals are to monitor parcels to remain clean, address Hot Spots on vacant parcels, identify sites to apply for a new Farm and Ranch grant which is a total of 4 sites at \$200,000. And coordinate with the Sheriff's Department.

Karen Tandler, Deputy District Attorney's Office Code Enforcement provided there are approximately 85% of unlawful waste and/or household waste. To date, there are 48 active cases. 47 in the north area of LA County with one active case in Covina/West Covina. Karen shared the Department's 2020 goals would be the Senate Bill 409 passage of CA 374.3 Penal Code amendments to enhance enforcement efforts. Assist with LA County Public Works/Department of Regional Planning protocol for court dumping cases. Increase office conferences for household waste dumpers in Antelope Valley (AV). Assist LA County Public Works with public outreach to increase trash service or alternatives in the AV including photos of illegal dumping to support the need for trash service. Improve and refine statistics of all dumping in AV and North County – construction waste, household waste, junk & salvage, inoperable vehicles/car parts, or combination. Train law enforcement regarding dumping citations.

Adriana Ornelas, LA County Public Works Illegal Dumping Unit provided 591 incidents reported in 2019 with many incidents reported directly to the Road Maintenance Division's Field Offices that do not account for the total incidents. Adriana shared the

agency's 2020 goals would be to begin the process of a Garbage Disposal District or a residential franchise of the AV to provide contracted trash services, which will help reduce instances of illegal dumping. Update Illegal Dumping Map with new "Hot Spots" Ensure issues of illegal dumping of trash on personal property are directed to the appropriate enforcement agencies or sections of Public Works. Continue providing free of charge collection events. Public education (including Spanish translated community outreach material).

Ben Stewart, alternate for David Jones, City of Lancaster presented clean ups are dispatched to parkway crews. The City of Lancaster passed an ordinance where residents must have trash service with Waste Management (WM). WM sends the City of Lancaster quarterly reports with residents who do not have trash service. The City's Code Enforcement team verify illegal dumping on vacant properties. Owners are sent a notice to abate nuisance and clean property within 10 days. The City will assist with cleanup, if needed. In 2019, there were 1,103 incidents and 162 violations. The 2020 goals is the City is currently working to permit third party haulers to identify those who commit unlawful dumping and track violators. Also, create a tracking system, where builders need to provide who is taking and where the debris is being taken. Impact the committee to work with neighborhoods and coordinate clean up events. Such as, Martin Luther King Day Cleanup Event. Outreach to schools educating on impact of illegal dumping in their communities then announce a cleanup event. The City would provide trash bags, pickers and roll off bins. Working on educational outreach program.

Mica Schuller, City of Palmdale Public Works Maintenance collected 321 tons of illegally dumped items at 688 locations from the public right of way in 2019. Palmdale Code enforcement addressed 176 cases of illegal dumping on privately owned land resulting in nine violations or citations and 167 cases either being resolved by working with the property owner or still pending. In December 2019, the City of Palmdale purchased a Lightning Loader for assistance collecting large bulky items left in the right of way. Mica shared the City of Palmdale 2020 goals.

Education – raise awareness of what constitutes illegal dumping and the problems it generates. More illegal dumping outreach using our local media outlets and monthly park watch meetings. Strategic Enforcement – increase waste compliance and enforcement inspections at frequent dumping locations. Building an evidence base and identifying hotspots. Community Engagement – build partnerships in the communities to promote and support the reduction of illegal dumping. (High Desert Dumping Coalition). Introduction of a Construction and Demolition Ordinance which will require permit applicants to submit a waste plan. Continue conducting and promoting bulky Item collections (now includes Electronic Waste) up to four items, four times per year. Also, available to multifamily units. Provide electronic landfill vouchers for disposing of trash - up to one ton, two times per year. Turf/Soil – up to two tons once per year. Free recycling/disposal of household hazardous waste the first and third Saturday of each

month at AVECC. Service free collection of used oil and filters from home through the WM At Your Door Services. Continued use of the Recycle Coach App allowing residents to report illegal dumping and notification of special collection events, regular newsletter included with the Waste Management bill, create ads and information in Palmdale Magazine, post social media reminders, create television commercials, radio commercials/interviews, and continue partnering with the Antelope Valley Illegal Dumping Task Force.

The illegal dumping "hot spot" map was not ready to present but currently working to develop one.

Resources for the Antelope Valley area were provided, such as disposal facilities, recycling centers, community outreach programs, task force funded programs, donation program, community events calendar and the Stop Illegal Dumping website which houses past agenda, meeting summary and pertinent information on the affects of illegal dumping in communities and wildlife. The following community outreach programs provide Los Angeles County residents FREE and convenient ways to dispose of unwanted items that cannot be thrown in the regular trash.

Two disposal facilities provide a variety of acceptable material such as trash, bulky items, wood, green waste, appliances, electronic waste, mattresses, are Lancaster Landfill located at 600 E Avenue, Lancaster, CA 93535 and Antelope Valley Recycling & Disposal Facility (aka Palmdale Facility) located at 1200 W City Ranch Rd Palmdale, CA 93551. Tires may be dropped off at the Palmdale Facility which includes a recycling fee. Such as, the Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collection Program of products labeled toxic, poisonous, combustible, corrosive, irritant or flammable, antifreeze, batteries, cleaning supplies, unused non-controlled pharmaceuticals, fluorescent light bulbs, TVs, computers, and cell phones. By law, these products must be properly recycled or disposed of a hazardous waste facility. Permanent drop off locations are City of Lancaster 24-Hour Drop Off Center (Maintenance Yard), 615 West Avenue H, Lancaster, Antelope Valley Recycling & Disposal Facility (aka Palmdale Facility), 1200 West City Ranch Road, Palmdale. Open every 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday (rain or shine) from 9am to 3pm.

The Mattress Collection & Recycling Program provides Los Angeles County residents FREE and convenient ways to dispose of unwanted mattresses to be collected for recycling at a participating collection site or event throughout the year. Unit limits vary by location and a residency restrictions may apply. We recommend contacting the location prior to drop-off. Businesses may make their own drop-off arrangements with participating recyclers or sites that accept commercial volume. Those with at least 100 units may qualify for no-cost transportation. Permanent mattress drop off centers include City of Lancaster 24-Hour Drop Off Center (Maintenance Yard), 615 West Avenue H, Lancaster Antelope Valley Recycling & Disposal Facility (aka Palmdale Facility), 1200 West City Ranch Road, Palmdale, and the Lancaster Landfill & Recycling

Center, 600 East Avenue F, Lancaster. For more information, visit [www.byebyemattress.com](http://www.byebyemattress.com)

The Waste Tire Recycling Program provides Los Angeles County residents FREE and convenient ways to dispose of unwanted tires to be collected for recycling at a participating collection event twice per year. Unit limits vary by location and a residency restrictions may apply. We recommend contacting the location prior to drop-off. No tires from businesses. No oversized or tractor tires. Rims accepted. If you transport 10 or more tires per trip, obtain a tire transport form from the Public Health Department a week ahead at (626) 430-5540. Events are held at the following Public Works, Road Maintenance field yards:

- Road Yard, 38126 Sierra Hwy, Palmdale
- Road Yard, 4859 West Avenue L-12, Quartz Hill
- Road Yard, 8505 East Avenue T, Littlerock
- Road Yard, 17341 East Avenue J, Lake Los Angeles (Lancaster)

For more information on the Waste Tire Recycling Program information, visit CleanLA.com

The Free Disposal Day Program provides Los Angeles County unincorporated area residents of the Antelope Valley area FREE and convenient ways to dispose of up to one ton of unwanted household discards to be collected at a Lancaster Landfill (600 East Avenue F, Lancaster) event twice per year, in April and October. Residents need to show proof of residency., e.g. Driver's license. Tarp your load to prevent litter during transportation. Business waste or Household Hazardous Waste will NOT be accepted. For more information on recycling business waste, tires, construction and demolition debris or proper disposal of household hazardous waste, visit CleanLA.com

For more information about these programs and temporary event locations, visit [www.CleanLA.com](http://www.CleanLA.com) and [www.stopillegaldumping.com](http://www.stopillegaldumping.com)

The Los Angeles County Materials Exchange Website is a Free service where the primary goal is to conserve landfill space by helping businesses, residents, organizations, and institutions find alternative ways to dispose of valuable materials which are presently discarded as waste. Users can browse or post listings of a wide variety of available and wanted materials. Listings are categorized by 15 material classifications and 6 regions that include common items such as wood pallets, out-of-fashion textiles, and chemicals as well as more uncommon items. The listings contain contact information, allowing users to make direct contact with the listing party. For more information, visit LACoMAX.com or CleanLA.com

Task Force funded programs are illegal dumping prevention programs in the County unincorporated areas of the Antelope Valley reviewed and approved by the Task Force



members on an annual basis. Task Force funded programs are good for one calendar year. Current funded programs are:

- **Roll-off bins** (to assist residents impacted by instances of illegal dumping)
- **Half-ton landfill voucher** (up to two per resident, per year)
- **Grants** (provided to schools, non-profit organizations and other community-based organizations)
- **Proper tire recycling** facility fee reimbursement collected at various volunteer community cleanup events
- **Community cleanup efforts or community education outreach**
- **Task Force representatives** sent to conference, workshops, community events

Requests for Task Force funding requires the matter be placed on the meeting agenda, include a proposal with each presentation and provide how funding will benefit communities consistent with the mission of the Task Force. For more information, visit [stopillegaldumping.com](http://stopillegaldumping.com) under the Antelope Valley Task Force tab.

The roll off bin donation program is a program that Waste Management donates a roll off bin for volunteer community cleanup events in the County unincorporated areas of the Antelope Valley. Event representatives coordinate directly with a Waste Management representative. A request for service should include the following:

- Provide date of event
- Where will bin be stored when not in use
- Provide Town Council or Community Group name
- Provide date of bin pickup

Since Task Force funding is not required, donated roll off bin requests will be coordinated between the event representative and Waste Management. Item does not need to be placed on the Task Force agenda.

For more information, contact the Waste Management representative, Mr. Josh Mann, Public Sector Solutions Manager, by email [jmann2@wm.com](mailto:jmann2@wm.com) or contact him at (661) 382-7436.

The Task Force Community Events Calendar provides County unincorporated Antelope Valley area residents quarterly events and residential services. The Calendar is uploaded onto [Stopillegaldumping.com](http://Stopillegaldumping.com) website on the Antelope Valley tab, under Announcements. Calendar information provides the following:

- Drop off collection events
- Permanent household hazardous waste drop-off collection centers
- Task Force meeting dates
- Residential services
- Free drop off collection events in City of Palmdale and City of Lancaster
- City of Lancaster's 24-Hour Drop Off Recycling Center
- Toll free hotline numbers, such as:

- Illegal dumping
- Clean LA (LA County Public Works website provides environmental information and community events)

For more information, visit [stopillegaldumping.com](http://stopillegaldumping.com)

- The Stop Illegal Dumping website provides information about the Task Force Task Force information about illegal dumping prevention programs, community events calendar, landfill half ton voucher program guidelines, meeting summaries and agendas, free of charge events are listed at the following website, [StopIllegalDumping.com](http://StopIllegalDumping.com)

And LA County Public Works offers an email notification system to provide up-to-date information on topics or events of interest. This system allows you to customize your notifications, so sign up today! Task Force meeting notifications are sent by this notification system.

There was discussion about the presentation and the content about trash services resulting in further research of alternatives ways to provide trash service to the residents.

## **Public Comment**

### **Mobile Vouchers – Erika Schwerdt**

Erika Schwerdt, iHeart Lake LA addressed remote areas where residents may not be able to pick up landfill vouchers. Erika requested a way to get the vouchers to said residents. After discussion on the matter, Task Force Chairperson suggested Charles Bostwick, 5<sup>th</sup> District Board Office, Assistant Field Deputy coordinate a day coinciding with a community festival or event to hand out vouchers and keep record of who received the voucher. iHeart Lake LA would conduct the outreach.

Meeting adjourned.