



Antelope Valley Illegal Dumping Task Force Meeting Summary of February 6, 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, Department of Public Works
Nina Guerra, Department of Public Works
Tiffany Caldwell, Department of Regional Planning
Oscar Gomez, Department of Regional Planning
Edgar de la Torre, Department of Regional Planning
Karen Tandler, Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office
Joe Priebe, Los Angeles County District Attorney Investigator
Vincent Jauregui, Department of Agricultural Commissioner Weights and Measures
Edgar Chavarria, Los Angeles County Sheriff Department

State and other Local Municipalities

Steve Hofbauer, Mayor, City of Palmdale
Mica Schuler, City of Palmdale
Ben Lucha, City of Palmdale

Town Councils and other local Organizations

Guy Randles, Green Valley Town Council
Tom Lapworth, Antelope Valley Board of Trade
Jeff Zimmerman, Rural Protection Services
Shirley Harriman, Lake Los Angeles News
Winnie Murphy, Antelope Valley Town Council
Ali Van Deryk, Waste Management
Jeanine Pon, Green Valley Town Council
Larissa Nickel, DEHSART/Hinterculture
Guy Painter, Sunnyside Farms
Evelyn Rivas, Antelope Valley Union High School District
Robyn Young, Antelope Valley Union Eastside High School
Brian Murphy, Eastside Palmdale
Ann Trussell, Realtor

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call – Donna Termeer (Committee Chair)

Follow up of the Bylaws of the Antelope Valley Illegal Dumping Task Force – Karen Tandler

Karen Tandler, District Attorney's Office provided an update on the bylaws. Karen received several responses regarding suggestions and amendments to the first distributed draft of the bylaws and will now incorporate those changes into another draft that will be available online and in paper form at the next Task Force meeting. Karen advised that County Counsel will also provide a review of the new suggestions that are incorporated into the new draft of the bylaws.

Approval of October 3, 2018, meeting minutes – Donna Termeer

Donna Termeer, Fifth District Supervisor's Office motioned to approve the minutes from October 3, 2018. Adriana Ornelas, Public Works approved the minutes and Karen Tandler, District Attorney's Office seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Report on Budget and CY-2019 Spending Plan – Donna Termeer

Donna Termeer, Fifth District Supervisor's Office reported the account balance is \$104,143.21.

Donna announced the AVIDTF Spending Plan for CY-2019. The Fifth District Supervisor's Office requested to increase the allocated funds for Illegal Dumping advertising from \$20,000 to \$37,500 for announcements on billboards and public transportation on buses to name a few. There was discussion to move funds from specified expenditures to cover cost of other expenditures, when needed. And report expenditures at each task force meeting. Donna moved to vote the revised spending plan, move funds and report expenditures at each task force meeting. Karen Tandler, District Attorney's Office approved the revised plan and Adriana Ornelas, Department of Public Works seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Report on Illegal Dumping Incidents (including City of Palmdale and City of Lancaster) – Adriana Ornelas

Adriana Ornelas, Department of Public Works requested to postpone reporting on the Illegal Dumping Incidents until the database is updated. Adriana shared analyzing the number of incidents within town council or community group areas would provide beneficial data to enhance or create new programs instead of providing the method of how incidents are received. Task Force chair approved postponing reports on Illegal Dumping incidents. No objections were raised.

Inquiry for Truck Scales – Joseph Priebe

Joseph Priebe, Los Angeles County District Attorney Investigators (DAI) presented a request for funding of two truck scales to target truck drivers hauling unlawful and dangerous overweight truckloads of commercial waste to canyon areas, in which property owners are either victims of the unlawful dumping (non-complicit property owners) or alternatively, are accepting lucrative unreported payments of money to provide their properties for unlawful dumping (complicit property owners). Moreover, these unlawful dump sites do not have personnel weighing the truckloads or enforcing the weight limit laws. DAIs would conduct traffic stops under authority of VC §4000.6(c) as peace officers defined in PC §830.1 on trucks that they suspect are carrying overweight loads in violation of VC §4000.6(d). DAIs would then weigh the trucks with portable commercial truck scales. Truckers with overweight loads would be cited for a violation of VC §4000.6(d), which carries different fines depending upon load weight per VC §42030(a). A portion of these fines may offset the cost of the program. In certain instances, these truckers could be cited for misdemeanor Vehicle Code violations, such as maximum weight (VC35550a), false evidence of financial responsibility (VC16030a), no special permit (VC 35784a), suspended driver's license (VC 14601), and etc. Currently, there are no law enforcement agencies in the North County conducting commercial enforcement truck stops on a regular basis. Donna Termeer, Chairperson motioned to fund \$45,000 for two truck scales. Adriana Ornelas, Department of Public Works approved the motion and Tiffany Caldwell, Department of Regional Planning seconded the motion. Karen Tandler, Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office recused herself from voting as she is employed by the same Department as Mr. Priebe. Motion approved unanimously.

Report on Mattress Recycling Collection Events – Adriana Ornelas

Adriana Ornelas, Department of Public Works requested to postpone reporting on the Mattress Recycling Collection Events as the data was not provided in time for the Task Force meeting. Request to postpone was approved by Task Force Chair.

Report on Free Dump Day at Lancaster Landfill – Lisa Henenway

Adriana Ornelas, Department of Public Works requested to postpone the Report on the Free Dump Day event at Lancaster Landfill until the next Task Force meeting because Lisa Henenway from Waste Management is not present. Task Force chair approved postponing the report. No objections were raised.

Report on Survey Summary for Free Dump Day at Lancaster Landfill – Adriana Ornelas

Adriana Ornelas, Department of Public Works reported on the Survey Summary for the Free Dump Day at Lancaster Landfill held on October 13, 2018. The survey was

created to collect data from participants at the event to better understand the needs of the unincorporated community areas and enhance the program where needed. There were 278 surveys collected and 16 communities within the County unincorporated area participated in the survey. The following summary is a breakdown of the results from the collected surveys. The event was promoted through the Department of Public Works' event flyer, internet announcement and word of mouth. 63 percent of Waste Management customers and 15 percent of self-hauling residents participated in the event. The Free Dump Day event is open to residents of LA County unincorporated areas. The community suggested more events should be conducted throughout the year as well as longer hours of operation, increased tonnage (currently 1 ton), events in other locations, and more advertising. 89 percent of participants were not aware, and 4 percent were aware of LA County's LACoMax website. The Los Angeles County Material Exchange website is a tool to post unwanted household items, free of charge. 82 percent of participants have not used, and 7 percent are using The Works App. The Works App is a cell phone application used to report illegal dumping, property violations, graffiti removal and more. 43 percent of participants were very satisfied with the event, 41 percent were satisfied, and 7 percent were unsatisfied. Unsatisfied participants commented the event wait time was too long. Recommendations were made to:

- Develop a marketing plan that saturates the public through various methods of affective advertising through Billboard announcements, event announcement posted on public transportation, distribute the event flyer to LA County unincorporated Town Councils and local community groups.
- Develop a program for town councils and local community groups coordinate community volunteer cleanup events in their respective areas.
- Develop a campaign where local waste hauler educates residents with proper recycling and waste disposal.
- Develop a program where local schools create an anti-dumping campaign to educate students, participate in incentive programs, and form a creative arts and culture program which highlights keeping the desert free of illegal dumping through tourist attractions formerly riddled with illegal dumping. See [KCET's Artbound](#).
- Develop a marketing plan to educate and encourage unwanted household items be posted on the LACoMax website and diverted from the landfill.
- Develop a program to educate deconstructing unwanted items, create a market for reconstructed items and diverted from the landfill.

Although 37 percent of participants suggested to include an additional Free Dump Day event at the facility, the mutual agreement under the Conditional Use Permit (CUP) No. 113 lists two events per year. Amendments made to the CUP must be mutually agreed upon by both the County of Los Angeles and Waste Management. Further discussion is needed through the responsible section that manages the CUP.

The prevention programs and campaigns would develop under the Antelope Valley Illegal Dumping Task Force and coordinated by town council members, community groups, and schools to educate and encourage residents actively participate in reducing illegal dumping.

In addition, creating programs and campaigns requires analyzing LA County's unincorporated Antelope Valley area demographics. A couple websites to consider are [LA Times mapping](#), that breaks down ethnicity, income, education, and housing within unincorporated Antelope Valley area, and the [U.S. Census Bureau](#) that breaks down the population per town within unincorporated Antelope Valley area.

Report on Illegal Dumping Cleanup Request "Operation Avenue X" – Edgar de la Torre

Edgar De La Torre, Department of Regional Planning shared Project Avenue X is progressing, Phase 2 mostly complete. All properties within Phase 1 & 2 have been inspected at least once. Phase 1 & 2 included 59 properties of which 38 cases have been closed due to no dumping observed or property owner compliance, the remaining 21 have ongoing enforcement cases. It was discussed that a representative from High Desert Keepers has previously been in contact with Department of Regional Planning and is willing to assist in cleaning properties. Edgar is going to reach out to High Desert Keepers to see if a representative can attend the next meeting. It was also discussed that there are many challenges to resolving the illegal dumping issues in that area and it was agreed that Department of Regional Planning and Department of Public Works will work together to find optimal location to install "No Dumping" signs near and around the "Project Avenue X" area.

Report on iHeart Lake LA Cleanup Project – Shirley Harriman

iHeart Lake Los Angeles presented a proposal for funding in the amount of \$1,420 for a 2-sided 2-month Lamar billboard (English/Spanish) as part of the educational facet of the iHeart clean-up movement in Lake Los Angeles. A diorama was provided as a visual. Task Force Chairperson accepted the diorama to display in the reception room of Supervisor Barger's Antelope Valley Office. The request to fund up to \$1,420 was unanimously approved.

Inquiry on Community Cleanup (Sunnyside Farms) - Charles Bostwick

The AVIDT voted unanimously to provide a roll off bins for a Sunnyside Farms community cleanup event if Waste Management is unable to donate one. Sunnyside Farms Property Owners Association President, Guy Painter said the unincorporated area bounded by Avenue N, Avenue N-8, 30th Street West and 45th Street West contains several vacant lots that are regularly targeted by illegal dumpers. Community

residents and Boy Scouts in an Eagle Scout community service project will provide the labor to clean up the trash. Three fenced yards at residences in the area are available for the bin, along with three potential dates, with the preference being May 4.

Update on Integrated School-Wide Themed Project – Robyn Young and Evelyn Rivas

At the request of the AVIDTF, Robyn Young and Evelyn Rivas, Eastside High School provided a cost breakdown for material and supplies to support the Environmental Awareness Integrated Service Learning Project, 2018-19 for the BIRD (Beauty Innovation Respect Discovery) Project. There was discussion about the total funding request for the BIRD project in the amount of \$3,483.12. The approved Spending Plan allocates funds up to \$5000 for a variety of illegal dumping grants involving schools, non-profit organizations, etc. Karen Tandler, District Attorney's Office inquired if the Task Force would consider reallocating other funds from the Spending Plan to offset funding for the illegal dumping grants involving schools, non-profit organizations, etc., when needed. AVIDTF Chairperson moved to fund the BIRD project up to \$3,483.12 and reallocate funds from other key priority task on the Spending Plan, when needed. Karen Tandler, District Attorney's Office approved the motion and Adriana Ornelas, Department of Public Works seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously.