



Antelope Valley Illegal Dumping Task Force Meeting Summary of August 7, 2019

Attendees:

County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors
Charles Bostwick, Supervisor Kathryn Barger's Office

County of Los Angeles Departments
Tiffany Caldwell, Department of Regional Planning
Ben Cortez, LA County Public Works
Citlalith Perez, LA County Public Works
Karen Tandler, LA County District Attorney's Office, Code Enforcement
Ariel Verayo, Department of Agricultural Commissioner Weights and Measures

State and other Local Municipalities
Laura Jardine, City of Santa Clarita
Benjamin Lucha, City of Palmdale
Mica Schuler, City of Palmdale
Curtis William, City of Santa Clarita

Town Councils and other local Organizations
Annamarie Dyemartin, Littlerock Town Council
Shirley Harriman, Lake Los Angeles News
Gil Hernandez, California Highway Patrol, Antelope Valley
Tom Lapworth, Antelope Valley Board of Trade
Ruth Morales, Tarzana Treatment Centers
Josh Murphy, Antelope Acres Resident
Winnie Murphy, Antelope Acres Town Council
Karla Ramos, L.A. Conservation Corp
Guy Randles, Green Valley Town Council
Stephen Updyke, Tarzana Treatment Centers
Jeff Zimmerman, Rural Protection Services

Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Approval of June 5, 2019, meeting minutes – Karen Tandler

Karen Tandler, Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office, made a motion to approve the corrected minutes from June 5, 2019. Ariel Verayo, Department of Agricultural Weights and Measures, seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Report on Task Force Budget and Expenditures – Chuck Bostwick

Chuck Bostwick, Fifth District Supervisor's Office, reported that there was no financial activity since the last report and that the actual account balance is \$87,953.83. He further reported that there are approved expenditures (that have not been expended yet) for truck scales and event promo banners.

Inquiry on Neenach Community Cleanup Event – Jeff Zimmerman

Jeff Zimmerman, Oso Town Council, reported that the town council held a successful trash collection event utilizing two (2) forty-yard dumpsters. The cost of the dumpsters was \$2400 and was funded by the Antelope Valley Illegal Dumping Task Force (Task Force). Mr. Zimmerman reported that the Task Force also sponsored cleanup of illegal dumping on twelve (12) private lots at the cost of \$2000. An additional \$2000 from the Task Force will be allocated for weed and brush clearing to assist elderly property owners who have been cited by County Fire and are unable to comply. Mr. Zimmerman stated the Town Council is planning a Fall collection event in September, which would require utilizing one (1) forty-yard dumpster at the cost of \$1200. Mr. Zimmerman made a request for \$1200 in funding for the dumpster to utilize for the Fall event.

Ariel Verayo, Department of Agricultural Commissioner Weights and Measures, made a motion to provide \$1200 in funding for a forty-yard dumpster to be utilized by the Neenach community for the September cleanup event. Karen Tandler second the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Request for Trash Vouchers for Sun Village Residents – Chuck Bostwick

Chuck Bostwick reported that the Fifth District Office received a request for trash vouchers for low-income home owners in Sun Village. The vouchers allow residents to dispose of a pick-up truck load at Lancaster landfill. Mr. Bostwick suggested to start with 20 vouchers and specified that vouchers would have to be created for distribution. Task Force members

discussed security features on the vouchers to avoid counterfeiting, and resident's income criteria to qualify for a voucher. Ms. Tandler pointed out that the Task Force does not have voucher distribution system currently in place. She suggested drafting a voucher protocol that defines residents' qualifying criteria and includes a 90-day expiration date for vouchers, among other provisions. Mr. Bostwick will draft the protocol and bring it up for discussion at the next Task Force meeting.

Legislative Update – Karen Tandler

Karen Tandler, Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office, reported that progress has been made on SB 409, the two-year bill that aims to make changes to the California Penal Code Dumping Statute. She stated that the California Legislature (Legislature) moved to agree that dumping cannot take place on a property even when the owner of such property gives consent, unless the consenting property owner has the required dumping permits from local agencies. This move means the consent loophole will be gone. Ms. Tandler stated, however, that the Legislature has pushed back on the amendments that would make truckers responsible for unauthorized dumping. She said the work will continue in 2020 and her office will make postcards in support of SB 409 amendments available to town councils, community and residents who wish to support.

Presentation on Take Back Your Drugs Campaign – Stephen Updyke

Stephen Updyke, Tarzana Treatment Centers, provided a brief description of the locations and services provided by Tarzana Treatment Centers which include substance abuse, mental health, HIV, and primary care services. Mr. Updyke stated that his team works under Los Angeles County substance abuse and prevention control (SAPC) to discourage substance use, and has recently been working with the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) on opioid awareness and proper disposal. Mr. Updyke announced that his organization in collaboration with DEA, CHP and other community partners will have a drive-through, no-questions-asked drug take-back event on October 26. The event will be held at the Kaiser Permanente on West Avenue L in Lancaster. Karen Tandler suggested that flyers for this event be posted on the Task Force website.

Presentation on L.A. Conservation Corp Services – Karla Ramos

Karla Ramos, L.A. Conservation Corp., stated that the mission of the L.A. Conservation Corp (Corp) is to provide at-risk young adults and school-age youth with opportunities for success through job skills training, education and work experience with an emphasis on conservation and service projects that benefit the community. Ms. Ramos stated that participants in the Corp include youth who were or are involved in the juvenile justice system, homeless individuals or individuals at risk of becoming homeless, and single parents, among others. The program is currently serving 200 youths and 372 young adults.

Ms. Ramos stated that the Corp services include planting and distributing trees for the City of L.A., building and maintaining over 10,000 feet of trails, graffiti abatement, habitat restoration,

beverage container recycling, street cleanup, community outreach, and various construction services, among other competencies. She stated that while most of the services are for the L.A. area, the Corp is looking to expand its services to other areas such as the Antelope Valley, as there is a population of young people in the Antelope Valley who would benefit from joining the Corp.

Ms. Ramos emphasized the work the Corp does in the environmental field such as outreach to educate about the importance of recycling and saving resources; collection events of e-waste, tires, mattresses, food-waste, and beverage containers. She stated that the Corp's mission and the range of environmental services it offers makes it an ideal partner to work with the Task Force.

Presentation on Trash Collection Franchise in the Antelope Valley – Steve Milewski

Presentation postponed until further notice.

Public Comment

A member of the public expressed his concern that current legislation addressing illegal dumping focuses on the prosecution end of the problem and while neglecting enforcement.

Karen Tandler stated that the District Attorney's office has been working to have a team of two (2) investigators to work exclusively on illegal dumping in the Antelope Valley. She said that a staffing decision is to be made soon. In addition, Ms. Tandler stated that Sheriff Deputy Edgar Chavarria can be of assistance to report incidents and perpetrators of illegal dumping.

A second member of the public expressed concern about the proliferation of makeshift memorials/shrines in the public right-of-way. She stated that some of these makeshift shrines now have lights, statues, planted cacti, etc. Tiffany Caldwell responded that makeshift memorials in the public right-of-way can be addressed by Public Works Road Maintenance. She said she would research if there are any options to address makeshift memorials in private property.

Another resident expressed concern about trailers abandoned on the north-west side of West Ave. F and 70th St. West. Ms. Caldwell asked to speak to the resident after the meeting to get more information.

Karen Tandler made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Chuck Bostwick seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 4:02 p.m.