



Antelope Valley Illegal Dumping Task Force (AVIDTF)

Meeting Summary of September 6, 2017

Fire Station No. 129, Training Center
42210 6th Street West
Lancaster, CA 93534

Attendees:

County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors

Donna Termeer, Supervisor Kathryn Barger's Office
Nicole Barbarino, Supervisor Kathryn Barger's Office

County of Los Angeles Departments

Adriana Ornelas, Department of Public Works
Bonitto Housen, Department of Public Works
Hossein Torabzadeh, Department of Public Works
Jackson Piper, Department of Regional Planning
Kerstin Schlegel, Department of Regional Planning
Tiffany Caldwell, Department of Regional Planning
Andrew Cronin, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department
Scott Short, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (Palmdale Sheriff's Station)
Karen Tandler, Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office
Ariel Verayo, Department of Agricultural Commissioner/Weights and Measures

State and other Local Municipalities

Ben Lucha, City of Palmdale
Mica Schuler, City of Palmdale
David Jones, City of Lancaster
Vickie Rausch, Antelope Valley Air Quality Management District

Town Councils and other local Organizations

Guy Randles, Green Valley Town Council
Tom Lapworth, Antelope Valley Board of Trade
Shirley Harriman, Antelope Valley Town Council
Josh Murphy, Antelope Valley Town Council
Winnie Murphy, Antelope Valley Town Council
Loretta Smalls, Lakes Los Angeles Rural Town Council
Evelyn Rivas, Eastside High School
Annamarie, Little Rock Town Council

Self-Introductions

Introductions of committee members and attendees

Commendation

Donna Termeer, Antelope Valley Field Deputy, from Supervisor Kathryn Barger's Office recognized Ms. Kerstin Schlegel for her dedicated service to Antelope Valley Illegal Dumping Task Force (AVIDTF). Kerstin is an employee from the Department of Regional Planning (DRP) who will be leaving the AVIDTF due to her new assignment at DRP.

Account Balance – Guy Randles

Guy Randles, Treasurer for the AVIDTF, reported the account balance in the checking account. The account balance is \$81,563.19.

Illegal Dumping Quarterly Summary – Adriana Ornelas

Adriana Ornelas from Public Works provided the attached summary of the current Illegal Dumping Incident Report.

Subcommittee Meeting Summary – Hossein Torabzadeh

Hossein Torabzadeh from Public Works provided a summary of the AVIDTF Subcommittee meeting. The following items were discussed:

- Waste Management (WM) vouchers will be revised to reflect Supervisor Barger as the County Supervisor for the Fifth District. Residents who request a voucher must have trash service to qualify for the program.
- Tiffany Caldwell replaced Kerstin Schlegel as the DRP inspector for the Antelope Valley area.
- AVIDTF will provide a \$5 gift card incentive to encourage more residents to bring their used mattresses to four mattress and tire recycling and collection events scheduled for Fall 2017. The recommendations were to purchase the gift cards from Walmart, Target, or from a local restaurant.
- Nicole Barbarino from Supervisor Barger's office will purchase the gift cards. Residents will receive one \$5 gift card for each mattress they deliver up to a maximum of six mattress. Gift cards will be handed out during the events.
- Antelope Valley residents indicated they wanted the County to provide more illegal dumping events. Members from the Town Council and their representatives were encouraged to provide recommendations or input on the type of events that are needed.

Open Discussion/Public Comment

Donna Termeer, requested Public Works send her a copy of the community flyers for the Antelope Valley mattress and tire collection events prior to them being circulated.

Eastside High School – Evelyn Rivas

Evelyn Rivas, a teacher at Eastside High School, did a presentation on a recent project where students used illegally dumped materials in the Antelope Valley to create art. The purpose of the project was to connect students with the community and to focus on the impacts of illegal dumping on the environment. The project occurred during the Spring of 2017. Approximately 800 students participated. Funding was provided by a State grant and by non-profit organizations including the Jane Goodall Foundation and Tree People. Students were asked to focus on the community's cleanup efforts as the theme for their projects. Guest speakers, such as Karen Tandler from the County of Los Angeles District Attorney's Office, spoke about the consequences and penalties for illegal dumping. Other guest speakers spoke about the benefits of recycling waste materials and the impacts of illegal dumping on wildlife. Student were shown photos and interacted with the animals. The students were excited for the opportunity to pick up trash and to work together to solve problems. The student participation rate remained high even when it rained and the grounds became muddy. Tree People provided buses to transport students during the trip. During the presentation Ms. Rivas showed samples and photos of the sculptures and the artwork the students created, some of which are displayed at the school. Heather from the County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation, also spoke at the event and provided information on the impacts of illegal dumping on wildlife.

City of Palmdale receives grant for event – Ben Lucha

City of Palmdale received a grant from CalRecycle on October 15, 2017, for e-waste collection events. The first e-waste event was held at the intersection of 3rd Street East and Technology Drive. The event was advertised to Palmdale residents; however, City of Lancaster and Unincorporated County residents also attended and were not turned away. The City of Palmdale has six additional events planned for next year.

Increased Illegal Truck Dumping – Karen Tandler

- Karen Tandler, from the County of Los Angeles District Attorney's Office, reported an increase in the number of construction and demolition (C&D) debris related illegal dumping incidents in the North County. Deputy Short, from the County of Los Angeles Sheriff's Department, has been following the problem for eight months. The Brokers representing the trucking companies are going door to door asking residents if they wanted excavated soil for reuse on their properties. However, the soil the brokers delivered to residents is not clean soil. The soil is often contaminated with other C&D materials, such as concrete. Once a resident

agrees to accept the soil on his/her property the contaminated material is spread out and then covered with soil.

- It was reported that waste haulers are illegally dumping materials on both public and private property without a permit or proper authorization. Deputy Short reported that the Los Angeles County code gives law enforcement the authority to legally impound a vehicle used for illegal dumping. Deputy Short also shared that the Sheriff Department does not have jurisdiction in other jurisdictions, such as the City of Los Angeles and Ventura County, which is where the materials may be coming from. Deputy Short suspects the increase in illegal dumping is a result of the recycling facilities and landfills raising their fees.

Community Event – Annamarie Dyemartin

Annamarie Dyemartin, from the Littlerock town council, had a recent community event that resulted in the accumulation of trash in the dumpsters. She requested to have the dumpsters collected over the weekend. However, WM of Lancaster does not offer weekend service.

Permanent e-Waste Location – Josh Murphy

Josh Murphy, an Antelope Valley Resident, is applying for a permit to accept household hazardous waste. He reported that there is a facility where residents can take their e-waste. This facility also accepts mattresses. Mr. Murphy reported that residents were leaving e-waste, mattresses, and trash at this facility outside the normal business hours.

Notice of Violation – David Jones

- The City of Lancaster's Abatement Unit, inspects properties that have excessive amounts of trash that may pose a threat to public health and safety. If the legal owner is unresponsive, the city will remove the trash and place a lien on the property. Property owners are responsible for maintaining their properties even in cases where trash was illegally dumped on the property without their knowledge.
- Ariel Verayo, from the County of Los Angeles Department of Agricultural Commissioner/Weights and Measures, sends notices to property owners whose properties have overgrown weed and accumulated trash as part of the Los Angeles County Abatement Program. Property owners are given a fixed number of days to correct an infraction. If the infraction is not corrected a lien can be placed against the property. The City of Lancaster requested feedback on how to minimize the impact on property owners.
- An attendee asked if there was a way to increase the fines and severity of the penalties for illegally dumping and littering, which could serve as a deterrence.

Deputy Short stated that illegal dumping is a misdemeanor under California law. Changes to the law can only be obtained through State law or local ordinance. The County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors could amend the County ordinance.

Grant for Community Cleanup Events – Attendee

An attendee asked, if grants were available to assist with the cleanup of illegal dumping sites. Hossein Torabzadeh, from Public Works, reported that grants were provided in the past by the County Health Department for specific illegal dumping locations. The attendee suggested creating outreach teams that would volunteer to cleanup specific illegal dumping sites. The attendee offered to send out invitations to the community and coordinate with volunteers to cleanup illegal dumping sites. Donna Termeer reported that grant opportunities are offered by the State on a competitive basis. The County of Los Angeles would have to compete with other local jurisdictions for funding. However, having a large illegal dumping area with a documented history of illegal dumping activities and a strong application, may improve the chances of obtaining the grant. Donna Termeer suggested that the County may be able to assist with the application for future grants.

Cameras at Reoccurring Illegal Dumping Sites – Attendee

An attendee inquired about the use of cameras to combat illegal dumping. Deputy Short reported that some of the cameras that the Department of Public Health installed, had been stolen or knocked down on several occasions. Aerial drones were suggested as an alternative to hidden cameras. Deputy Short reported that illegal dumping occurs at night, which restrict the drones to daytime use only. Also, drones are regulated by the FAA and local jurisdictions. For example, a pilot's license is required by the FAA to operate a commercial drone and some cities have an ordinance against flying drones over populated areas. Also, emergency medical services may restrict aeromedical evacuations service in areas where drones are known to be operating.

Reusing Tires – Josh Murphy

Josh Murphy, from the Antelope Valley Town Council, provided insight on illegally dumped tires and how to reuse them. He reported that goat farmers were utilizing used tires on their goat farms and has been asking for more used tires.

Illegal Dumping of Narcotics – Attendee

An attendee inquired about illegal dumping of narcotics. Donna Termeer referred him to the Office of Cannabis Management, which handles narcotics.

Waste Management of Lancaster Trash Bags – Attendee

An attendee inquired about getting trash bags for an illegal dumping site cleanup on weekends. He also wanted to know if he could place the trash bags at a designated location and contact WM to pick up the trash. Karen Tandler, from the County of Los Angeles District Attorney's Office, was concerned residents could be charged for this service. Donna Termeer will contact WM to confirm if there is a charge for this service.