



Antelope Valley Illegal Dumping Task Force (AVIDTF)

Meeting Summary of March 1, 2017

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

Attendees:

Nicole Barbarino, Supervisor Kathryn Barger's Office
Doug Burgis, Quartz Hill Resident
Tiffany Caldwell, Department of Regional Planning
Edgar Dela Torre, Department of Regional Planning
Shirley Harriman, Resident
Lisa Hemenway, Waste Management, Inc.
Deb Hill, LLARTC Council
Larry Levine, Juniper Hills Resident
Eve T. Lopez, Department of Public Works
Ben Lucha, City of Palmdale
Josh Mann, Waste Management, Inc.
Guy Randles, Green Valley Town Council
Vickie Rausch, Antelope Valley AQMD
Karen Tandler, District Attorney's Office
Donna Termeer, Supervisor Kathryn Barger's Office
Hossein Torabzadeh, Department of Public Works
Samantha Zelaya, Supervisor Kathryn Barger's Office

<u>Item</u>	<u>Action</u>
Mattress Banner	Paid by AVIDTF
2017 Funding Account	Prepare recommendation for 2017 AVIDTF funding
Vouchers	AVIDTF to be voted on

Pledge of Allegiance

- Everyone stood up and said the Pledge of Allegiance.

Self-Introductions

- Self-introductions of all attendees.
 - Nicole Barbarino, new Staff Assistant from the Board is sitting-in for Donna Termeer who will try to attend the later part of the meeting.

Checking Account – Doug Burgis

- Doug Burgis provided the balance in the AVIDTF checking account. The current balance is \$62,412.14 as of February 27th which will have an additional \$25,000.

Illegal Dumping Report – Eve T. Lopez

- Eve Lopez provided statistics for current Illegal Dumping Incident report.

Illegal Dumping Subcommittee Report – Eve Lopez

- Eve Lopez provided summary of the AVIDTF Subcommittee meeting. The following items were discussed:
 - Streamline the committee's voting process by presenting a template that consist of specific information on the cost, purpose, recipient/referral, effect on the current budget.
 - Department of Public Works received the \$25,000 fund for the Task Force.
 - Oct 6, 13 and 20th mattress events, banner design.
 - Voucher for the Bin is worth ½ ton each and is used to dump trash at the landfill
 - Karen Tandler from the DAs Office completed the 6 module presentations at the Eastside High School and they were all well received by many attendees.
 - Flyers – Quarterly Calendar Events
 - Absentee landlord/property owner issues whose been out of reach and unable to complete the due process of illegal dumping issues and/or violation issues.

Open Discussion/Public Comment

- **Regional Planning - Dumpster**

Some of the referral submitted by Regional Planning had caused some issues by leaving the roll-off bin on the site for many days which has been vandalized and abused by the community. Doug Burgis addressed negative impact of the Task Force budget that has become a waste. Doug requested the need to set a firm schedule on the termination date for placing the bins on the site.

Regional Planning typically would place these projects (or the referrals) for 7 to 10 days turn around. However, they have experienced a couple of issues that the containers have accrued some inactivity fees for having them on the site for longer than the termination

date due to conflict of comply date of the violators. Edgar De la Torre from Regional Planning will work on arranging to the set schedule for pick up to avoid missing the deadline to remove the roll-off bin. They have noted that roll-off bins will be picked up whether the bin is half full or not.

- **Voucher vs Dumpster or Full Size Bin**

Vouchers are purchased by the Task Force from Waste Management to generally provide assistance to the residents to prevent illegal dumping. Voucher is worth ½ ton each to be used to dump trash at the landfill. Vouchers are used to cover the fees charged by Waste Management.

Waste Management's prices on the roll-offs bins vary based on mileage accrued on taking the bins to disposal site, whether the location is outside the franchised communities like Palmdale and Lancaster, bin sizes, duration period. Vouchers are used to cover the fees charged by Waste Management.

- **AVIDTF Meeting E-mail Reminder from Richard Grooms**

There are small number of attendees in the meeting and Doug Burgis informed the Task Force that this is due to the reminder email for the meeting was not sent out. The staff who was assigned to this task is Richard Grooms and he recently transferred to another Department. AVIDTF meeting occurs every three months and residents can easily forget the meeting schedule and the need to continuously sending the reminder email is important to maintain the good number of attendees. Samantha Zelaya is the only one left from the Board's Office and the assignments have not been determined by the new administration.

- **Lake Los Angeles Town Council**

Debbie Hill, President of Lake Los Angeles Town Council expressed that there have been numerous illegal dumping activities in their area. Often, prior to any mattress collection, Household Hazardous Wastes collection, there have been more illegal dumping incidents are occurring in the area. Mainly there are more mattresses and TVs are dumped illegally on the road, vacant lots of Lake Los Angeles. Debbie Hill has invited the Task Force to attend their March 21st Town Council Meeting at the gymnasium at Stephen Sorensen Park and speak about the illegal dumping issues to help minimize the illegal dumping activity. Lake Los Angeles Town Council reached to Waste Management Inc. to speak in the meeting to talk about their services; and Fire Department to educate the community on burning yard wastes. She also reached out to private businesses for donation such as volunteers, gloves, trash bags, drinks, to assist in the cleanup activities in their area. Doug Burgis extended assistance in concurrence on the current status of the funds from Public Works. Hossein Torabzadeh from Public Works stated that the budget memo has been submitted to the Board of Supervisor Office for Donna Termeer's signature, and once this task is completed we can then augment processing the assistance effort.

- **Environmental Pride Month – April 22nd**

Benjamin Lucha from the City of Palmdale announced that the illegal dumping commercials have been airing now in English and Spanish. On March 29th 10am Spanish radio there will a standing Spanish interview for the Environmental Pride Month and he is looking for a Spanish speaking person who may be interested. Edgar dela Torre from Regional Planning has volunteered to participate. He also was working on an insert for the AV Press which coming close to its deadline on April 2nd and currently waiting on Tranette Sanders from Public Works' input to be completed.

- **Larry Levine – Juniper Hills**

Has been involved with the AVIDTF for more than 15 yrs and stated that the main problem he has noticed is the way human beings behave. Fundamentally, the Task Force has been trying to get the word out for people to be more responsible. However, some reported the incident to law enforcement but nothing happened and instead, this is the type word that has been spreading out rapidly to the community. Larry Levine finds that the motivation is lacking tremendously. People are not willing to go to court. Illegal dumping is a great issue in the community and law enforcement is needed to come out to assist. In most situations, there is an urgency to respond to a robbery and that is an immediate priority, however, no-response at any given time for illegal dumping incident is needed to be addressed.

Larry Levine also shared his moment of conversing with a deputy about finding the person who was responsible of illegal dumping activity. The deputy was able to identify the person from the debris. They have sent the individual several notices and received no response. One Friday night, the Deputies went down to Marina Del Rey and found the person. The individual is facing possible jail time for committing illegal dumping activity. Larry was disappointed that the incident was not publicized. Doug Burgis suggested to the committee the need to publicized these types of success stories.

- **Illegal Dumping County Ordinance - Vickie Rausch, AVAQMD**

AVAQMD was seeking assistance for the issue of the illegal burning. Doug Burgis followed up on the situation if they had come to any conclusion. Vicki Rausch stated that the County has an ordinance in place requiring residents to have trash service or hauling permit.

(Background: Burning trash is illegal and when it occurs, the first responder to the scene is the Fire Department who is the actual witness of the fire activity and reported to the Sheriff Department to pursue illegal activity however the Fire Department is not willing to testify as a witness. AVAQMD is not able to pursue issuing violation due to unsubstantiated cause of the violation.)

Larry Levine says that the County ordinance is incomplete. Resident on vacation who does not need a weekly trash service, does not make sense to register 5 times a year. Larry Levine and two or three other neighbors sharing a trash service and there is no need to have a hauling permit to drive a bag of trash to his neighbor.

Announcements:

- Lawnmower Exchange Program – AVAQMD is giving away electric lawnmower in exchange to an actual working lawnmower or leaf blower. Residents are encouraged to make reservation at their website at: avaqmd.ca.gov

Next Meeting: June 7, 2017