



MEMORANDUM

Date: October 23, 2018

To: Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors

From: Captain Brian Vanderlind - Sheriff's Office
Diana Becton, District Attorney
Brian Balbas, Director of Public Works
Marilyn Underwood, PhD, Director of Environmental Health - Health Services Department
John Kopchik, Director of Conservation and Development

Re: Preliminary recommendations from interdepartmental team regarding illegal dumping

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. RECEIVE presentation on the Illegal Dumping Problem in Contra Costa County from interdepartmental team.
2. REVIEW preliminary recommendations from interdepartmental team on potential strategies to better address illegal dumping (Table 1) and PROVIDE initial feedback.
3. REQUEST that the interdepartmental team reach out to neighboring jurisdictions, other affected agencies, franchised haulers and other stakeholders to solicit additional input, refine the preliminary presentation and recommendations, and return to the Board of Supervisors in 2019 for Board consideration of recommendations.

BACKGROUND:

Illegal dumping has been a serious problem in Contra Costa County for many years. Illegal dumping contributes to blight in neighborhoods throughout the County, fouls our waterways, tarnishes our parks, wildlands and open spaces, threatens public health and harms the safety and scenic quality of our rural roads. Illegal dumping places a huge burden on County services, costing over \$1.2 million last year in direct Public Works and Clean Water Program costs alone to remove litter and illegally dumped waste from roads and creeks, straining the resources of law enforcement who have in some instances resorted to removing dumping themselves in order to help communities reclaim and take pride in their area.

While this problem has festered for many years, the severity has spiked. The number of right of way locations within the County's jurisdiction where illegal dumping was reported went up by 14% from 2016 to 2017, and assuming the current trend continues for the remainder of this year the amount is projected to go up at least another 5% in 2018.

At the request of the Board, representatives from five departments came together over the late spring and summer of 2018 to discuss the issue and begin to develop recommendations on what could be done to mitigate it. The five participating Departments are Sheriff's Office, the District Attorney's Office, the Department of Public Works, the Environmental Health Division of the Health Services Department and the Department of Conservation of Development.

The interdepartmental team met a number of times over this period, including once with representatives from the District Attorney's Office of Alameda County to hear about their work to combat illegal dumping. The team examined data on the problem, shared their experiences on what has been working and what hasn't, reviewed strategies employed in other communities and worked to debate and develop ideas on possible methods for tackling this seemingly intractable problem. Participants learned a great deal about the different facets of the problem, about the challenges faced by sister Departments and about opportunities to work in a coordinated fashion to maximize effectiveness.

The interdepartmental team has collaborated to assemble the following two attached documents:

Slide Presentation: The slide presentation presents a preliminary and high level overview of nature and extent of the problem, discusses impacts and causes, relays case studies from other areas, describes key lessons learned and summarized the team's preliminary recommendations.

Preliminary Recommendations on Strategies: The teams' preliminary recommendations are summarized in detail in the attached Table 1. Strategies are grouped into four categories: **Educate**, **Prevent**, **Clean-up**, and **Enforce**. Within each of these categories, the strategies are classified as to whether they ongoing, ongoing but expandable, new but easy to implement or new and requiring significant effort/investment. Responsible departments are indicated as are estimated costs for potential new strategies.

Both the slide presentation and the strategies are viewed as "preliminary". The interdepartmental team believes it would be appropriate to hear Board input at this stage as the recommendations are still being developed. Likewise the team has been working internally and would recommend soliciting input on this subject from partners and stakeholders before recommendations are finalized. After soliciting and incorporating additional input, the team

proposes to report back to the Board in 2019 with final recommendations for Board consideration.

Attachments:

- Table 1 - Existing & Preliminary Recommended Strategies to Combat Illegal Dumping—
Presentation Draft 10-23-18
- Slide presentation summarizing preliminary recommendations