

**Meeting Summary**  
**Collaborative Strategies for Reducing Illegal Dumping in Contra Costa County**

Monday, February 25, 2019  
12:00pm-2:00pm

Contra Costa County  
Sequoia & Madrone Room – 2nd Floor  
50 Douglas Drive  
Martinez, CA 94553

List of Jurisdictions and departments in Attendance:

1. Antioch – Community Development, Code Enforcement
2. Clayton – City Manager’s Office
3. Concord – Code Enforcement
4. El Cerrito – Public Works
5. Hercules – Public Works
6. Oakley – Code Enforcement
7. Pittsburg - Clean Water Program, Environmental Affairs
8. Richmond - Abatement, Code Enforcement, Infrastructure, Maintenance, and Operations, Parks
9. San Pablo – Code Enforcement, Public Works
10. Walnut Creek – Code Enforcement
11. Contra Costa County – Board of Supervisors Districts II & III, Code Enforcement, Conservation & Development, District Attorney’s Office, Environmental Health, Public Works, Sheriff’s Office

**Meeting Purpose:** Share information and facilitate coordination among local jurisdictions in Contra Costa County. Numerous studies and experts endorse use of a multi-pronged effort to reduce illegal dumping. The most successful programs use a combination of education, prevention, cleanup and enforcement strategies. This meeting will provide an opportunity to learn from one another to identify community initiatives and actions that are known or believed to be most effective at reducing illegal dumping.

**Preliminary Staff Recommended Strategies to Combat Illegal Dumping – County**

1. EDUCATE: Public Outreach Campaign
2. PREVENT: Mandatory Garbage Service, Free Mattress Drop-Off
3. CLEANUP: Right-of-way Debris Removal
4. ENFORCE: Law Enforcement Investigation, Surveillance Cameras, Legislative Action

Contra Costa County:

- Mitigation funded disposal voucher program for residents of North Richmond (incorporated & unincorporated) modeled after the City of San Pablo’s program. Residents can request up to

\$60 of disposal vouchers per year (12 \$5 vouchers) which can be used in lieu of cash when disposing at Golden Bear Transfer Station.

- Non-Franchise Hauler (e.g. junk removal) Permit Ordinance:
  - Refer to pamphlet attached or visit <https://cchealth.org/eh/solid-waste/non-franchise-permit.php>
  - Not instead of franchised haulers;
  - County permit and decal that would be recognized by county and cities
  - 1-800-GOT-JUNK in the process of applying

#### Hercules:

- When illegally dumped items contain address information, Hercules will notify resident to clean up themselves. Sometimes the resident alleges that they paid someone to haul the illegally dumped waste, in which case the City advises them that they need to either get them to remove the waste or do so themselves by a specified date. This method has usually proven to be effective.
- Dumpster Days (Community Clean-ups) – City used to rotate locations among various neighborhoods, but have switched to having them exclusively in one centralized location at the city’s corp yard because it is more efficient and effective.
  - City staff monitor event – checking for proof of residence and hazardous materials
  - Some small contractors have started trying to sneak in.
- New disposal challenges associated with illegal cannabis grow houses (e.g. fertilizers & pesticides)

#### Pittsburg:

- More and more construction materials are found dumped illegally. Unlicensed contractors are suspected to be significant contributors to illegal dumping problem.
- Expressed interest in learning more about how the County’s non-franchise hauler permit ordinance implementation is going because it is something their City was considering too.
- Potential strategy: Desirable to hold property owner accountable if waste from their property was dumped illegally and for construction materials dumped by unlicensed contractors, for the property owner should pay double the fine when hiring an unlicensed contractor.
- Societal shift as core of illegal dumping problem that continues to enable poor behavior by cleaning up with enforcement.

#### Oakley:

- Code enforcement treats items set-out on sidewalk with a “Free” sign attached the same as an illegal dumped item. They notify the property owner that they must remove the item(s) within 24 hours or pay the cost for the City to do so.
  - Often times, additional items will be added to free pile, or furniture will move away from original location in front of a residence.

- Police Department Oakley is participating in The Neighborhood Security Camera Registration Program that allows residences to voluntarily register doorbell cameras:
  - It is an effort to use our joint resources to help fight crime and increase the likelihood of developing investigative clues leading to the identification of criminals responsible for violating the security of the community.
  - With your support and permission, Oakley Police personnel would view your security video footage when we believe your camera may have recorded events that could aid in an investigation.
  - County Sheriff has something similar in place for the unincorporated area.
- Community Clean-ups/Dumpster Days – Residents must provide proof of residence and pre-register for a timeslot and list what they plan to dispose of.

#### Antioch:

- Antioch's wants to focus efforts on holding the source responsible.
  - When there is an address tied to illegal dumping, the city will send a warning letter to the address and cite the property owner after a second offense.
  - Pittsburg is trying something similar but it has been a bit hit or miss.
- There seems to be highest demand to get rid of extra waste (clean-ups/on-call bulky pick-ups) twice a year, spring time and in November, before the holidays.
- Potential Strategy: Arizona offers monthly bulky item pick up of up to 1 cubic yard per month seemed very effective at preventing illegal dumping

#### Clayton:

- Free bulky and e-waste pick up, on call 4 times a year
- Rely on residents to act as volunteer monitors in order to verify who tries to participate in Community Clean-up days
- C&D dumping efforts – For CalGreen compliance:
  - Applicants are required to submit a deposit and
  - CalGreen documentation must have homeowner signature.
  - Only original recycling receipts are accepted

#### Richmond:

- At least 12 community clean ups a year
  - CalRecycle grants allows for additional community clean ups and Multi Family Bulky Item
- Multi-Family Bulky Item Pick up –Thanks to a CalRecycle grant Richmond was able to offer this free new service, however there has been low participation.
  - Richmond residents are eligible for free bulky item pickup! Collections may be scheduled for single-family homes, duplexes, and multi-family properties with up to 19 units
  - Serves single-family homes, duplexes, and multi-family buildings with up to 19 units
  - May substitute five E-waste items for one bulky item

- No commercial-sized appliances, hazardous materials, or construction and demolition materials
- Property owner or manager of multi-family properties must register with Republic Services
- An individual was caught and admitted to illegally dumping 2 ½ loads in Richmond
  - City Attorney is in the process of prosecution
  - City intends to raise awareness upon successful prosecution to discourage others
- In 2018, Richmond cleaned up more tons of illegal dumping than San Jose, a much larger city with a larger population.
  - Noted that this method is chronic and enabling, but doesn't know what else to do.
- Richmond earned \$42,900 in 2018 and \$32,000 in 2017 by picking up illegally dumped mattresses and submitting claims to through the Mattress Recycling Council's Illegal Mattress Dumping Compensation Program.
  - Mattress Recycling Council (MRC) developed Illegally Dumped Mattress Collection Initiative to identify where mattresses are illegally dumped in the state, and proactively address the issue in affected communities. One component of this strategy includes financial compensation to entities responsible for collecting illegally dumped mattresses in their communities through MRC's Illegal Mattress Dumping Compensation Program.
  - Entities responsible for collection of illegally dumped mattresses from public rights-of-way can register to receive compensation in exchange for data identifying the location of dumping activities. These entities include California local governments.
  - As of 2018, MRC has budgeted \$750,000 per year for this statewide effort. MRC will pay all registered collectors of illegally dumped mattresses the same amount per unit for data specific to illegal mattress dumping. The actual per unit rate is calculated at the close of a calendar year by dividing the total funded amount, by the number of illegally dumped units collected and reported in that calendar year.
  - In 2018, registered collectors of illegally dumped mattresses were paid up to \$15.00 per unit for data specific to illegal mattress dumping.
- Illegal Dumping now intersecting clean ups associated with homeless encampments.

#### San Pablo:

- San Pablo has a free disposal voucher system in place for its residents
  - No need to pre-register or schedule a drop off time; as long as drop is made during facility business hours
  - Vouchers are assigned a monetary value, and residents can pay the difference if items are overweight
  - Although a small percentage of residents request vouchers, those who use vouchers are satisfied with program
- Potential Strategy: Suisun residents are given gate pass vouchers twice a year.

### County Board of Supervisors District 2 Discussion Topics

- Suggestion to improve existing strategy: Community Clean Up and on-call pick-up rules should be more standardized and agencies should try and make things less complicated with less complexities/rules.
  - When moving means you change franchises, could mean a completely new process and set of procedures
  - Recycling properly is becoming more and more complicated; which may lead to more illegal dumping

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