

Illegal Dumping Initiative: \$600,000 (On-going)

The Illegal Dumping Initiative is a program launched by Contra Costa County to reduce illegally dumped waste in our communities through education, prevention, clean-up, and enforcement strategies. The Initiative is jointly conducted by a team of five different County departments - 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 – and is overseen by the Board of Supervisors and its Illegal Dumping Ad Hoc Committee.

On June 11, 2019, the County Board of Supervisors launched the Initiative and approved a total of fifty-six (56) illegal dumping strategies recommended by the interdepartmental team. Most of the strategies involve continuation of existing education, prevention, clean-up, and enforcement tasks performed by the partner departments. The Initiative is meant to augment the effectiveness through enhanced coordination and limited additional investments designed to address underlying factors that contribute to this long-standing problem. The total estimated annual cost of the pre-Initiative existing efforts is \$1.8 million. This base level of effort has been augmented each year since the Initiative was launched by investments from the County's reserve and by one-time funds provided by the state through special legislation.

At the August 4, 2021, Measure X Community Advisory Board, County staff presented the Illegal Dumping Initiative and proposed an annual allocation of \$600,000 to continue implementation. The strategies proposed to receive the Measure X funds initially are:

- **Capital Improvements** - Implement capital improvements to deter illegal dumping, such as street lighting or barricades - \$200,000.
- **Derelict Boat/RV Abatement** – Removal of derelict boats/RVs - \$150,000.
- **Surveillance Cameras** - Wireless high-definition surveillance cameras for illegal dumping hot spot monitoring and evidence collection - \$100,000
- **Investigating and Prosecuting Illegal Dumping Crimes** - Dedicated illegal dumping deputies in the Sheriff's Office - \$150,000

Recommendation:

The County Administrator's recommendation is that the initiative be fully funded with an on-going annual allocation of \$600,000.