



Meeting Minutes - Draft

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY Illegal Dumping Ad Hoc Committee

Thursday, September 12, 2024

1:30 PM

190 E 4th Street, Pittsburg,
3361 Walnut Blvd, Suite 140, Brentwood

Zoom: <https://cccouny-us.zoom.us/j/85309191361> | **Call in:** 1-888-278-0254 **Access Code:** 198675

Agenda Items: Items may be taken out of order based on the business of the day and preference of the Committee

1. Roll Call and Introductions

Call to Order

Committee Member Burgis called the meeting to order at 1:30 pm

Also in attendance were: Stacey Grassini, District Attorney's Office; Tim Kraus, Environmental Health (EH); Chris Lau, Public Works (PWD); Lt. Levi Terrill, Sheriff's Office (SO); Capt. Craig Brooks, SO; John Kopchik, Conservation and Development (DCD); Deidra Dingman, DCD; David Brockbank, DCD; Larry Tolson, DCD; Dylan Chiu, DCD

Present Diane Burgis, and Federal Glover

2. RECEIVE and APPROVE the Meeting Minutes for the February 1, 2024 [24-2880](#)
Illegal Dumping Ad Hoc Committee Meeting.

Attachments: [Meeting Minutes - February 1, 2024](#)

Aye: Burgis, and Glover

Result: Passed

3. RECEIVE status update regarding implementation of the illegal dumping [24-2881](#)
strategies.

Attachments: [CCC Illegal Dumping Initiative Dashboard - September 2024](#)
[Table 1 - Illegal Dumping Initiative Strategy Table - September 2024](#)
[Updates](#)
[Figure 1 - East Bay Regional Park District Funding Priorities Survey](#)
[Figure 2 – Request for Illegal Dumping Clean-Up Received by Public Works and CHDC in 2023](#)
[Figure 3 - Request for Illegal Dumping Clean-Up Received by Public Works and CHDC from January to July 2024](#)
[Table 2 - Requests for Illegal Dumping Clean-up Received versus Pick-Ups](#)
[Figure 4 - Public Outreach Campaign Media Plan](#)
[Figure 5 - Community Clean-ups](#)
[Table 3 - Budget Reallocation Update](#)

Data, Reports Maps, Metrics

John Kopchik, Conservation and Development Director, requested that the amended Figure 3 “Request for Illegal Dumping Clean Up Received by Public Works and CHDC from January to July 2024” map be shown instead of the old map published with the agenda packet. Supervisor Burgis and Glover agreed to accept the amended figure.

Dylan Chiu, Conservation and Development Planner, briefly showed the Illegal Dumping Initiative Dashboard and mentioned the published agenda packet includes a strategy table with each individual strategy update.

Dylan Chiu presented Figure 1 “East Bay Regional Park District Funding Priorities Survey” which revealed that survey respondents ranked cleaning up illegal dumping in park lands as the highest priority issue to them.

Dylan Chiu shared Figure 2 “Request for Illegal Dumping Clean-Up Received by Public Works and CHDC in 2023” to the committee. The map is an updated version of a figure shown in the last Illegal Dumping Ad Hoc meeting that included the data for North Richmond which was previously missing.

Dylan shared the amended Figure 3 “Request for Illegal Dumping Clean-up Received by Public Works and CHDC from January to July 2024”. The changes made to the amended figure include the addition of data in North Richmond and calling out additional hotspot areas such as Knightsen and Crockett/Port Costa. Supervisor Burgis asked what “CHDC” stands for. Dylan clarified that it stands for the Community Housing Development Corporation which is a non-profit based in North Richmond who works with the Hot Spot Crew to handle illegal dumping clean-up requests in the area. Deidra Dingman, Conservation and Development Deputy Director, stated that when people call the 1-800-No-Dumping phone number for issues in North Richmond, they will be routed to CHDC, while the remaining areas would be routed to Public Works.

Dylan presented Table 2 “Requests for Illegal Dumping Clean-up Received Versus Pick-Ups”. The number of requests for pick-up countywide was greater than the number of actual pick-ups due to instances where the dumped items disappeared prior to pick-up, or it was unsafe to attempt to retrieve the dumped items. The number of requests and pick-ups in North Richmond are the same number due to their unique situation of having a full-time hot spot crew that operates on mostly non-referral/requested pick-ups. Supervisor Burgis asked if most of the requests in the County came from the North Richmond to which Staff said was correct. John Kopchik stated it has been difficult to characterize the illegal dumping problem due to not knowing if an increase in requests mean there is more dumping or that people are more aware of how to report it. John mentioned that tonnage would be an ideal metric for measuring illegal dumping, but it is currently not feasible because the same garbage trucks that collect illegal dumping also service residential areas, meaning they are already filled with other non-illegally dumped waste. David Brockbank, Conservation and Development Solid Waste Programs Manager, noted we do have the

tonnage data for the North Richmond area only. Supervisor Burgis noted she would like to see the tonnage numbers by year for North Richmond in a future meeting.

Public Outreach Campaign - Strategy #5

John Kopchik shared that the County has received Clean California Grant Funds from the State to extend the work of our illegal dumping initiative and one of the ways the funds are being used is through a Public Outreach Campaign. Dylan Chiu mentioned they are working with the marketing agency, Stephen Groner Associates, to put out ads throughout the County. The focus of the campaign will be on how to report illegal dumping and how to dispose of your waste properly. The campaign will consist of multiple types of ads including digital, radio, social media and out-of-home ads. The ads are still being finalized and staff hopes to share the results of the campaign in the next meeting. Supervisor Glover asked how much the total funding was provided by the Clean California Grant and how much was used in the outreach campaign. Staff answered that the total Clean California Grant was around \$600,000 and about \$200,000 will be used to fund the campaign.

Waste Tire Amnesty - Strategy #14

Tim Kraus, Environment Health Solid Waste Supervisor, shared they had their first Tire Amnesty grant event in Knightsen on August 24th, 2024 and the turnout was greater than expected. At the end of the event, they collected 2,073 tires in total which caused capacity issues with the trucks hauling them away. Tim mentioned he plans on increasing capacity at the next event. Supervisor Burgis asked if the residents at this event were local or came from other parts of the county. Tim answered that it seemed like most of the event participants were locals from the East County area. Tim mentioned they have three more events this year with Oct 19th, 2024 in Richmond, October 26th 2024 in Pacheco, and November 2nd, 2024 in Bay Point.

Community Clean Up Event - Strategy #16

Dylan Chiu shared Figure 5 “Community Clean-ups” and mentioned we’ve had 5 community clean-ups since the last ad hoc meeting where they used 27 debris boxes to collect 40.81 tons of disposal. He stated there were additional clean-ups coming up including those in Bay Point, Bethel Island, Bryon, and Pacheco.

Enforcement - Strategy #45

Captain Craig Brooks shared they were not able to hire additional per diem deputies and they currently have only one. He mentioned they came up with a strategy to use targeted enforcement with overtime which made a big impact. They were able to file 25 cases with the District Attorney’s Office and wrote numerous citations. Supervisor Glover asked if there have been any convictions on the cases filed. Stacey Grassini, Senior Deputy District Attorney, shared a lot of these cases get diverted through the court diversion program so he

can't give a specific number of convictions. Supervisor Glover asked who the major violators of illegal dumping are. Supervisor Burgis asked if there is some type of illegal dumping public outreach going on. Tim Kraus mentioned they are working on an ordinance update to coincide with AB592 and their intent is to have more outreach regarding the new requirements to haulers and staff. Stacy Grassini shared that he has seen a vast improvement in streamlining the illegal dumping case filing system over the last 18 months. He credits the improvement to Captain Brooks and his deputies. Supervisor Burgis asked if the courts are receiving illegal dumping cases with the same weight as this committee want it to. Stacey Grassini answered that he would need to get back to the supervisor regarding this question.

Fencing - Strategy #6

Chris Lau, Assistant Public Works Director of the Maintenance Division, shared that Public Works installed 4 sections of fencing along San Pablo Dam Road with the purpose of preventing illegal dumping in the area. Public Works plans on installing additional fencing on two locations along Crockett Blvd and nine locations along Franklin Canyon Road. Alhambra Valley Road is the next road they anticipate installing fencing in the future.

Surveillance Cameras - Strategy #46

Chris Lau mentioned the Board of Supervisor approved the contract with Integrated Monitored Solutions also known as Deploy Surveillance. The contract is for the lease of ten mobile surveillance units to be used across the county. Each unit consists of three cameras that can pan, tilt, and zoom. There are active video feeds from these cameras that are monitored and if there is an alert, an agent with Deploy Surveillance will review the footage and contact the sheriff's dispatch if there is active illegal dumping occurring. During the trial period with Deploy Surveillance, they noticed a significant drop in illegal dumping and can surmise that the presence of mobile surveillance units does prevent illegal dumping to an extent. There were two instances where individuals dumped mattresses, but using camera evidence, the sheriffs were able to convince them to return and remove the mattresses. Chris Lau shared that Public Works is currently determining the first ten locations for camera deployment and then will evaluate to see if reallocating cameras is needed.

Budget Reallocation Update

John Kopchik, Director of Conservation and Development, shared Table 3 "Budget Reallocation Update" and mentioned they plan on combining the funds for Strategy 27 Capital Improvements and Strategy 46 Surveillance Cameras since putting money in smaller buckets is harder to manage. Strategy 40 RV/Boat/Trailer Abatements has been allocating \$150,000 in Measure X funds each year. However, since it has covered the towing costs for all reported vehicles and ended with a surplus of Measure X funds, it will not require its full allotment. John proposes to reduce the allotment for RV/Boat/Trailer abatement to \$100,000 and increase the allotment for Strategy 45 Per-Diem

Deputies/Overtime to \$222,560. Supervisor Burgis asked if there were significant events that occurred with the RV/Boat/Trailer Abatement and if the abatement was only for unincorporated Contra Costa County. Dylan Chiu answered that the abatements were only for unincorporated county and that Marine Patrol did a one-time large scale abatement event in the Delta that cost around \$120,000. Dylan also mentioned that the RV/Boat/Trailer abatement yearly expenditures are typically closer to \$60,000. Both Supervisor Glover and Burgis were supportive of the proposed budget reallocation. John shared the remaining Measure X balance could be used for Environmental Health's Waste Tire Amnesty events or to explore how Public Works can increase the frequency and efficiency of illegal dumping pick-ups.

4. Public comment on any item under the jurisdiction of the Committee and not on this agenda (speakers may be limited to two minutes).

Scott Parker, a Moraga resident, mentioned he read a study that a certainty of consequence is more effective deterrent than severity of punishment and that any consequence would help move the ball forward. Scott shared he has found twenty- to fifty-year-old legacy dumping in the Contra County portion of Pinehurst which is Easy Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) lands. Scott asked if the County can hold EBMUD accountable for these dumping to make sure they are good land stewards for the land they are responsible for.

In response, Supervisor Burgis asked if Scott has contacted elected members of the board of EBMUD. Scott responded, saying he has emailed them his thoughts, but is not sure if their funding is where it needs to be. Supervisor Burgis mentioned that Scott should reach out to Assembly member Rebecca Bauer Kahan who had helped the County when they first started tackling the illegal dumping issue. Supervisor Burgis shared she would hand a copy of Scott's letter to the EBMUD board to Rebecca in her meeting with the board members next week.

Committee Comments:

Supervisor Burgis asked if there needs to be a sort of vote to direct staff on the budget reallocation or if their direction was enough. John Kopchik responded that in his view the director was enough. Supervisor Glover shared that he took the illegal dumping issue early on with Supervisor Burgis to make a difference and he is seeing that. He wanted to let the team know there is more work to be done, but every part of the team here is vital to the success of preventing illegal dumping.

5. The next meeting is currently scheduled for February 6, 2025.
6. Adjourn

For Additional Information Contact: Dylan Chiu, Committee Staff
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