



CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

Committee Meeting Minutes - Draft

Illegal Dumping Ad Hoc Committee

Thursday, February 20, 2025

11:00 AM 30 Muir Road, Martinez | 3361 Walnut Blvd,
Suite 140, Brentwood

Zoom: <https://cccounty-us.zoom.us/j/82338224673> | Call in: 1-888-278-0254 Access code: 198675

Supervisor Diane Burgis, Chair
Supervisor Shanelle Scales-Preston

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 11:00am

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

Present Diane Burgis, and Shanelle Scales-Preston

2. RECEIVE and APPROVE the Meeting Minutes for the September 12, 2024 Illegal Dumping Ad Hoc Committee Meeting.

Attachments: [Meeting Minutes September 12, 2024](#)

Aye: **Burgis, and Scales-Preston**

Result: **Passed**

3. RECEIVE status update regarding implementation of the illegal dumping strategies and PROVIDE direction to staff as appropriate.

Attachments: [CCC Illegal Dumping Initiative Dashboard February 2025](#)
[Table 1 - Illegal Dumping Initiative Strategy Table - February 2025 Updates](#)
[Figure 1 - Requests for Illegal Dumping Clean-Up Received by Pub Works and CHDC in 2024](#)
[Attachment 1 - Public Outreach Campaign](#)
[Figure 2- RV, Trailer, Boat Abatement Locations in 2024](#)
[Figure 3 - Waste Tire Amnesty](#)
[Attachment 2 - Surveillance Cameras and Fencing](#)

[Table 2 - Requests for Illegal Dumping Clean-up Received versus Pick-Ups in 2024](#)
[Attachment 3 - Budget Tables](#)

[Data, Reports Maps, Metrics](#)

John Kopchik, Conservation and Development Director, mentioned that Supervisor Scales-Preston had received a briefing from various departments to bring her up to date on illegal dumping issues within the County.

Dylan Chiu, Conservation and Development Planner, briefly presented the Illegal Dumping Initiative Dashboard and Strategy Tables, noting that they summarized some of the updates that would be presented verbally later in the meeting.

Dylan then shared Figure 1: “Requests for Illegal Dumping Clean-Up Received by Public Works and CHDC in 2024” with the committee. This map shows where clean-up requests were received in 2024 by Public Works and the Community Housing Development Corporation (CHDC), a nonprofit based in North Richmond. Dylan pointed out that the 2023 and 2024 maps shared similar hotspot dumping locations, including North Richmond, El Sobrante, Bay Point, Bear Creek/Pinole Valley Road, Deer Valley Road, the area south of Brentwood, and Knightsen.

He clarified that the high number of pick-up requests in North Richmond is due to Republic Services being required to maintain a “Hotspot Crew” under a County land use permit. The “Hotspot Crew” consists of a two-man team with a truck that works full time cleaning up illegal dumping in North Richmond. This means they respond not only to pick-up requests but also to illegal dumping they see while driving around.

Dylan also presented Table 2: “Requests for Illegal Dumping Clean-up Received Versus Pick-Ups in 2024,” an updated version of the table shown in the September 2024 meeting. He explained that the top chart shows that countywide requests and pick-ups have increased each year. However, if North Richmond data is excluded, requests went down while pick-ups increased slightly. Supervisor Burgis suggested this could reflect greater awareness about how to report illegal dumping.

Deidra Dingman, Conservation and Development Deputy Director, added that the gap between requests and pick-ups could be due to multiple reports for the same site or situations where the waste was gone when crews arrived. Dylan noted that the bottom chart shows North Richmond data, where requests and pick-ups were kept the same for simplicity, since the Hotspot Crew primarily conducts non-referral pick-ups. He highlighted that North Richmond accounts for 70-80 percent of the County’s total requests and pick-ups. Although pick-ups increased from 2023 to 2024, tonnage decreased because the Hotspot Crew was doing more frequent pick-ups of lighter items, often referred to as “blow-and-flow” litter.

[Public Outreach Campaign - Strategy #5](#)

Dylan shared that the County partnered with Steven Groner Associates (SGA) to run a public outreach campaign from September to December 2024. The campaign focused on how to report illegal dumping and how to properly dispose of waste. It featured both digital and physical ads. Digital ads included YouTube, Spotify, radio, and social media, while physical ads included billboards and bus benches. The bus bench and shelter ads featured QR codes linking directly to the County's Illegal Dumping page and promoted the 1-800-No-Dumping phone number.

Dylan played a sample video ad highlighting the website and phone number. He then presented Google Analytics data showing that traffic to the County's Illegal Dumping page rose significantly during the campaign, with 38,000 active users. He also shared a chart showing the reporting methods used. During the campaign, reports by email and phone nearly doubled compared to previous months.

Derelict RV/Boat/Trailer Abatements - Strategy #40

Joe Losado, Conservation and Development Code Enforcement Manager, presented Figure 2: "RV/Trailer/Boat Abatement Locations in 2024." He noted that most abatements occurred in central County, with fewer in the eastern areas, and thanked the Sheriff's Department for their work. Supervisor Scales-Preston asked about an apparent increase in abatements in Bay Point and District 5. Joe clarified that the numbers had not increased, but that Bay Point typically has a high level of abatements each year. He also explained that derelict vehicles are found more often in cities now as people realize these vehicles in unincorporated areas are being towed. Supervisor Burgis asked whether staff have been coordinating with cities. Joe said he has been in contact with some cities which are exploring funding options. He added that other jurisdictions have expressed interest in the County's abatement program. David Brockbank, Conservation and Development Solid Waste Manager, added that Alameda County is also pursuing abatements. He explained that abandoned vehicles often attract dumpers who fill them with trash.

Supervisor Burgis asked if federal funds were used. John Kopchik responded that the program has been state funded with Measure X and Clean California grant funds.

Waste Tire Amnesty - Strategy #14

Kristian Lucas, Director of Environmental Health, shared that Environmental Health applied for a grant through CalRecycle to be able to support the existing clean-up efforts that are going around the County. Tim Kraus, Environment Health Solid Waste Supervisor, mentioned in the fall of 2024, they hosted 4 waste tire amnesty events in conjunction with community clean-ups in Knightsen, Richmond, Bay Point, and Pacheco. They collected a total of 2,980 tires and about 2,200 of them were from Knightsen alone. For future events, they will be limiting the capacity of receiving tires as staff were overwhelmed at the Knightsen clean-up. Environmental Health plans on having 4 more Tire Amnesty events in

the spring.

Enforcement - Strategy #45

Craig Brooks, Sheriff's Office Captain, shared they are continuing with efforts to combat illegal dumping, but haven't been able to do targeted enforcement with the overtime due to staffing issues. Stacey Grassini, Assistant District Attorney, highlighted that the amount of enforcement done now has increased significantly then what it was 6 years ago and they will continue to move forward. Supervisor Burgis asked how we are holding the illegal dumpers accountable. Stacey responded that it depends on the situation, but he knows there is a lot of effort on the Sheriff's side of things to follow up on these cases and sometimes they can get dumpers to go back and pick up their waste. He further mentioned that if the file case is fairly egregious, they get filed, and it's a matter of leaning on the courts to enact the punishment. Supervisor Scales-Preston asked how many people have been fined for illegal dumping in 2024. Dylan Chiu showed the Contra Costa County Illegal Dumping Dashboard to highlight the stats provided by the Sheriff's and the District Attorney's office. From August 2024 to January 2025, there were 72 Mobile Citizen App reports for clean-up, 36 Litter/Illegal Dumping reports written, 14 Cases submitted to DA for filing, and 6 citation issues. In 2024, there were approximately 36 illegal dumping cases received by the DA for review. Stacey clarified that his office only handles misdemeanor cases, which involve more than one cubic yard of waste. Smaller violations are handled as infractions in Traffic Court.

Fencing - Strategy #6

Chris Lau, Assistant Public Works Director of the Maintenance Division, shared they installed 4,300 linear feet of fencing along 3 roadways which include San Pabo Dam Road, Frank Canyon Road, and Crockett Blvd. The project cost about \$350,000 and created a physical barrier to prevent dumping.

Surveillance Cameras - Strategy #46

Chris Lau reminded the committee that 10 mobile surveillance units were first deployed in September-October 2024. Most were initially in District 1, with redeployments every 90 days. They are currently in Districts 3 and 5. Each unit has three PTZ cameras monitored 24/7 by a private company using AI to set up alert zones. Units cost \$2,500 per month or \$30,000 annually each.

Chris presented slide of what the video monitoring system looks like and the capabilities to review old footage to gather evidence to send to the Sheriff's Office.

Chris shared three videos with the committee. The first video shared was of a potential illegal dumper pulling into the alert zone and throwing garbage off the side of the road. The second video was of a vehicle pulling over to illegally dump on the side of the road which

led to the agent monitoring the camera to use the loudspeaker function to dissuade the illegal dumper from dumping more trash. The last video showed another vehicle pulling over to dump garbage under a freeway overpass and in this situation the cameras were able to get a license plate. The information was provided to Sergeant Haley with the Sheriff's Office, who was able to contact the perpetrators and have them return to retrieve their items. Supervisor Burgis asked if these cameras have helped with any other type of investigation. Captain Brooks responded that he isn't aware of these cameras helping, but typically all cameras do help when investigating any type of crime. Chris Lau shared that areas where the cameras were deployed showed a significant drop in dumping, but when the cameras were removed the dumping would return.

Budget Reallocation Update

Dylan presented Attachment 3: Budget Tables, outlining a three-part budget change proposal. The first part reallocates about \$200,000 of FY 24/25 Measure X funding from the Sheriff's Overtime strategy to Public Works strategies. The second part prioritizing spending down the remaining General Funds approved in 2019 for the pilot program before Measure X funds. The third part dedicates most of the FY 25/26 Measure X budget to Public Works strategies. Dylan noted that despite these changes, Public Works still faces a shortfall of \$130,000-\$180,000 to fund all their proposed projects. Supervisor Burgis asked if there is a plan to cover it. Dylan replied that options are still being explored. Deidra Dingman added that proposed future projects are conceptual and will not move forward without identified funding.

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

Committee Comments:

Supervisor Burgis stated she is proud of staff and the collaboration among departments in addressing illegal dumping.

5. The next meeting is currently scheduled for September 4, 2025 at 1:00 p.m.
6. Adjourn

The Committee will provide reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities planning to attend the Committee meetings. Contact the staff person listed below at least 72 hours before the meeting. Any disclosable public records related to an open session item on a regular meeting agenda and distributed by the County to a majority of members of the Committee less than 96 hours prior to that meeting are available for public inspection at 30 Muir Road in Martinez, during normal business hours. Staff reports related to items on the agenda are also accessible online at www.contracosta.ca.gov. If the Zoom connection malfunctions for any reason, the meeting may be paused while a fix is attempted. If the connection is not reestablished, the committee will continue the meeting in person without remote access. Public comment may be submitted via electronic mail on agenda items at least one full work day prior to the published meeting time.

For Additional Information Contact: Dylan Chiu, Committee Staff
Phone: (925) 655-2912, Fax: (925) 655-2750, Email: Dylan.Chiu@dcd.cccounty.us

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