

DRAFT - Minutes
CALRECYCLE ILLEGAL DUMPING TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday, June 3, 2020 – 10 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
Via Microsoft Teams Meeting Platform

I. Call to Order

Chair Larry Sweetser called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM, and welcomed the group with a brief statement about the new normal given the online format of the meeting due to COVID-19 safety protocols.

II. Introduction of Members and Guests

Members Attending

Larry Sweetser, ESJPA, Chair
Veronica Pardo, RRCC
Kathy Lynch, CRRC
Doug Kobold, CPSC
Heidi Sanborn, NSAC
Tracie Graves, Public Member
Christine Flowers, KCB
Mark de Bie, CalRecycle
Tedd Ward, Del Norte SWA
Tyler Douthitt, Mattress Recycling Council
Terri Alex, CEAC/LA Co PW
Frank Foster, City Oakland PW
Jamaica Moon, City Oakland PW
Bill Prinz, CCDEH/City of San Diego
Nick Lapis, Californians Against Waste

Others Attending

Sharon Anderson, CalRecycle
Jim Stone, San Joaquin County PW
Jaimie Huynh, CalRecycle
Iranzu Morras, Paint Care
Alyce Sandbach, Alameda Co. DA Office
Erin Armstrong, Alameda Co. BOS Dist. 4
Samantha Carr, Richmond Mayor's Office

Members Attending

Tedd Ward, Del Norte County
Maria Ferdin, Monterey Co IDTAC
Chris Lehon, Sac Regional WMA
Mark Azzouni, CHMIA

Members Absent

Larry Notheis, CCC
Matt Carr, CDAA
Nick Cronenwett, CSAC
Russell Joyce, City San Jose Env. Svs Dept
Rob Hutsel, SD River Park Foundation
Gary Harris, City LA Code Enf
Dave Sikich, Waste Mgt Ind./Atlas
Trent Manning, Cal Trans
Jason Rhine, League of CA Cities
Eva Mann/Kevin Tisdell, City Richmond CE

Others Attending

Stephanie Becker, CalRecycle
Steve Santa Croce, CalRecycle
Rebecca Oliver, CalRecycle
Kim Sellards, CalRecycle
Bea Poroli, CalRecycle
Grace Smith, City of Stockton SW
Val Blakely, City of Fremont

III. Approval of November 6, 2019 Meeting Minutes

The Committee approved the minutes with minor edits to member affiliations; Tedd Ward moved and Bill Prinz seconded for vote.

IV. Old Business/Updates

A. Legislative and Regulation Updates

Larry Sweetser cued up legislative (AB - Assembly Bill and SB - Senate Bill) and regulatory activities that could impact/increase illegal dumping.

- Due to COVID-19 pandemic, most legislation has been tabled unless directly related to COVID-19 issues. The committee identified some linkage between COVID-19 issues and illegal dumping, homeless encampments, and residential spring-cleaning (and resultant dumping); however, none of those topics seemed to rise to legislative concern.
- SB 1383 regulatory development/implementation continues. Please see the following weblink for information <https://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/Laws/Rulemaking/SLCP/>
- The committee briefly discussed the implementation of Recycling and Disposal Reporting System (RDRS) and indicated a need to gather information on material flow locations as useful for identifying potential sources of illegally dumped material. Larry Sweetser asked about when RDRS data will be available and Mark de Bie stated it should be available quarterly to the public. Larry mentioned he will follow up with Mark de Bie on details. <https://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/SWFacilities/RDReporting/>
- Solar Panels: the Department of Toxic Substances Control plans to develop regulations for disposal of solar panels. Current data indicates little illegal disposal of them; however, the planned regulations will include panels as universal waste, which will make panels easier to manage.

B. Update on Membership and Chair Nominations

The committee continued its discussion regarding nominations of a chair using an online method followed by in-person voting. The committee was also in favor of creating a co-chair or vice-chair to help as a sounding board for the chair and staff at CalRecycle. Larry Sweetser mentioned sending a follow-up email prior to the next IDTAC meeting to seek nominations.

C. CalRecycle Cleanup Grants

Disposal Site Grants

Steve Santa Croce, CalRecycle, presented information on [Illegal disposal site abatement grants](#) and the [Legacy disposal site abatement partial grant program](#) (weblinks embedded) Illegal Disposal Site Abatement Grant key points for 2019/20 FY and 2020/21:

- \$1 million available yearly, with \$500K maximum award per grant. Typically, CalRecycle approves four to six grant awards per cycle. The program completed grant awards for the 2019/2020 fiscal year and is in the process of exercising agreements with grantees with information presented at June Monthly meeting.
- The program is currently revisiting the grant scoring criteria, and anticipate no major changes, but based on using the current grant scoring, staff may recommend a reduction in the minimum score that can be awarded. Staff anticipate approval of the grant scoring criteria within the upcoming month.
- For the upcoming fiscal year 2020/21 starting on July 1, state budget will decide amounts awarded. When the Governor approves the budget, staff will post the Notice of Funds Available (NOFA) along with the request for grant applications. (Note:

applications for 20/21 are closed as of this time). For future grant applications, please contact staff to see if projects are a good fit.

- Question: Are grants well subscribed? CalRecycle typically received \$3-\$5M in applications, so yes; the grant remains oversubscribed, with the full \$1M awarded.
- Question: How are projects awarded if the grant is over-subscribed? CalRecycle utilizes scoring criteria to assign points based on the quality of the criteria met. The scoring panel uses points and ranks projects by points received. Recipients won't always receive full amount requested. Ineligible activities will get requested funds deducted during the scoring. Staff will help grantees put together a better project in the future.
- Utilize Local Conservation Corps for cleanups since it helps funds go further, and will improve the scoring criteria.

Contact Steve Santa Croce steve.santacroce@calrecycle.ca.gov or Rebecca Oliver rebecca.oliver@calrecycle.ca.gov for any questions on the grant process

Farm and Ranch Grant

Stephanie Becker, CalRecycle, presented information on the [Farm and Ranch Cleanup and abatement program](#)

- Provides funding to clean up California's rural lands, farmland, forest lands, and urban gardens
- Eligible applicants: cities, counties, resource conservation districts (RCD), federal tribes
- Updated awards for FY 2019/20 mentioned at the IDTAC meeting included Butte County, Butte County RCD, City of Santa Cruz, Contra Costa RCD, Honey Lake Valley RCD, Los Angeles County, Mariposa County, San Joaquin County, Shasta County, Sutter County RCD, Tahoe RCD, Trinity County RCD, Yolo County RCD, Yurok Tribe.
- The next round of grant applications will open soon, mid-August for Cycle 70.

Stephanie also mentioned that grant criteria will most likely not change for FY 2020/21.

Stephanie Becker Stephanie.becker@calrecycle.ca.gov is available to do presentations, and encourages interested parties to sign up on the listserv for updates – see the following for all listservs managed by CalRecycle <https://www2.calrecycle.ca.gov/Listservs/>
Larry Sweetser mentioned that the committee members may wish to work with RCDs due to their connections and abilities. Christine Flowers mentioned that they work with RCDs. Jim Stone mentioned their positive experience working with Ms. Becker to secure a grant award. Larry also mentioned working with the Tire Grants program for cleanups. Also using Local Conservation Corps may be another resource for labor on a variety of work.

V. Presentation/Discussions

A. Discuss Observations Related to COVID-19

Larry Sweetser cued up the discussion regarding COVID-19 impacts on frequency of illegal dumping and/or protective measures employed during cleanups.

Jim Stone, San Joaquin County, compared their week-to-week data on a yearly basis, and did not see an increase in illegal dumping. Their jurisdiction keeps at least one facility open

and available each day, and while overall tonnage increased, the number of illegal dumping pickups remained the same from last year.

Tedd Ward, Del Norte County saw no increase in illegal dumping, but a decrease in volunteer cleanups. They will modify their liability release form appropriately in advance of an annual event to clean up invasive weeds and debris.

Frank Foster, City of Oakland noted a 2-3% increase in illegal dumping.

Erin Armstrong, Alameda County, agreed with Frank Foster and elaborated that they observed a shift in kinds of illegal dumping in relation to shelter-in-place orders. For instance when the county shut down construction, illegal dumping of construction debris significantly decreased. When people started to stay at home, they saw a lot more household goods illegally dumped. In May, construction resumed and as a result, illegal dumping of construction debris increased. The jurisdictions had a significant impact in ability to have eradication crews respond to illegal dumping. One particular area within the City of Oakland (part of Alameda County's pilot program on illegal dumping) felt the impact and attracted more dumping on top of the typical amounts. However, things are starting to get more under control.

Christine Flowers works with local non-profits. They had to cancel all scheduled events for Roseville (Adopt a Creek). They also ran into liability issues regarding volunteer participants. They continue to work through issues with non-profits and liability, including the concerns around students/volunteers most likely being the first to encounter homeless encampments.

Sharon Anderson noted that local, formal cleanups were cancelled, but individuals were doing their own cleanups and announcing through the NextDoor platform.

Terri Alex, Los Angeles County, mentioned they suspended local collection events along with HHW events, and are watching to see if the COVID curve is flattening so drivers can resume bulky item pick up. The county has observed that residents don't always know what to do with their items.

Larry Sweetser observed that only a few solid waste facilities closed, and noted that mostly recycling centers have been closed as a result of the quarantine. Facility and operation officials have taken measures to ensure safety of employees.

Larry asked if any members have seen cleanup criteria related to COVID-19, and asked for recommendations to disseminate to the website such as liability and protection.

Tracie Glaves mentioned that her group has been working with crime stoppers (Stockton PD) and will be in place within 30 days and hopes it will help deter illegal dumping during the pandemic.

Tedd Ward stated that since there is no way to organize any cleanup activity to be 100% safe, they focus on liability release.

Christine Flowers will share the criteria of their guidelines on safely including college students in their cleanup events.

SJ County utilizes their existing criteria since illegal dumping contains the same level of hazard as typical illegally dumped material. He mentioned that they will proceed with the Coastal Cleanup event. As an aside, their main issues are property rights for cleanups.

Property rights are not necessarily always clear (easement, right of way) when underlying title is owned by the state or other property owner. A real concern about liability includes

easements for flood protection. County is concerned how to overcome this liability issue when flood control board owns the title (county is maintaining agency). Tracie asked if it was helpful when instead of leaving piles in areas not within the county's jurisdiction, volunteers picked up waste via trailers along the way and dropped it off in the county right-of-way, which limited the liability a bit. That volunteer effort does help.

Larry asked about any new safety measures for workers that are already out working with materials that possibly tainted with COVID-19. San Joaquin County was putting one person per collection vehicle followed by one person in a separate vehicle. Now their health department has approved allowing two people per vehicle as long as employees wear masks. Tedd Ward strongly suggests the face shield. Larry mentioned that the committee could gather some guidelines from everyone for how to operate cleanups during COVID-19. Additionally, local household hazardous waste facilities have been taking in mattresses and lots of paint. Iranzu Morras of PaintCare mentioned that not all paint retailers have closed; some are taking back paint during COVID. More than half are closed but she claims enough are open to service the community.

B. Update from Mattress Recycling Council (MRC)

- Tyler Douthitt reviewed the MRC's latest activities. With COVID, MRC noted an increase of online purchasing of mattresses. However, due to suspension of curbside pickups, Tyler will check on the methods that online retailers have taken for proper disposal of mattresses. Doug Kobold noted that AB 187 implemented a requirement for online retailers to offer take-back or other means for proper handling. Tyler will follow up internally on that topic. Although MRC's "one-day" collection events were cancelled from March – June, MRC's recyclers will continue to operate. MRC anticipates reopening its fall events, but at the time of the June 3 IDTAC meeting, there was no set date. When events resume, MRC will work with each site to create appropriate safety criteria for the collection events. Transporters were considered essential services.
- Additionally, the MRC finalized the report from the 2019 Illegal Dumping Workshops. <https://mattressrecyclingcouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Illegal-Dumping-Workshops-2019-2020-Final-Report.pdf>

C. Review of Upcoming Workshops and Current Initiatives on Illegal Dumping

The committee members shared news and updates from local programs to help elevate illegal dumping best practices.

Tracie Glaves shared details of the collaborative efforts of the San Joaquin Delta Neighborhood Watch group with local partners from a variety of agencies. Most of their efforts focus on illegal dumping prevention and enforcement. Their Facebook outreach page located here: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/197789380978236/?ref=share>

Erin Armstrong, from Nate Miley's office with District 4 of Alameda County Board of Supervisors shared an update on the Alameda County Illegal Dumping (ACID) Pilot and resultant report. https://www.acgov.org/board/district4/documents/ACID-FinalReport_2020_NateMiley.pdf

The pilot as a cross-sector partnership with the City of Oakland, County of Alameda, local

businesses, and non-profits kicked off on Earth Day, 2019. Oakland identified illegal dumping hot spots: a small alleyway with tall metal fences that got hit every night, and Railroad Avenue where large dumping by haulers occurred in a seeming professional manner - tarps with huge amounts of debris were unloaded within two minutes. The pilot stressed the three E's of Education, Eradication, and Enforcement. Education focused on proper ways to get trash into waste stream through bulky pickups, bulky block parties and similar preventative strategies.

On the eradication component, officials worked with local businesses such as a concrete and metal recycling plant that had staff and equipment to pick up illegal dumping right away. Furthering the public-private partnership, Oakland Public Works staff, local businesses, and partners on the ground would pick up all the illegal dumping and bring it to one area. City of Oakland staff would then collect the material for proper management. The District Attorney's office placed cameras at hotspots in February, and accessed camera feeds in real time when dumping occurred. Twelve cases were prosecuted in 2019 and fifty cases will (or have) go forward in 2020. The court system closed due to the shutdown, but the DA's office will be working through the cases now that courts have resumed operation. Alameda County and its partners will attempt to expand the scope and scale of the project, and have already identified successful strategies. At the next IDTAC meeting, Alameda County will have more information on data.

During the COVID-19 shutdown, the DA has moved most cases to community service rather than jail time; if the case merits administrative action from the city attorney's office, then that could be another avenue.

Other highlights of the pilot included beautification of areas suffering illegal dumping, and partnerships for PSAs played during Oakland A's baseball games.

Larry mentioned the enforcement tool that includes seizing the vehicle, but Alameda County is waiting to see if a case comes up where that is appropriate.

Doug Kobold mentioned Alameda County's plan to host a statewide conference on illegal dumping, but due to COVID-19 restrictions, that effort was postponed.

D. IDTAC Workplan – Review Progress

1. Toolbox Status Update:

Sharon Anderson showed the toolbox and its existing components. She also provided an update on the status of a public resource within the toolbox for reporting illegal dumping locally. Committee members offered suggestions for continued improvement and visibility of the toolbox by cross posting to agencies, associations, and organizations such as the State Water Resources Control Board, Department of Water Resources, member associations, and so forth. The IDTAC reaffirmed the usefulness of the toolbox and reiterated the need to advertise it broadly. The committee also suggested including more case studies, workshops, and updating the homeless encampment resource guide.

2. Work Plan Component Updates

The committee briefly reviewed the four work plan components and solicited volunteers for each of the subcommittees. The committee also discussed methods to coordinate meetings, expectations, and progress of each group. CalRecycle staff will aid in soliciting

additional participants and moderating/coordinating subcommittees using polls for planning and Microsoft Teams for meeting platforms.

- a. Strategy(s) for cleanup, prevention, education and reporting, case studies:
Doug Kobold volunteered to lead this effort
- b. Outreach
Tedd Ward volunteered for this effort (SA edit 11/12/20 - Veronica Pardo is the lead. Tedd participates on the Strategy Subcommittee.)
- c. Standards (and data)
Larry Sweetser volunteered to lead this effort and will include training.
- d. Enforcement Tools
Alyce Sandbach volunteered to help coordinate this group and seeks additional co-leads. Kibbe Day and Bill Prinz help with leadership of the group.

E. Update on Development of Training Standards for Illegal Dumping Cleanups

The Chair asked for ideas around a range of training types that includes everything from volunteer cleanups to full HAZWHOPER style offered to public works staff who deal with major cleanups.

VI. New Business

A. Additional Items/Updates

Topics for fall 2020 IDTAC meeting include, but not limited to, legislation/regulations, nominations/election for Chair/Vice Chair, case studies, grants, updates on MRC, Paint, e-waste, tires, carpet update(s), and progress report on the four subcommittees.

B. Next Meeting – Fall 2020

Online, if conditions allow then CalRecycle HQ meeting room
(SA Edit – November 18, 2020)