

Statewide Illegal Dumping Technical Advisory Committee (IDTAC)

Meeting Notes – Wednesday, June 8, 2022, 1:00-4:30pm PST

Location: Remote Chat: [Zoom Chat Log](#)

Platform: Zoom Streaming was also offered.

Meeting Materials: [IDTAC Google Drive](#)

Item 1: Introduction

IDTAC Chair, Larry Sweetser, calls meeting to order welcoming attendees, directing individuals to introduce themselves in the chat, provides a brief scope of the committee, and addresses members and vacancies. Housekeeping addressed.

Item 2: Summary of Previous Meeting

Quick overview of last meeting March 2, 2022 ([Meeting Notes](#)) mentioning Caltrans' Clean California program and others. Focused topic survey was unveiled, Encampments, which is being addressed at this meeting. The Statewide ID Conference was detailed/announced and is being recapped at this meeting.

Item 3: Illegal Dumping Conference

Hosted by Alameda County ID Task Force/Supervisor Nate Miley

Erin Armstrong, Special Assistant to the Supervisor, provides recap/thoughts. [Post-Conference webpage](#) available (recording(s)/presentations) and [Conference Report](#), shared in detail: captures timely and fresh feedback to shape next year's conference. The final version is almost complete and [feedback](#) is always welcome. The conference encapsulated 10 hours and highlighted many Earth Day Cleanups happening throughout the state the day after the conference. Attendees were encouraged to join their local illegal dumping cleanup efforts. A total of 843 attendees were registered, approximately 150 more than the previous year. Most new attendees learned of event through word of mouth. Partners played a significant role in outreach with social media helping some. National and international attendees were also present. Forty-one (41) unique individuals made up the conference's key notes, presentations, and panels, which represented all sectors, and urban, suburban, and rural areas. The conference focus was around the 3 E's strategy of ending illegal dumping through Education, Eradication and Enforcement. Sponsorship is key, and high-level donors stepped up—planning to expand levels for next year. The post conference event and survey offered feedback such as: allocate more time and that the virtual format is ideal, however a hybrid event could be desirable.

Supervisor Miley/ACID Task Force plan to host again next year, Thursday and Friday, April 20-21, 2023, which will likely remain virtual (cost-effectiveness is a factor). Excited to host again, they do plan to transfer the conference over to a new lead—starting collaboration with the state/IDTAC ideal. The Task Force contributes to planning efforts, but since it's often a large group, convening a small planning team to lead the process (in the fall) is the plan. Essentially partnering further and building capacity is the current strategy. Chair and Vice Chair provide accolades for stepping up on this difficult topic and producing such a seamless production with plentiful and quality resources. Lessons learned include an altered/wider outreach strategy. Feedback shows a continued need.

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Stephanie conveys the questions the Supervisor posed during CalRecycle's Enforcement Presentation about EA/LEA/TEAs are getting addressed and the inquiry is appreciated.

Item 4: Encampments

#1 topic requested in [IDTAC Focused Topics Survey/Poll](#). Chair: Project is to put together some information on the role of illegal dumping in encampments—a very complex issue. Our role is rather limited in terms of the scope in the overall problem (greater societal issues), but an important part since many continue to request further guidance. The previous [Homeless Encampment Reference Guide](#) still exists and is listed on the website/toolbox—members and others encouraged to review. Subcommittees will focus on a particular topic(s) and work together to come up with a resource(s)—either modifying the guide or providing other information. No preconceived ideas in how to approach this. Clarity and the more information the better. Subcommittees frame how to look at the issue. Some guidance needed may include: definitions, prevention, cleanup, and waste management strategies for homeless occupants. See initial [Encampment Strategy](#) doc. *Outreach (Education) Sub*: What can be done to prevent illegal dumping? Possibly guidance of how to manage materials onsite. Sharing resources for how to deal with reporting. Veronica: Let's further define our subcommittee role. Shall we decide this project's outreach/implement upon completion or compile outreach/education encampment best practices, or both? Some topics overlap. But, open to a two-pronged approach. Note Peter's comment below. *Standards Sub*: cleanup standards. Health and safety issues as far as managing those sites. Reporting/tracking, something we have been working on. What are the cleanup and/or health and safety standards? *Enforcement Sub*: mixed feelings re removing people—complicated issue/process. Guidance for occupied encampments and during the dismantling stage. May cover donation guidance—well intended drop-offs “donation dumps”/“wishrecycling” are often not useful and considered illegal dumping (example: food, clothing, a box of onions). Truth behind people doing the right thing. Encampments on private vs public property. Gonzalo notes homelessness is not a crime, but associated elements may be. Educating people about required legal steps that need to be taken. Work with outreach/education sub.

Peter comments that the initial framework sounds good and about his experience with this issue and storm water in Santa Clara County—to be careful about the tone/messaging when providing guidance/outreach—that placing blame on the homeless is often the kneejerk reaction. This is a multifaceted topic with various perspectives, viewpoints, and scenarios. Many homeless don't want to be in this predicament, are facing various mental circumstances and some are better at handling their waste than others.

When subcommittees gather, they'll have general freedom to define their role in the project, but it should fit subcommittee scope. Ask what's the most relevant way to

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address the topic, and what do the efforts and final product look like? Also, what are the issues and ways to address them? Frame issue and role.

We welcome all interested parties and members to join subcommittees by emailing IllegalDumping@calrecycle.ca.gov or contacting a [specific member](#).

Item 5: Updates

Google Litter Insights Platform

IDTAC Leadership Team met with Google in April to provide initial feedback on the platform, to identify local government use cases for using it, per Google's request. The platform overview, use cases/ideas thus far, and the Request for Input sheet [here](#). Some feedback was already provided at the meeting, but local governments/IDTAC members were asked to provide additional use cases/ideas. Karen appreciates the tool but is concerned illegal dumpers could get ahold of it and suggests strict exclusivity. It's emphasized that Google does not plan to make this public, however one should be cautious before determining who will be granted access. Chair suggests reaching out to Google for pictures and a history timeline that could be posted on the toolbox, which could be interesting/valuable. Google requesting input this month at the ACID Task Force meeting too. Erin shares previous conversations that Google is also concerned about who'll have access to the data (jurisdictions) and how it will be used, since encampments will show up, and there is an illegal dumping/encampment overlap. The intent of the platform is not to eradicate homeless encampments specifically and classifying them separately in the tool could potentially be an option. Something to consider re the encampment projects, but jurisdictions likely know of them already. Ted suggests the AI could probably easily catalogue standard items like tires, mattresses, and tents, as well as location. This would be beneficial so the jurisdiction knows how to respond. In the rural areas it is hard to detect/notice tents. Adam questions sensitivity, how small/size of object can be detected—map seems to indicate larger cubic yard sizes. Peter recalls his conversation with Google thinking the tool is more for litter than illegal dumping, but perhaps it's both. The distinction is sometimes a fine line. John F curious about the imagine resolution. Carlos inquires if the data is simply from the vehicles or if jurisdictions will be contributing as well. Kate mentions the Google vehicles are more plentiful in the Bay area and urban areas, and the vehicles hit these areas monthly and not as frequent in rural areas. Peter mentions the On-land Visual Trash Assessments (OATA) being conducted that have a scoring method but take a lot of work and are shared with the jurisdiction—this tool could help with that. However, capturing blind spots or trash under cars could be problematic, as well as capturing data frequently enough. However, the tool could be very useful and save us time. Chair mentions sharing the OATA scoring could be useful—workshops/training available. IDTAC has a public component of people doing cleanups, which may have some correlation. Feedback will be shared with Google.

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Caltrans – [Clean California](#) program

Governor Gavin Newsom's \$1.1 Billion multiple pronged approach to cleaning up roadsides through four core components. Litter eradication, which has several different categories (presented below) as well as maintenance staff, beautification programs, and publication education—forthcoming (biggest environmental endeavor for Caltrans). Presentation focuses on IDTAC ask, monetary compensation and partner opportunities through litter eradication. Litter collection status: on target (670,875 CY / 11,293 tons, 5,161 semitrailers = 205 Olympic pools). Dump day partnerships: want more frequent events besides monthly. Glad to use partnerships like Waste Management and events already on the ground. Offers collection that may otherwise be dumped, to underserved communities and to alleviate tipping fees. Reimbursement (compensation)/partnership/public education & outreach opportunities available. These events gaining traction. A list of district contacts are available [here](#). Statewide dump day cleanups hosted 4/23/22 in each district—at least one if not more. Delegated maintenance agreements: where local right of way interacts with state right of ways, and compensating locals who extent their cleanup to Caltrans designated area. Want to continue to outreach and expand this opportunity. Note eligibility is for litter, it's 3 years and has performance metrics. Adopt a highway: gaining more traction. For litter, planting, graffiti, vegetation control. Participants include individuals, organizations, businesses & govt agencies. Provides \$250/month stipend. Sponsorship options marketing/name on sign (new signs), hires "approved AAH Service Contractor". Chair appreciates the diversion/local coordination efforts as well. Word of mouth efforts appreciated. Sharon inquiries about flexibility on cleanup locations (on behalf of the Elk Grove Anti-Trash cleanup group), which Craig replies some permits are offered, and that Caltrans's tries to track requests ensure no duplication. Ken suggests a focused meeting in said district to match their hot spots with dump days. Brochures, factsheets, and more presentation material in the [IDTAC Google Drive](#).

Gina Libby's chat questions; Volunteers receive safety training and are monitored by a lead. Caltrans also ensures cleanups are conducted on safe parts of the ~2 mile average roadways segments. Volunteers leave trash bags at the cleanup site where Caltrans will pick-up and dispose at their location. Chair mentions volunteer groups should always be mindful of connecting with their disposal facility ahead of time to ensure tipping fees are waived. Volunteers need to connect with the adopt-a-highway program before undertaking Caltrans cleanup sites for various reasons. Dump days and adopt-a-highway cleanup events have different volunteer nuisances.

Mattress Recycling [Council](#)

Presented at ID Conference. Two pilot projects completed and one near the finish line. Palmdale to be completed by Aug 2022, San Jose & Berkeley done. Positive results, 430 decrease in mattresses collected and 64 fewer by Caltrans. Curbside collection program will continue. Case studies to be shared from the pilot projects ~end of the

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year. Annual report 8/1/22 for illegal dumping projects and results, other programs. Illegal Dumping Mattress Collection Initiative up to \$15 urban/\$20 rural per unit who report their mattress data. In 2021 11 new members recruited to initiative and are continuing efforts. Have surveyed and inquiring why some are not participating as reporting is easy and there should be no barrier to entry. Even with free drop off still illegally dumped mattresses in some areas.

Subcommittees [[Work Plan](#)]

Strategy Sub: May revisit Work Plan and try to focus on specific efforts and where there is overlap. Strat Chair encourages group to look for meeting/monitor email. Outreach Sub: Outreach Chair confirms in chat the work plan and encampment project will be addresses. Enforcement Sub: Updating subcommittee list(s), toolbox, developed training guidance/matrix—what type of enforcement officer, Feb 1st training next steps [bigger training or partnering—not recorded by choice], presented at ID Conference. Karen soliciting for sample jury instructions with strict liability as the standard of proof for illegal dumping. Standards Sub: Data Collection Form, looking for a host still.

Regional Groups/Task Forces/Local Illegal Dumping Initiatives

ACID Task Force 6/16 – Google presenting/soliciting for feedback on platform. Meetings every third Thursday.

CalRecycle [Grants](#) – cleanup, pertinent funding sources

Solid Waste Disposal and Codisposal Site Cleanup [Program](#) ([Listserv](#)) & Farm and Ranch Solid Waste Cleanup and Abatement Grant [Program](#) ([Listserv](#)) – Notice of funds available for FY22-23 announced June/July with applications due in August. Available for questions. [Presentation slides](#).

Gonzalo (and Alyce) interested in which grants could supply enforcement tools like cameras for municipalities. Usually funding prevention measures is approved in conjunction with disposal sites/illegal dumping needing cleanup/already in existence. Identify hot spots and a suggested remediation strategy (cameras, etc.) initially, Mark summarizes. Larry inquires if this could fall under the LEA grant – possible if illegal disposal sites are part of the grant to justify a surveillance line-item. Mark mentions potential California Air Resources Board (CARB) partnership to use their rotating cameras. Wendy Box handles the LEA grants.

Item 6: Legislation and Regulation

Reminder from Larry re IDTAC: Not in a position to advocate one way or another on legislation but can provide factual information and feedback into the process.

Deep Dive – [AB-2374](#) Crimes against public health and safety: illegal dumping – An act to amend Section 374.3 of the Penal Code, relating to crimes, commercial quantities

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illegal dumping. Increase fines on businesses on 10 or more. If you hold a permit, etc. upon conviction, the court would notify that entity and ask that the conviction be pushed on that website. Other smaller stuff included in bill. There was a call with Contra Costa County on this previously. Tools and people focusing on illegal dumping enforcement are appreciated, but issues with some current/proposed changes are happening and will affect the overall progressive enforcement endeavors. *Judicial diversion* now something to consider; the judge has discretion over the objection of the prosecutor to order diversion. If the defender completes the required probationary request, then the case is dismissed. This is new and hasn't really been addressed – hard to implement a progressive enforcement plan for multiple violators if misdemeanor cases can just be diverted at the judge's discretion [Penal code 1001.95]. Chair: if applicable to your region, FYI, and participate as you see fit.

[SB153](#): Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) Hazardous Waste Management Plan (HWPlan); testing criteria, starting process with Universal Waste Workshop 6/22, 1-3. Chair to attend and mention illegal dumping.

[AB1690](#): Tobacco products: single-use electronic cigarettes. Cig Butts most littered item. New attention on this waste stream; undo.org (CDPH's), Sierra Club. Resources, [CAW](#).

Item 7: Discussion/Inquires

COVID-19

Karen inquires if Caltrans' cleanup referrals informal probation still available? At one point this portion was ceased due to covid. Will keep COVID on one more time.

Litter v. illegal dumping: something to address at next meeting. Gonzalo mentions [penal code 374.4](#) defines litter when it comes to enforcement instead of just litter.

Item 8: IDTAC Business

Logo: Coming to fruition. 3 options shared on screen and the image will be morphed so the "no symbol" reflects an act/positioning of items instead of striking out the objects themselves. Tedd shares thoughts and reiterates his feedback email. Larry thanks Dave Dearborn for the initial concept and kick-off image we're working from. This project should be wrapping up soon.

Toolbox webpage: updates ongoing and CalRecycle can receive edits again. Aside from Encampments Guide, more movement forthcoming. Outreach Subcommittee or even a more focused group could spearhead this. Potential email communication on this. Tedd compliments website but highlights that some of the pictures in rotation likely unintentionally showcase material types in an illegally dumped manor. Potentially link these images to resources to help resolve illegal dumping. Peter (Doug mentioned too) re linking Illegal Dumping Resources/Toolbox/IDTAC in a more prominent place. Mark

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explains the right balance between CalRecycle's role in "solving" illegal dumping/being the IDTAC facilitator while authority is also jurisdictional in combating illegal dumping. Likes the photo-link idea mentioned above; OPA and mock-ups to be considered. Illegal Dumping Resources is searchable and listed first.

Report Illegal Dumping Map ([GeoMap](#)): Chair encourages those to check this resource to make sure it is accurate/updated for their jurisdiction/region. Updates ongoing, given the nature of the map.

Incentivization Survey: readdress later, not a lot of feedback. May pickup this topic at another time through a subcommittee. Survey may not be best way to get ahold of people.

Next Meeting: Save the Date forthcoming, subcommittee updates including encampment project, may address additional focused topics, and other topics welcome. Topics shared: addressing food waste that's unintentional (encampments)—Gonzalo comments. Peter shares unhoused populations and bacteria/human waste sewage issue. Stormwater permit (municipal/regional) adopted in May – more has to be done; portable toilets, pump outs, RVs, etc. What's working and not working—experiences (tipped/fires)? Foodware reduction and not just litter, local ordinances, product stewardship, litter prone items—legislative approaches. Presentation on stormwater component(s) as many may not be aware of but should be (ex. Zero waste and storm water—some illegal dumping overlap). Carlos mentions in Sacramento County a report on E.coli in water streams (increased) and top contributors, birds, dogs, then humans. Illegal dumping attracts animals/foreign species, is an environmental issue (especially for waterways). Karen (ktandler@da.lacounty.gov) has jury trials coming up—prosecutors send jury sample instructions with strict liability for illegal dumping.

Item 9: Adjourn – in honor of Kathy Lynch

We will miss her immensely. Big part of IDTAC, solid waste industry, and did a lot for haulers, wood waste, and many other areas.

Meeting Attendees

Members Attending

Larry Sweetser, Chair
Doug Kobold, Vice Chair
Mark DeBie, CalRecycle
Taylor Grimes, MRC
Veronica Pardo, RRCC
Mark Azzouni, CHMIA

Tedd Ward, Del Norte County SWA
Carlos Duque, City of Elk Grove
Gonzalo Barriga, City of Los Angeles
Avneet Mahil, Manteca, SWANA
Erin Armstrong, Alameda County
Olympia Williams, City of San Jose

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Members Absent

Traci Glaves, Public Member
Kibbe Day, San Joaquin County
Marr Christian, Riverside County
Alyce Sandbach, Alameda County
Trent Manning, Caltrans
Gary Harris, City of Los Angeles
Derek Dolfie, League of CA Cities
Maria Ferdin, Monterey Co
Ted Horton, Sac County Waste Mgt
Justine Fallon, MRC
Rob Hutsel, SD River Park Foundation

Frank Foster, City of Oakland
Jamaica Moon, City of Oakland
Christine Flowers, KCB
Hasti Javid, CalEPA
Nick Lapis, CAW
Eva Mann, City of Richmond
Heidi Sanborn, NSAC
Sara Weaver, CCC, Region III
Vacant, WM Industry Rep
Vacant, CCDEH
Vacant, CEAC

Others Attending/Registered

Karen Tandler, Los Angeles County
Ken Johansson, Caltrans
Craig Carter, Caltrans
Julia Peterson, Caltrans
Deidra Dingman, Contra Costa County
Katie Little, CA Farm Bureau
Nate Pelczar, CPSC
Benjamin Lucha, City of Palmdale
Peter Schultze-Allen, EOA
Alexa Roche, Siskiyou County
Adam Ridge, City of Carson
Adrianna Perez, City of Carson
Jon Sakamoto, City of Carson
Alex Stewart, US Forest Service
Christy Kehoe, National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
Tanya Torres, NOAA
Claudia Hirotsu, Fresno County
Daniel Hill, Santa Clara Valley Water
District (SCVWD)
David Ridi, SCVWD
Donald Duran, SCVWD
David Razo, Orange County
Eric Zetz, Merced County RWA
Gina Libby, Ventura County

Sean Debley, Ventura County
Hampton Jackson, City of Vallejo
Kristoffer Jacob, City of Vallejo
Heidi Niggemeyer, City of Salinas
Jesus Jurado, DPW LA County
Stefhany Morales, DPW LA County
John Luttrull, City of Fresno
Lauren Moreno, San Diego County
Leland Moore, City of Oakland
Liz Godlewski Irons
Marc Green, City of Alameda
Mark Baker, Rivercitycleanup
Shantel Bacon, Riverside County
Sharon Anderson, Elk Grove Anti-Trash
Cleanup Group
Paulina Lawrence, CalRecycle
Stephanie Becker, CalRecycle
Kate Wilkins, CalRecycle
Steve Santa Croce, CalRecycle
Chris McSwain, CalRecycle
Nicole Castagneto, CalRecycle
Laura Morgan, CalRecycle
Dustin Schiavo, CalRecycle
Stephanie Fernandes, CalRecycle

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[IDTAC Google Drive](#) available – meeting notes, agendas, presentations, and other documents (not maintained by CalRecycle)

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