

## **Briefing Statement**

**Date:** October 7, 2003

### **Title: Illegal Dumping Enforcement and Prosecution Workshop**

#### **Background:**

The Hazardous Materials Working Group (HMWG) has worked, for a number of years, with local governments (Municipal Water District [MWD], Desert Hot Springs, et al.) to reduce illegal dumping within the Coachella Valley. Much has been accomplished in the form of cleanups and there has been limited, targeted enforcement but there has been little coordinated regional prevention. Due to an obvious intent by many illegal dumpers within the Coachella Valley to avoid disposal fees, the HMWG has concluded that there is a need for more enforcement.

#### **Proposed Action:**

DMG co-sponsor an **Illegal Dumping Enforcement and Prosecution Workshop** in Palm Springs. Other co-sponsors include the Coachella Valley Association of Governments (CVAG), Riverside County Supervisor Ashley, and California EPA (Cal/EPA). The target audience is both local and federal law enforcement, and prosecution. Local government representatives will also be invited. The goals for the workshop are:

- Increase awareness of the seriousness of illegal dumping
- Make officers/rangers aware that many illegal dumpers are engaged in other criminal activity as well
- Give officers/rangers information on how to recognize illegal dumpers
- Give both officers/rangers and prosecutors a tool kit to help make and successfully prosecute illegal dump cases
- Better understand the barriers to prosecution of dumping cases

The workshop would last one day and will be either February 24 or March 2. Local speakers would be used, placing the workshop's focus on the Coachella Valley. The exact cost and budget for the workshop is yet to be determined but costs are not expected to exceed \$2000. BLM has committed to provide learning materials and CVAG will provide food and drinks.

This proposal is a pilot that if successful could be conducted in other regions throughout the desert.

#### **Contacts:**

Mona Daniels, PSFO Outdoor Recreation Planner  
Russell Scofield, DMG Restoration Coordinator

760-251-4838  
760-365-0955

## **Illegal Dumping Enforcement Workshop Draft Agenda**

1. Introduction/ Statement of problem
  - a. Welcome
  - b. Dumps of the desert slide show
2. Environmental Health
  - a. Public health and safety
  - b. officer safety
3. Economic impacts from illegal dumping to local communities
4. Facilitated discussion of issues
5. Legal overview of federal, state, and local laws
  - a. What laws exists
  - b. What is need to successfully prosecute under these laws
  - c. Other related criminal elements
6. Bag lunch with keynote speaker (Mary Bono or a Riverside County Supervisor)
7. Case study/How to recognize illegal dumpers
8. Sources of technical assistance and resources
  - a. California EPA local government assistance
  - b. Federal assistance
  - c. Illegal dumping tool kit
9. Roundtable discussion and recap of the issues
10. Awards
  - a. Award to officer that makes many illegal dumping cases
  - b. Incentive award for officers to make illegal dumping cases
  - c. Training certificates