

John Hamill
Executive Coordinator
Department of the Interior



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25 March 2002

To: DMG
HAZMAT Work Group
Interested Parties

From: John Hamill, Executive, Coordinator, California Desert Management Project, USDO

On behalf of the Desert Managers Group and the Bureau of Land Management (California Desert District), we are happy to extend to you an invitation to participate in our annual tour of illegal dumping sites and dump site clean-up efforts in the southern California desert area. This year media and elected officials have been invited to participate in the tour.

The tour is designed to provide you a complete orientation of selected hazardous materials/solid waste sites and issues relative to dumpsites on public lands. You will also observe first-hand some of the dumping problems we face in the California desert.

The enclosed itinerary is provided so that you might determine which days are appropriate for you to participate in because the area covered by the tour crosses over several legislative districts.

Please complete the RSVP form that is enclosed so that we can reserve a spot for you on the tour. The form also contains information on dress requirements and what items you should bring with you. Please direct any questions to Stephen Razo at 909-697-5217, John Hamill at 760-255-8888 or Cyn LaFever at 760-255-8886.

Thank you for your interest and we look forward to your participation.



Registration Form

Dumps of the Desert Tour April 2-5, 2002

Name: _____

Title: _____

Affiliation: _____

Address: _____

Telephone and Fax: _____

Email: _____

What dates will you be participating in the Tour? Tuesday____; Wednesday____;Thursday____;Friday____

Would you like to ride in a government provided vehicle? Yes____; No____

Identify any special needs or requests:_____

Expect cool mornings and warm, sunny afternoons. Please remember to wear a hat, sunscreen and comfortable walking shoes. Bring a bottle of water to carry with you: dehydration is a constant risk in the desert during any season. A cooler with beverages will be provided.

Please email or FAX the registration form by **March 28, 2002** to:

Cyn LaFever
Mojave Desert Ecosystem Program
222 E Main Street, Suite 202
Barstow, California 92311
760-255-8886; FAX 760-256-6863
clafever@mojavedata.gov

DUMPS OF THE DESERT TOUR

PRELIMINARY PLANNED ITINERARY

PURPOSE: To provide an orientation of selected hazardous materials/solid waste sites/issues and view the open dumping problems on public lands in the California Desert

Monday, April 1, 2002

- Travel day to Riverside, California. Lodging: Mission Inn [(909) 784-0300] or Best Western Image Suites Inn - Moreno Valley [(909) 924-4546] or others

Tuesday, April 2, 2002

- Meet at California Desert District Office, 6221 Box Springs Boulevard, Riverside, California, 7:30 AM
- Depart for field tour; drive by Stringfellow Acid Pits National Priority List (NPL) Site, Glen Avon, California
- Attend Southern California Federal Environmental Crimes Task Force meeting in Pasadena, California, 10:00 AM - 12:00 Noon
- Lunch in Pasadena area
- Meet at the Lancaster Visitor Center; meet with local officials and Chris Mastro, LA County Health - Solid Waste LEA and Peter Graves, Ridgecrest Field Office Resource Management Specialist; visit several representative illegal dump sites in Antelope Valley area of Los Angeles County.
- Drive to Randsburg - view authorized and illegal solid waste sites and Cyanide Heap Leach Operation (CERCLIS site)
- Arrive in Ridgecrest, California; Lodging: Best Western - China Lake (760) 371-2300

Wednesday, April 3, 2002

- Depart for field tour at 7:30 AM; drive through Poison Canyon to Searles Lake; observe solution mining operation (CERCLIS site) and bird recovery facility at Searles Lake in Trona, California; Observe the bird hazing operations and remediation project. Meet with Ridgecrest Field Office Geologist Kathleen Cox and California Department of Fish and Game Lieutenant Donna Davis.
- Depart Trona and drive southwest to U.S. Highway 395, drive south to State Hwy 58; travel east on State Hwy 58 - past Hawes Radio Station Site (part of March AFB NPL site)
- Lunch stop in Barstow
- Visit North Barstow Disposal Site (CERCLIS site) (a 9.6 acre site that is suspected of having 10,000 containers of decontamination bleach materials buried on site)
- Drive east on Interstate 40 - Go east to the Newberry Springs Transfer Station (Take the National Trail Highway exit and go east about four miles); view the new Newberry Springs Transfer Station and surrounding historic open dumping areas
- Return to National Trails Highway and go west to Newberry Road; turn north and follow road to Interstate Highway 15
- Go east on Interstate Highway 15 to Afton Canyon exit - visit 23-mile long Afton Canyon/Union Pacific Dump site (CERCLIS site)
- Return to Barstow for lodging: Ramada Inn, 1511 East Main Street, Barstow, CA 92311 [(760) 256-5673

Thursday, April 4, 2002

- Depart Barstow at 7:00 AM; go northeast on Interstate Highway 15 to Nipton Road; exit at Nipton Road exit; go east on Nipton Road to Nipton, California; visit Nipton Open Dump cleanup site (one mile north of Nipton); Meet with local officials and Needles Field Office Field Office Environmental Protection Specialist Bill Wiley

- Return to Nipton Road and go west to Ivanpah Road; go southwest on Morning Star Mine Road past Morning Star Mine and on to Kelso via Cima-Kelso Road, view Kelso community open dump site (first illegal disposal site clean-closed under a notice order from the San Bernardino County Health - Solid Waste LEA)
- Continue south along KelBaker Road to Interstate 40; go east to National Trails Highway/Goff's Road exit; exit and have lunch
- Reenter Interstate 40 west; exit at Essex Road; follow this road south towards Essex
- View Camp Clipper and Camp Essex sites - Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDES)/Patton Camp from World War II era and visit Essex Open Dump cleanup site (the first of the Route 66 Dump sites); leave Essex and go southwest on National Trails Highway (Old Route 66)
- Continue west along National Trails Highway (Old Route 66); visit Chambless and Amboy Open Dump cleanup sites
- Drive south on Amboy Road through Sheephole Pass to Wonder Valley area, northeast of 29 Palms
- Visit Valley Vista Open Dump cleanup site (Unauthorized recreational target shooting and open dumping problems)
- Depart for 29 Palms area, Lodging: Best Western Garden Inn Suites - 29 Palms (800) 528-1234

Friday, April 5, 2002

- Depart 29 Palms Area at 7:30 AM; meet with local officials in Yucca Valley - discuss illegal dumping problems in Morongo Basin and local prevention activities.
- Continue travel via State Highway 62 (west); travel through Morongo Valley to Coachella Valley; turn east on Dillon Road to view illegal dumping sites in Long Canyon and Fan Canyon, continue along Dillon Road to visit the Berdoo Canyon and the Indio Hills Open Dump areas if time permits;

- Leave the Coachella Valley area via Interstate 10 (west); return to the Riverside/Ontario Airport area for lodging and/or transportation.

Tour Points of Contact:

- John Key, Environmental Protection Specialist (Hazardous Materials, Bureau of Land Management - California Desert District (909) 697-5383
- Russell Scofield, Restoration and Illegal Dump Program Manager, Bureau of Land Management - California Desert District (760) 365-0955
- Steve Razo, Assistant District Manager - External Affairs, Bureau of Land Management - California Desert District (909) 697-5217

Tentative List of Participants:

- Department of the Interior - Office of the Secretary: John Hamill, Desert Managers Group Executive Coordinator
- Bureau of Land Management: Kris Doebbler, Georgette Fogle, John Key, Annie Williamson, Russell Scofield, Steve Razo, Peter Graves (part-time), Kathleen Cox (part-time), Bill Wiley (part-time),
- National Park Service: Larry Whalon (part-time); Jeff Ohlfs (part-time)
- California Environmental Protection Agency: Garry Brown
- California Integrated Waste Management Board: Wes Mindermann (part-time)
- Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board: Elisabeth Lafferty
- California Department of Fish and Game: Lieutenant Donna Davis (part-time)
- Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, Solid Waste Local Enforcement Agency: Chris Mastro
- San Bernardino County Health - Solid Waste Local Enforcement Agency: Chris Ravenstein (part-time)
- Others: To Be Determined

