

Illegal Dumping Prevention Strategy

To help reduce the occurrence of illegal dumping, the DMG developed the following dumping prevention goals:

- ❖ Create legal alternatives for illegal dumpers
- ❖ Targeted enforcement
- ❖ Educate the public about the alternatives to illegal dumping and its associated problems and penalties

These five implementation action items will help the DMG Illegal Dump Program realize its vision of the reduction of dumping in the California deserts.

Site-specific measures for each clean up proposal

All cleanup projects will include a site-specific prevention plan. Site-specific prevention plans will address the local factors that contribute to illegal dumping within the area. These factors might include a lack of alternative waste disposal or recycling options, or poor anti-dumping signage. Site-specific measures might also include route closures, dumpsite reclamation or restoration, and targeted enforcement. A press release to local media will accompany each cleanup project.

Outreach to the public

Two kinds of illegal dumpers exist: those who are chronic offenders, and those who have good intentions but are frustrated by dump closures, a lack of convenient authorized dumpsites, or recycling and disposal requirements. To reach these dumpers, various media will deliver several messages. General interest information about recycling and illegal dumping will also be provided to the public through a variety of media.

Education

Schoolchildren receive a message that stresses the need for an environmental ethic through a variety of existing environmental education programs. Schools will be encouraged to participate in community service cleanups and implement recycling/illegal dumping education programs.

Enforcement

Relationships with law/code enforcement and prosecutors must be fostered. Training will be made available to state and local agencies that covers the problems and crimes associated with illegal dumping. A press release to the local media will accompany all enforcement actions.

Dumping alternatives

Legal alternatives to illegal dumping need to be made available. This might include amnesty days for special waste, transfer stations in remote locations, and educating the public on recycling requirements and local recycling opportunities.

Potential CIWMB Illegal Dumping Support

Grants to Local Agencies for Illegal Dumping Prevention

Many local cities and counties within Southern California have identified funding as a major impediment to proactive illegal dumping prevention. With proper funding, local jurisdictions could afford targeted law enforcement, video surveillance, media campaigns, enforcement training such as IDEW, etc. CIWMB should develop and administer a grant program that specifically targets illegal dumping prevention. Grants to communities and government agencies for illegal dumping prevention will ultimately save money by reducing expenditures needed for the cleanup of illegal dumps.

Assistance to Local Jurisdictions for Illegal Dumping Alternatives

A 2001 study conducted by the North Central Texas Council of Governments (Dallas-Fort Worth area) found that 48% of illegal dumpers chose to dump illegally because it was too far to the nearest landfill and that 42% dumped illegally because of inconvenient or unaffordable collection service and alternatives such as recycling. This was especially true in rural areas. While portions of California are highly populated, others are not. CIWMB should work with local jurisdictions to provide more transfer stations in rural locations. CIWMB assistance should include grants for facility construction and operation.

Host a Southern California Illegal Dumping Summit

With many jurisdictions in Southern California viewing illegal dumping as an epidemic impact to economic development and a major contributor to crime and blight, there is an increased interest in dumping prevention. Many jurisdictions are implementing anti-dumping ordinances and various components of a comprehensive dumping prevention program. Unfortunately, the lack of a regional strategy and coordination among jurisdictions simply serves to displace the illegal dumping problem.

CIWMB should explore the feasibility of convening a southern California illegal dumping summit in cooperation with Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG), Keep California Beautiful (KCB), the DMG, and others. The primary deliverable of the summit will be a tool kit that cities and counties can use to prevent illegal dumping. Collateral benefits of the summit will include sharing information on both successful and unsuccessful prevention measures, identification of potential partners, creation of a regional illegal dumping network, and education. The summit's target audience will include elected officials and managers from enforcement, prosecutorial, and environmental health departments. If the Summit is successful, a similar event could be sponsored in other regions of the state.