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DEPARTMENT OF RESOURCE MANAGEMENT



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Sent via email to: cdclower@solano.courts.ca.gov

Honorable Donna L. Stashyn
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
Solano Superior Court
600 Union Ave
Fairfield, CA 94533

RE: 2020-2021 Grand Jury Report: *Illegal Dumping – Is there a solution?*

Judge Stashyn:

Following is the Department of Resource Management's (Department) response to the 2020-2021 Solano County Grand Jury Report entitled "Illegal Dumping: Is There a Solution?"

FINDING 1 – Some residents of the county are not aware of the full range of services provided by their local waste disposal service provider.

The Department agrees with this finding. To address this, the Department consistently provides outreach to the public and engages with waste disposal providers, city partners, and other stakeholders to assist the public with understanding their waste disposal and recycling options.

RECOMMENDATION 1 - Recommend cities have a prominent link on their website that lists services provided by their local waste disposal service provider along with contact information.

This recommendation has been partially implemented. Near the top of each page of Solano County's web site (www.solanocounty.com) there is a "Services" tab that provides a drop-down menu of various important and commonly used services for the public. Within the drop-down menu is a link to the Recycling Guide for Solano County. The Department also maintains a web page devoted to recycling resources, including the Recycling Guide, that is accessible from our Planning Services Division's web page. The recycling guide and the Planning Division's recycling web page can be found at <http://recycle.solanocounty.com>. Both the Recycling Guide and the Department's recycling web page contain extensive information for Solano County residents to find various waste disposal and recycling solutions, including links to each City's corresponding website for waste management information and information/links regarding the proper disposal/recycling of problem waste items that tend to contribute to illegal dumping. Contacts/links for residents to the services provided by each local waste disposal service providers and individual trash collectors in the County are also provided so that residents may obtain additional information regarding disposal options.

The three parent companies (Gareventa Enterprises (Mt. Diablo Resource Recovery), Recology, and Republic Services) that provide for the collection, transportation, and management of solid waste, recycling, and organic services to the County and its seven cities also provide all their customers a newsletter with information about current waste-related topics, upcoming events, and services such as curbside pickup of bulky items, such as appliances and furniture, and may also include self-haul landfill passes. Customers receive the mailed newsletter as a separate bill insert on a monthly or quarterly basis, depending on the company.

FINDING 2 - The cities within Solano County each have varying strategies that are not currently being shared. Sharing best practices among jurisdictions is itself a best practice.

The Department agrees with this finding. While the Department does coordinate with other jurisdictions as needed on joint cleanup projects that overlap, or are adjacent to, common jurisdictional boundaries, there is not a routinely scheduled discussion between the various public works agencies on illegal litter abatement strategies and efforts.

RECOMMENDATION 2A - Promote coordination between the cities in Solano County to share their issues and solutions for the illegal dumping issue within the County.

This recommendation has been implemented. The Department will continue to promote activities to coordinate with the cities, other agencies and the public to address illegal dumping.

The County has consistently taken steps to address illegal dumping. In 2004 the Board of Supervisors amended Solano County Code, Chapter 23 to require mandatory garbage service within certain residential zoning districts in the unincorporated area. This action was followed by the Board's approval of a Deputy Sheriff being funded by, and assigned to, the Department in 2008 to investigate illegal dumping activity violating Solano County Code, Chapter 23.5 - Litter Control Program and State laws/regulations on County right of ways. The Deputy Sheriff collaborates with the Department's Code Compliance section, Public Works – Operations Division, and the Environmental Health Services Division to identify a responsible party and for cleanup of the impacted area through investigation of general debris and abandoned vehicles and/or vessels within the unincorporated area.

In 2019, the Sheriff's Office and the Department implemented a multimedia public outreach campaign to engage the public in reporting illegal dumping to Solano County Dispatch through illegaldumping@solanocounty.com or their non-emergency phone line at (707) 421-7090. Reports received from incidents occurring within the city limits were forwarded to the respective jurisdiction's law enforcement agency for their follow-up. This public outreach campaign included press releases to newspapers, direct mail advertising, social media postings, radio announcements, and news segment with both Sacramento and Bay Area television stations. Civic engagement included promoting volunteerism through locally coordinated beautification projects and statewide cleanup events. Due to the dedication of resources to address the COVID-19 pandemic, and then the LNU Lightning Complex fire response and recovery, this campaign was paused in 2020. However, the Department intends to coordinate with the Sheriff's Office to restart community outreach with this year's return to in-person cleanup events such as the Coastal Cleanup Day on September 18, 2021 and neighborhood beautification projects in November.

In June 2021, Department staff accepted an invitation to join an informal statewide group of local government staff working on illegal dumping. Participants vary and can include code enforcement, peace officers, Public Works, District Attorney investigators, City Attorneys, and others. The purpose is to share strategies, local ordinances, outreach material, available resources, and

opportunities to network. The group meets monthly on a virtual platform. The Department can identify the appropriate City staff to invite to join this group and establish a local effort to collaborate on strategies and discuss lessons learned that may be suitable in our own jurisdictions to address illegal dumping issues.

RECOMMENDATION 2B - Establish regular, ongoing communication amongst Public Works and Public Safety departments to share illegal dumping cleanup solutions.

This recommendation has been implemented. As stated above, there are opportunities to raise awareness of and discuss strategies to deal with illegal dumping in various stakeholder groups. Department staff will continue to utilize these forums and seek additional methods to share information with local Cities, state organizations and the residents of Solano County at large.

Sincerely,



Terry Schmidtbauer

Director of Resource Management (Director of Transportation)

Cc: Solano County Board of Supervisors
Birgitta Corsello, County Administrator
Bill Emlen, Assistant County Administrator
Mathew Davis, Senior Management Analyst