

Briefing Statement

Date: October 7, 2003

Title: DMG – Hazardous Materials Work Group (HMWG) Accomplishments

Issues:

1. DMG 5 Year Plan Goal 2 – Cleanup and restore illegal dumps that pose a public health or environmental threat and reduce the incidence of illegal dumping in the future.
2. Illegal Dumping Initiative - Illegal Dumping Prevention Plan.

Background/Status:

1. During FY 2003, four Hazardous Materials Work Group regular meetings were held: the first on November 13, 2002 at the Cal EPA's Office in Riverside; the second on February 19, 2003 at the Blackrock Interagency Fire Center – Joshua Tree National Park in Yucca Valley; the third on May 29, 2003 at the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) - California Desert District Office in Moreno Valley; and the fourth on September 24, 2003 at the BLM's Palm Springs Field Office. The next meeting is planned for December 16, 2003 at the BLM's Palm Springs Field Office.
2. Focus of work group has been to work on illegal dump prevention. A special meeting was held at the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM's) California Desert District Office on June 10, 2003 to discuss the Keep California Beautiful proposal – eight people attended. It was decided to concentration on Goal 2 (Increase enforcement) and Goal 3 (Educate the public about alternative to illegal dumping and its associated problems and penalties).
3. The lack of agency funding curtailed most of FY 2003 planned cleanup accomplishments. The use of volunteers and partnerships has been successful in accomplishing several illegal dumpsite cleanups in Long Canyon, Fan Canyon and Walter's Camp. The Palm Springs Field Office oversaw the Long Canyon and Fan Canyon Cleanups. The Walter's Camp illegal dumpsite was cleaned up by the responsible party under the supervision of the local enforcement agency in Imperial County in cooperation with the El Centro Field Office.
4. Technical training planned for FY 2003 was been deferred to due to lack of funding. This included the 8-hour annual HAZWOPER (Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response) refresher training that had been planned for the July 2003.

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