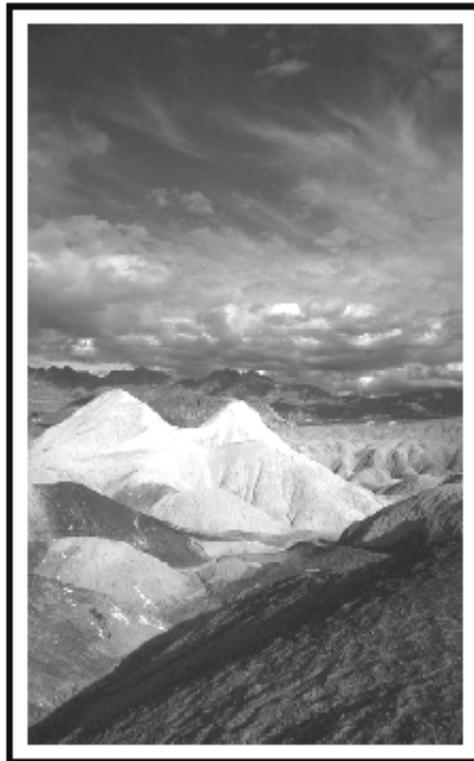




DESERT
MANAGERS GROUP

Illegal Dumping Briefing Package



June 14, 2004

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Overview

Desert Managers Group

California Desert Facts:

- ❖ 40 million people live within one day's drive of the California deserts.
- ❖ 80 percent or 20 million acres of the California deserts are publicly owned.
- ❖ The California deserts include three national parks, seven military bases, ten state parks and the 11 million acre California Desert Conservation Area managed by the Bureau of Land Management, over 100 communities, and 37 federally recognized Native American tribes.

The **mission** of the Desert Managers Group is to:

- ❖ Develop coordinated and complimentary management guidelines, practices, and programs. The specific focus is on:
 - Conserving and restoring desert resources
 - Providing high quality recreation, public education, and visitor services
 - Providing for the safety of desert users
 - Developing the databases and conducting the scientific studies needed for effective resource planning and management.
- ❖ Promote compatibility in the application of each agency's mission.

Participants in the Desert Managers Group include:

- ❖ *Department of the Interior*
 - Bureau of Land Management
 - Fish and Wildlife Service
 - National Park Service
 - Geological Survey
- ❖ *State of California*
 - Department of Fish and Game
 - Department of Parks and Recreation
 - Department of Transportation
- ❖ *Department of Agriculture*
 - Forest Service
- ❖ *Department of Defense*
 - Naval Air Weapons Station, China Lakes
 - Edwards Air Force Base
 - National Training Center, Fort Irwin
 - Marine Corps Air Combat Center, Twenty-nine Palms
 - Marine Corps Logistical Base, Barstow
 - Marine Corp Air Station, Yuma

A **Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)** among U.S. Department of Interior, Department of Defense, and California Resources Agency formally established the DMG in September 2000. Membership to the Group was granted to the U.S. Forest Service in June 2003. The DMG's MOU expires in September 2005.

Desert Managers Group Illegal Dumping Accomplishments

(refer to the *DMG FY 03 Accomplishments and 5 Year Plan* for a complete accomplishment accounting)

- ❖ The DMG's Hazardous Materials Workgroup consists of agency staff work who on hazardous and solid waste issues. Through this forum, many local jurisdictions such as Riverside, Los Angeles, and San Bernardino Counties have been engaged in the DMG's illegal dumping program.
- ❖ Through partnerships, the DMG has cleaned up scores of illegal dumps such as:
 - Nipton IDS (2136)
 - Essex IDS (2136)
 - Amboy IDS (2136)
 - Chambless IDS (2136)
 - Cravase IDS (2136)
 - Vidal IDS (2136)
 - Landers Illegal Dumps (Farm and Ranch)
 - Long Canyon (Partnership and Volunteer)
 - North Yucca Mesa (Volunteer)
 - Old Mine IDS (At-risk Youth)
 - Numerous small dumps have been cleaned up using community volunteer efforts
- ❖ The DMG initiated an illegal dumping prevention program in cooperation with local governments. DMG Dumping program partners include:
 - San Bernardino County
 - Riverside County
 - Keep California Beautiful
 - Los Angeles County
 - City of Yucca Valley
 - Coachella Valley Association of Governments (CVAG)
 - City of Palm Springs
 - Joshua Tree National Park
 - Mojave National Preserve
 - Bureau of Land Management
- ❖ Created Illegal Dump Database
- ❖ Hosted of Illegal Dumping Enforcement Workshop (IDEW) in Palm Springs. About 120 law and code enforcement officers, prosecutors, and government officials attended the workshop. Four local television stations covered the workshop and aired related dumping stories. Radio public service announcements about dumping were also release in conjunction with the workshop.

**Goals/Projects of the Desert Managers Group
Related to Illegal Dumping
(FY 2004-2005)**

Resource Conservation and Management Goals

Goal 2. Clean up and restore illegal dumps and reduce illegal dumping in the future

- ❖ Dump Cleanups
- ❖ Update/Maintain Dump Database
- ❖ Illegal Dump Prevention
- ❖ Sponsor Hazmat training

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.