

Briefing Statement

Date: October 6, 2005

Title: Illegal Dumping Enforcement Workshop

Issue: Kern County is interested in hosting an Illegal Dumping Enforcement Workshop (IDEW)

Background

Last spring the DMG joined Riverside County Board of Supervisors (RCBOS), City of Palm Springs, Agua Caliente Tribe, the California Hazardous Materials Investigators Association (CHMIA), and The Coachella Valley Association of Governments (CVAG) to sponsor a half day Illegal Dumping Enforcement Workshop (IDEW) in Palm Springs. The workshop was hugely successful with over one-hundred attendees and coverage by four local television stations. The success of the workshop can be attributed to the strong local support it received from the RCBOS and CVAG. The Palm Springs IDEW was a pilot workshop with others planned throughout the desert.

Proposed Action

Kern County has expressed a strong desire to host an IDEW in the Ridgecrest area. Currently the workshop has the support of Supervisor Maben and the county support needed to anticipate a success. Other potential partners include Inyo and LA Counties, Kerr-McGee, CIWMB, and CHMIA. The agenda for the Kern IDEW would be similar to the Palm Springs IDEW and include lessons learned from that pilot. Possible major agenda changes include lengthening the workshop (a comment on many Palm Springs evaluations was that the workshop should be a full day) and inclusion of a field activity.

The workshop will be formatted as a train the trainer and its goals are:

- Increase awareness of the seriousness of illegal dumping
- Make officers aware that many illegal dumpers are engaged in other criminal activity as well
- Give officers information on how to recognize illegal dumpers
- Give both officers and prosecutors a toolkit to help make and successfully prosecute illegal dump cases
- Better understand the barriers to prosecution of dumping cases
- A training video and illegal dumping will be provided to each participant

A date and location has not been selected but the workshop will likely occur in the spring of 2006 in Ridgecrest. Following the Kern IDEW, the possibilities of having an IDEW in San Bernardino County will be explored.

Contacts

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