

Briefing Statement

Date: April 22, 2004

Title: Illegal Dumping Summit

Background:

Many cities and counties within Southern California are growing more concerned with the epidemic problem of illegal dumping. With the increased awareness of illegal dumping and its related health risks and blight, jurisdictions are looking for solutions to the problem. There are, in fact, many new and exciting illegal dumping prevention tools that some jurisdictions are exploring. The California Legislature is considering amending the dumping laws to increase penalties. Several cities have passed ordinances that allow the seizure of vehicles involved in illegal dumping. The Illegal Dumping Enforcement Workshop recently cosponsored by DMG and Riverside County was a huge success. While these efforts make a positive impact on one city or county, there is no regional strategy to prevent illegal dumping.

Proposed Action:

DMG seek sponsors to host a regional illegal dumping summit. The primary deliverable of the summit will be a strategy document 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. Potential summit hosts might include Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) and the California Integrated Waste Management Board.

Next Steps:

Prepare a brief outlining the illegal dumping problem from a regional standpoint and shop the idea of the illegal dumping summit around to various local governments to determine a level of interest.

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