

Illegal Dumping Prevention Programs in the Antelope Valley

Illegal dumping is a significant problem in many communities throughout Los Angeles County, especially in the Antelope Valley. Illegal dumping activities pose a danger to public health and safety, decreases property values, lowers the quality of life, and contributes to urban blight. Materials that are illegally dumped create a nesting area for rodents, insects, and other vermin while impacting the proper drainage of runoff, polluting local beaches, and making areas more susceptible to flooding when draining basins become clogged. Illegal dumping activities also place an undue burden on the County, which spends hundreds of thousands of dollars every year in cleanup, public education, and enforcement costs. In response, the County of Los Angeles, continues to try and curb illegal dumping with the following programs:

- **Antelope Valley Illegal Dumping Task Force** – Formed in 1996 by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, the Task Force meets monthly to identify measures to reduce and possibly eliminate illegal dumping. Based on its findings and subsequent recommendations, new programs have been implemented and numerous existing programs have been enhanced to combat illegal dumping.
- **1-888-8-DUMPING Hotline** – In 1999, the County established this toll-free hotline for residents in the Antelope Valley to confidentially report illegal dumping activities.
- **Illegal Dumping Website** – In October of this year, the County established the illegal dumping website. County residents can confidentially and anonymously report illegal dumping activities online. For information on illegal dumping prevention, or to report an incident of illegal dumping, log on to www.888CleanLA.com.
- **2004 Vehicle Seizure Ordinance** – Last year, the Board of Supervisors unanimously passed the vehicle seizure ordinance. Any vehicle used for illegal dumping purposes can be confiscated by law enforcement officials.
- **Trash Responsibility Ordinance** – The County is considering this ordinance that would require all Antelope Valley property owners and occupants to responsibly manage their waste, either through a permitted waste hauler or self-hauling.
- **Antelope Valley Environmental Collection Center** – In August, the County in concert with the cities of Palmdale and Lancaster, Waste Management, Inc., and the California Integrated Waste Management Board opened this pivotal collection center. Located at the Antelope Valley Public Landfill in Palmdale, the center is open the 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month collecting household hazardous waste and electronic waste.
- **Antelope Valley Environmental Pride Week** – Each spring, the Cities of Lancaster and Palmdale, the County of Los Angeles, Waste Management, Inc., private entities, community volunteers and the office of Los Angeles County Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich organize the Antelope Valley Environmental Pride Week. This event typically includes waste tire roundups, smart gardening workshops, various cleanup efforts, and other environmental-related events.

These programs and events are only successful with residents' participation. Working together, we can eliminate the problem of illegal dumping. For more information on future events that will take place in Los Angeles County or to learn more about protecting the environment, please visit our website at www.888CleanLA.com.