Santa Clara County Litter Abatement Program

Presented by CalRecycle and County of Santa Clara

Statewide Illegal Dumping Conference

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Collaboration with CalRecycle and County of Santa Clara

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Santa Clara County Litter Abatement Program

- Funding source/funding mechanism and allocation
- Grantees and scope of work
- Performance period
- Reporting requirements for grantees
- Information about local conservation corps

Funding source/ mechanism and allocation

- SB 170, Skinner. Budget Act of 2021. The Budget Act of 2021 made appropriations for the support of state government for the 2021–22 fiscal year. This bill would amend the Budget Act of 2021 by amending, adding, and repealing items of appropriation and making other changes. This bill would declare that it is to take effect immediately as a Budget Bill.
- Former Santa Clara County Board Supervisor Dave Cortese (now Senator) lobbied for the need to conduct litter clean up in Santa Clara county.
- Challenges with how to manage the funding - contract or grant? CalRecycle is the ‘pass through’ agency.
- The Senate Bill allocated to the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) as follows:
  - $2,000,000 to the County of Santa Clara to the Consumer and Environmental Protection Agency for litter abatement removal.

Grantees and Scope of Work

- The County of Santa Clara Consumer and Environmental Protection Agency (CEPA) contracted with following:

- City of San José cleanup and abatement of litter and debris around homeless encampments. The County Roads and Airports Department (Roads) directed the City of San José and its contractor(s) removed solid waste, biowaste, and debris from active and abandoned homeless encampment areas near County-owned roadways

- San José Conservation Corps (SJCC) conduct litter abatement activities throughout Santa Clara County. SJCC existing Work Crew Program consists of Corps members who are disadvantaged youths which provides job training, education, and career placement.

Performance period and Reporting requirements

- Performance Period – Fiscal Years 2022-23, 2023-24; October 23, 2022, to April 1, 2024
- Reporting submitted monthly with the request for reimbursement. Data Excel sheets one for each contractor included the following:

  - Total labor hours
  - Total sites cleaned
  - Pounds of litter disposed
  - Pounds of recyclables
  - Number of tires collected
  - Number of mattress collected
  - Pounds of E-waste collected
  - Number of Bulky Items collected
  - Number of Biohazard waste drums

Local Conservation Corps

Now in their 39 year of existence, founded in part to cleanup beverage containers and litter, the Local Conservation Corps have served their regional areas with various conservation programs

On the job training and skills for disadvantage youth ages 18-26. High school diploma, continuing education and enrolment assistance to college or trade schools

The CalRecycle Diversified funding (started 10 years ago) allows multiple material recovery and recycling (Beverage Containers, E-waste, Tires and Used Oil Collection Center sign reviews)

Eligible activities include collaborative partnerships, labor support, collection programs, education / outreach and internships, and varied conservation programs and activities

MOUs with local government agencies for a variety of projects

14 Certified Corps Statewide

- Civicorps – Oakland
- Conservation Corps Long Beach
- Conservation Corps North Bay
- Fresno Economic Opportunities Commission
- Caesar Chavez Conservation Corps
- Greater Valley Conservation Corps
- Los Angeles Conservation Corps
- Orange County Conservation Corps
- Sacramento Regional Conservation Corps
- San Francisco Conservation Corps
- San José Conservation Corps
- Sequoia Community Corps
- Urban Conservation Corps Inland Empire
- Urban Corps of San Diego County

Statewide Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Program Stats

- 4,147,411 lbs. Beverage Containers (2,074 tons)
- 116,781 Illegally Disposed Waste Tires
- 3,155,901 lbs. E-waste (1,578 tons)
- 1,647 Certified Collection Center Used Oil Signage Reviews
- 1,297 Education / Outreach Events

Local Conservation Corps / CalRecycle Web Site

https://calrecycle.ca.gov/funding/localcc/

Scroll to bottom of page and click on Icon of Corps you want to contact

Cleanup Program Development and Implementation

Funding Notification

CA SB 170, Budget Act of 2021, “$2,000,000 to the County of Santa Clara to the Consumer and Environmental Protection Agency for litter abatement removal.”

No clear direction initially as to how we will receive the funding

Notified via email that the funding will come from CalRecycle

Introduced to grant manager via email

Meetings with Senator Dave Cortese’s office

SERIES OF MEETINGS WITH SENATOR'S OFFICE

EXPECTATIONS WERE DISCUSSED

WE WERE ASKED TO CREATE A WORK PLAN

Development of Work Plan - Work Crew Program

San José Conservation Corps (SJCC)

- 2 crews per day, 3 days per week
- Crews of 5 corps members and 1 supervisor
- Cleaning up sites throughout Santa Clara County

City of San José

- 1 crew, approximately every 2 weeks
- Crew of 4 City staff and 5 contractor staff
- Cleaning up litter at encampments on County-owned Rights of Way

Development of Work Plan – Budget

Total Budget - $2,000,000

Contract Services

- $1,464,307 – San José Conservation Corps
- $389,060 – City of San José

Waste Disposal Costs

- $66,633 – Waste collection and disposal for SJCC contract only

County Administrative Fee

- $80,000 – 4% of total budget spent

Official Work Plan Approval

CalRecycle

- Work plan review
- Terms and conditions
- Treated it as a grant application
- Final sign off once the County approved

County of Santa Clara

- County Leadership input on the work plan:
  - Selecting sites with equity in mind
  - Focusing on public health and safety
  - Underserved communities
- Board of Supervisors approval

San José Conservation Corps Cleanup Program

Overview of the SJCC cleanups from November 2022 through April 2024

Started by Creating a List of Cleanup Sites

Compiled a list of 75 locations with input of all cities in the County

We grew the list to 155 locations in the first 6 months

Ranked locations based on several factors

- **Risk to public safety and environmental health**
- **Frequency of cleanups at the location by the city**
- **City resources available to clean the location**
- **Presence of vectors (rodents, flies, cockroaches, etc.)**

Monthly Cleanup List

- Initially assigned 50 locations per month.
- Cleanups were prioritized based on a ranking system.
- Monthly data entry to update rankings.
- Rankings changed based on most recent cleanup date and number of site visits by SJCC.

Launched a website in April 2023
www.cleanupscc.org

Online form for public to report cleanup locations

Media event with local news stations.
Link to video

Number of locations grew from 155 to 265

Report an illegal dumping location

Report a potential cleanup area by filling out the cleanup location reporting form

Watershed Protection Division

1553 Berger Drive
Building 1, 2nd Floor
San Jose, CA 95112
View on map

(408) 918-4609

watershed@cep.sccgov.org

watershed.santaclaracounty.gov

Consumer and Environmental Protection Agency

Evolution of data collection and site evaluation

Original ranking methodology for producing our monthly lists for SJCC was not efficient

Many sites clean on arrival or inaccessible = less results

Too much time driving around to unproductive locations

Data entry and analysis too cumbersome

Created a new strategy to improve efficiency and results

Dropped the rankings model

Focus on real data from the field

Created a high/medium/low prioritization system

Assigned mostly high/medium sites and fewer low priority sites

Collaborative efforts with cities and agencies

Held monthly meetings with Cities. Later reduced to quarterly.

Quarterly meetings later became email updates

Continued to ask for new cleanup and deterrent locations

Open Communications with SJCC

Check in meetings with SJCC to foster continuous improvement.

First every 2 weeks, then every month.

We saw improvements in:

Overall performance and efficiency	Record keeping/data management	Addressing issues more quickly

Before and After

Illegally dumped waste in a residential area

Before and After

Waste tires dumped in a remote area of the County

Before and After

Cleanup of a vacated encampment

Before and After

Site near an active encampment

Thank you SJCC

- 2,990 Hours
- 773 Cleanups
- 110 Tons of Waste
- 329 Tires
- 136 mattresses
- 633 pounds of electronic waste

City of Cupertino Deterrent Measure

- Roadside illegal dumping hotspot
- Boulders installed at a turnout to prevent dumping
- Total project cost $3,972
- Installed by a local quarry

City of San José/County Roads Department Cleanups

Implementation of encampment litter cleanups along County expressways

Contract with City of San José

- Cleanups are conducted by City of San José through a contract managed by the County Roads and Airports Department and reimbursed by the Watershed Protection Division through SB 170 fund.
- This partnership is intended to address the growing need for addressing litter and sanitation around homeless encampments in the County that has become an environmental and public health issue.
  - SJCC does not perform homeless encampment litter abatement work, and thus a continued partnership with the City and their contractor(s) will fulfill a need which SJCC cannot provide.
- Areas cleaned under the contract include County properties, Right-of--Ways, and expressways managed by the County of Santa Clara within the City of San José limit.
  - E.g. Almaden Expressway, Capitol Expressway

Management of the contract by County Roads

Roads assigns cleanup locations to the City of San José.

City sends their crews to designated homeless encampment locations and removes waste.

For biowaste, the City works with their contractor(s) to have biowaste properly removed and disposed of.

City sends monthly invoices to Roads, Roads pays the invoices. WPD reimburses Roads with SB 170 fund.

SB 170 funding of the contract ended by October 2023. However, work is ongoing, but being funded completely by Roads

From
November 2022
to
October 2023

- 1,262 Hours
- 112 Cleanups
- 196 Tons of Waste
- 99 Tires
- 99 Mattresses
- 230 Appliances/Bulky Items
- 39 Drums of Biowaste

Results

Data highlights from cleanups

Sites, cleanups, and hours

San José Conservation Corps

- 1,144 site visits, 773 cleanups
  - Sites were skipped if clean on arrival, unsafe, or inaccessible.
- 31% of sites skipped per month on average
  - 323 times a site was clean on arrival
  - 48 times a site was inaccessible/unsafe
- 29,990 total hours spent by SJCC

City of San José

- 112 cleanups. Sites were not skipped because there were fewer sites targeted by the County
- 1,262 total hours spent by San José and their contractors.

Amount of waste collected

San José Conservation Corps

- 110 tons of solid waste (bagged trash and bulky items)
- 8,049 bags of trash
- 4,639 appliances/bulky items
- 329 waste tires
- 136 mattresses
- 633 pounds of electronic waste
- 242 pounds of recyclables

City of San José

- 196 tons of solid waste
- 230 appliances and bulky items
- 99 waste tires
- 99 mattresses
- 39 drums of biowaste

Data comparison: SJCC vs City of San José

- SJCC picked up significantly less volume of litter comparing to City of San José crews due to different focuses.
- City of San José focus on known sites with significant recurring litter issues
- SJCC targets a larger number of locations across 15 cities and unincorporated area
- Cities provide locations before the monthly assignment; however, some sites were often cleaned before SJCC could reach the site.

Total dollars spent

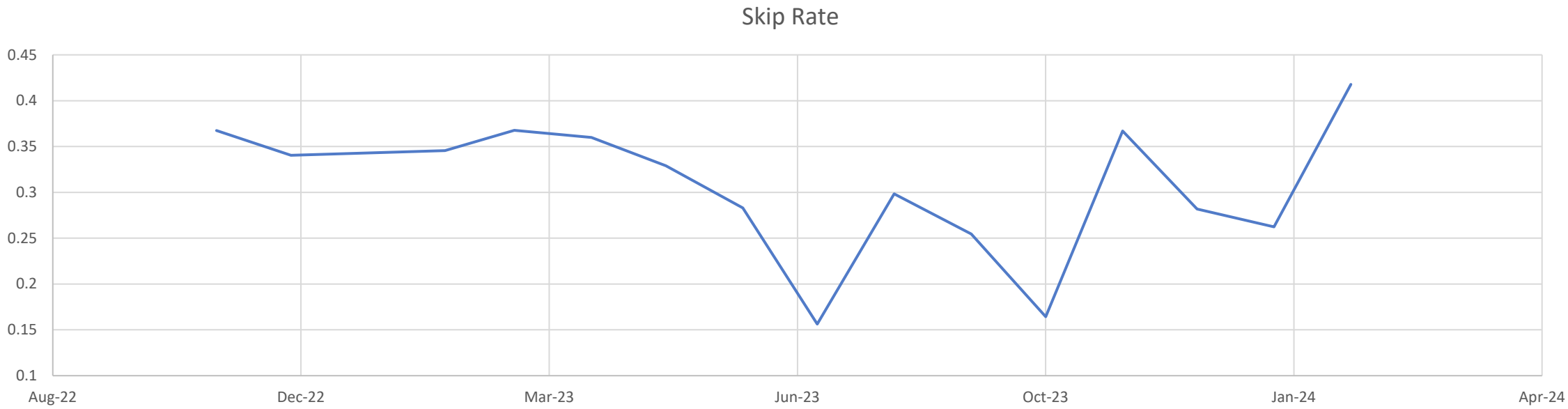
SJCC Cleanups + Disposal Cost	$1,526,968.01
San José Cleanups + Disposal Costs	$389,059.84
Deterrent Measures – City of Cupertino	$3,972.15
County Administration Fee (4%)	Around $76,000

Lessons Learned

Considerations for future cleanup programs

Recurring illegal dumping

- Majority of recurring illegal dumping sites tend to be in areas with lower income, particularly neighborhoods in East San José, Gilroy, and Milpitas
- Some sites showed improvement over several clean-ups
- Some sites showed same or even worsened recurring illegal dumping issues
- Three E's: recurring illegal dumping could not be addressed through eradication without enforcement and education at the same time.



Comparison of skip rate from early to late in program

- As the site selection methodology improved, skip rate of sites decreased slightly in the immediate period.
- However, as we received fewer new locations, skipped rate went back up due to crews revisiting old locations that showed improvements overtime.

Lessons learned form the SJCC field crews

GPS COORDINATES MAKE IT EASIER FOR CREWS TO FIND LOCATIONS

PROVIDE MULTIPLE LOCATIONS FOR CREWS TO DEPOSIT WASTE

PROVIDE INFORMATIONAL MATERIAL TO RESIDENTS

MAINTAIN CLEAR COMMUNICATION BETWEEN CITIES AND CREWS

HAVE A LARGE VEHICLE OR FLATBED TO MOVE LARGE ITEMS

Collaboration with cities and the public yields better results

- Each city has different issues and a differing severity of illegal dumping/littering
- Maintain an open line of communication with city staff and the public
- Focus on underserved areas with higher frequency of dumping

Public participation as a tool to help the community

- More than one third of our cleanup locations came to us from the public
- Residents were appreciative of seeing our service in their neighborhoods
- Some residents submitted multiple reports of illegal dumping

Acknowledgements

Special thank you to

- CA Senator Dave Cortese
- CalRecycle
- San José Conservation Corps
- City of San José

Questions