



Martinez Road, before and after cleanup.



United States  
Environmental Protection  
Agency  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX  
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# Torres Martinez Solid Waste Collaborative

A Partnership of Tribal, Federal, State and Local Agencies  
to Stop Illegal Dumping on the Reservation



## STOP ILLEGAL DUMPING

*Keep our Reservation Beautiful*

Report Violators (760) 341-STOP  
\$\$\$ REWARD \$\$\$

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is pleased to present the second edition of the Torres Martinez Solid Waste Collaborative Status Report. In the short time since the August report, the collaborative has made great strides in achieving its goals for dump cleanup and access control, community outreach and monitoring compliance.





## PROGRESS TO DATE

### DUMP CLEANUP AND ACCESS CONTROL

Much progress has been made on closing illegal dump sites on the Torres Martinez Reservation. The tribe has cleaned up three illegal dumps on Avenue 70, Martinez Road and Avenue 66. The California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB) completed the Tayawa site cleanup in early September 2006, and may consider a proposal to clean up the large waste pile at the Ibanez site as early as the November 2006 board meeting. The U.S. District Court ordered Lawson Enterprises to immediately stop all activities at the Lawson Dump and vacate the site in August 2006. The Bureau of Indian Affairs has padlocked the site and is providing on-site security to prevent additional dumping.



Tayawa dump site, before, during and after cleanup.

The Riverside County Badlands Landfill is now approved to accept treated wood waste, including grape stakes, providing an alternative to on-reservation dumping. The address of the landfill is 31125 Ironwood Avenue, Moreno Valley, CA 92533. This will provide the first legal alternative to grape-stake dumping and burning in Riverside County. If you have questions about the proper disposal of treated wood waste, please contact the Riverside County Waste Department at (951) 486-3200.

Members of the Dump Cleanup and Access Control Taskforce include the Torres Martinez Tribe, U.S. EPA, BIA, Indian Health Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development and the CIWMB.

### COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The Torres Martinez Tribe has installed billboards in English and Spanish warning against illegal dumping on the reservation, and has posted 35 "No Dumping" signs. In October, EPA will re-publish the multi-agency "anti-dumping" alert in local newspapers and distribute the alert to hundreds of area waste generators and haulers. In November, the Community Outreach Taskforce will distribute "anti-dumping" posters to a number of local businesses and organizations.

The Outreach Taskforce holds bi-weekly conference calls to update members of current events and opportunities for outreach. Members of the taskforce include the Torres Martinez Tribe, Riverside County Code Enforcement & Community Improvement Department, Riverside County Fire Department, BIA, CIWMB and U.S. EPA.

### MONITORING COMPLIANCE

The Torres Martinez Tribal Council and U.S. EPA convened a meeting with local, state and federal agency stakeholders on September 1, 2006 to discuss the role each entity will play in monitoring compliance. The group reached the following agreements:

- The California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal/EPA) will work with the Torres Martinez Tribe to install surveillance cameras on the reservation to deter dumping.
- The California Highway Patrol and Riverside County Sheriff's Office will conduct aerial monitoring of the reservation to track existing illegal dump sites and identify new ones.

The taskforce is actively addressing local air quality issues. The South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) is working with the tribe and U.S. EPA to evaluate potential sites, such as near Desert Mirage High School, to install a continuous air quality monitor. SCAQMD is also providing air sample canisters to the Riverside County Fire Department/California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection to monitor air pollutants during and after fires.

Members of the Monitoring Compliance Taskforce include the Torres Martinez Tribe, Riverside County Sheriff's Office, CHP, SCAQMD and U.S. EPA.



Avenue 70 Site #3, before and after cleanup.

### INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

The Torres Martinez Tribe, USDA and U.S. EPA are working to improve the tribe's solid waste management infrastructure. Future projects include building a waste transfer station, conducting a waste stream analysis, and updating the tribe's solid waste management plan.

Members participating in the Infrastructure Development Taskforce include the Torres Martinez Tribe, USDA and U.S. EPA.

### COLLABORATIVE MEMBERS

#### TRIBE

Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians Tribal Council, Tribal Administrator, Tribal Resource Manager, and Environmental Department.

#### FEDERAL

U.S. EPA, BIA, Indian Health Service, USDA Rural Development, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, and U.S. Bureau of Land Management.

#### STATE

California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB), South Coast Air Quality Management District, California Department of Toxic Substances Control, California Air Resources Board, California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal/EPA), and California Highway Patrol.

#### LOCAL

City of Coachella, City of Indio, Coachella Valley Association of Governments, Desert Alliance for Community Empowerment, Desert Mirage High School, Mecca Community Council, Oasis Community Council, Riverside County Code Enforcement and Community Improvement Department, Riverside County, Riverside County Department of Environmental Health, Riverside County Department of Waste Management, Riverside County District Attorney's Office, Riverside County Fire Department, Riverside County Sheriff, and Southern Coachella Valley Service District.



Martinez Road, No Dumping sign

The mission of the collaborative is to clean up and prevent illegal dumping on the Torres Martinez Reservation. The purpose of this status report is to update all stakeholders and community members on the progress of the multi-agency effort. If you would like to be involved in the collaborative, contribute to the next status report or request additional copies of this one, please contact Willard Chin of the U.S. EPA's Pacific Southwest Regional Office at [chin.willard@epa.gov](mailto:chin.willard@epa.gov); Tel: (415) 972-3797; Fax: (415) 947-3562.

