



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **L.A. CITY ATTORNEY ROCKY DELGADILLO, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT SECURE \$500k STATE GRANT TO FIGHT ILLEGAL DUMPING IN SOUTH LOS ANGELES**

**LOS ANGELES** – Los Angeles City Attorney Rocky Delgadillo and Environmental Affairs Department's General Manager Detrich Allen today announced the award of a grant from the State of California to aid in the City's efforts to address illegal dumping issues in a special enforcement zone located in South Los Angeles. This grant and a collaboration of City programs including the City Attorney's Safe Neighborhoods Division, the Environmental Affairs Department and the Department of Public Works, will enable the City to target areas with the highest rates of illegal dumping.

The City of Los Angeles spends \$12,000,000 a year to clean up illegal dumping not including the environmental damage, decreased property values, and prosecution costs. 50% of the illegal dumping in the city occurs in South Los Angeles, in three City Council Districts (8,9,15) where the grant efforts will be focused.

"Since 2002, my Neighborhood Prosecutors have been dedicated and focused on addressing the serious problem of illegal dumping in South Los Angeles," said City Attorney Delgadillo. "This grant will provide my office and our partners with the necessary tools to continue this effort and reclaim cleaner and safer streets for our residents."

The \$500,000 grant awarded by the California Integrated Waste Management Board comes as a result of a proposal written by Deputy City Attorney Sonja Dawson of Delgadillo's Safe Neighborhoods Division and the City's Environmental Affairs Department. Grant funds received will be focused into three main components: cleanup of existing chronic, illegal dumping sites; additional surveillance of known problem areas for illegal dumping; and community outreach for prevention and proactive approaches.

"Illegal dumping is not only unsightly, it can also pose a threat to public health and the environment. We are pleased to partner with the City Attorney and Public Works to get resources that step up the fight against illegal dumping throughout Los Angeles," said Detrich Allen, General Manager of the Environmental Affairs Department.

The Department of Public Works will receive approximately \$344,000 to institute and administer cleanup of problem areas as well as \$100,000 to pay for inspector costs incurred by the Department of Street Services in monitoring known areas for rampant illegal dumping.

The City Attorney's Office and Public Works will also utilize approximately \$56,000 of the awarded grant for community outreach programs. Administrative personnel from the City Attorney's Safe Neighborhoods Office will begin a bi-lingual campaign to highlight jail and fines associated with illegal dumping, the harmful environmental impact of illegal dumping on local water supplies as well as the underutilized \$1,000 reward program for information leading to the conviction of individuals involved with illegal dumping. Along with the work and services to be funded by this grant, the City Attorney's Office has offered "In Kind Donation" services where a community organizer will play a key role as a liaison to the communities targeted in this program; and it will also donate the staff time of several prosecutors (Neighborhood Prosecutors) to prosecute illegal dumping cases. This grant funded program will serve as a pilot for development of an effective incentive and enforcement strategy citywide.

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