REQUEST FOR APPROVAL

To:	Mark de Bie, Deputy Director Waste Permitting, Compliance and Mitigation Division
From:	Steve Santa Croce Senior Waste Management Engineer Solid Waste and Tire Cleanup Programs Section
Reviewed By:	Jennifer Holman, Legal Office
Request Date:	August 26, 2026
Decision Subject:	**Approval of Remediation of the 146th Street East Right-of-Way Unpermitted Disposal Site Under the Solid Waste Disposal and Co-Disposal Site Cleanup Program (Solid Waste Disposal Trust Fund and Tire Support Fund, FY 2026-27,**
Action By:	August 31, 2026

Summary of Request

The Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) staff requests approval to implement a CalRecycle-managed remediation project along the unmaintained 146th Street East (St. E.) right-of-way (ROW), pursuant to the requirements of the Solid Waste Disposal and Co-Disposal Site Cleanup Program (Program). The estimated project cost is $40,000, which includes a 50% contingency.

Background Information, Analysis, and Findings

Program Eligibility:

The Program addresses the cleanup of solid waste disposal and co-disposal sites where the responsible party either cannot be identified or is unable or unwilling to pay for a timely remediation and where cleanup is needed to protect public health and safety or the environment. Cleanup projects are implemented through CalRecycle-managed contracts, grants, and loans. Program staff use adopted regulations and policies in determining site eligibility. Unless otherwise noted, actions proposed for this project are specifically eligible pursuant to the regulations.

Site Location and Description:

Los Angeles (LA) County is experiencing a significant increase in large scale illegal dumping on the public ROWs in the Antelope Valley. The 146th St. E. ROW unpermitted solid waste disposal site is comprised of waste tires and scattered solid waste debris that were illegally disposed on the unmaintained and unpaved ROW of 146th St. E., about 850 feet south of East Avenue T (E. Ave. T), in an unincorporated area near the community of Llano, California. The ROW is a dirt road on public property adjacent to unoccupied private property and is used by the greater public for access to the area and by the private property owners for access to their properties. Because the road is a public ROW, property owners are prohibited from restricting access to the area. A limited amount of the illegally dumped tires and trash extend beyond the ROW limits onto a privately-owned property.

Improved roads in the Antelope Valley are maintained by Maintenance Districts 2 and 5 of the LA County Department of Public Works (LACDPW) Road Maintenance Division. Unimproved ROWs, such as 146th St. E., remain unmaintained until paved improvements are made and the County Board of Supervisors formally accepts it as part of the official County road system.

Project Scope

Proposed Remediation:

CalRecycle will use a Program contractor to remove the illegally dumped tires and solid waste on the site to be transported and disposed of at a permitted facility. Cleaning up the material is a critical first step to deter future dumping. The LACDPW and local law enforcement realize that it is essential to clean up and monitor the illegal disposal sites as soon as possible.

The LA County Sheriff's Department, assisted by other field units within the County, is currently patrolling the area and will conduct more focused patrols once the project is completed. In addition, the LACDPW will also place illegal dumping signage and surveillance cameras at the nearest paved roads leading to this section of 146th Street East as part of the project.

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

Program staff have reviewed the proposed project and determined that this project is categorically exempt per the Class 1 and the Class 8 exemptions. The Class 1 categorical exemption [(Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations (14 CCR section 15301)] applies to the repair maintenance, or minor alteration of existing public structures and facilities involving negligible or no expansion of use for existing

highways and street sidewalks. The Class 8 exemption (14 CCR section 15308) applies to actions taken by regulatory agencies to maintain, restore, or protect the environment. A Notice of Exemption will be filed by Program staff after project approval.

Fiscal Impacts

Cost Estimate:

The CalRecycle-managed project will be performed on a time-and-materials basis utilizing the Program's Southern California remediation contractor (contract number DRR25034). The Program's contractor has conducted a site visit with CalRecycle and has developed a work plan for the remediation with an estimated cost of $40,000 which includes a 50% contingency.

Funding:

Funds from both the Tire Support Trust Fund (TSTF) and from the Solid Waste Disposal Trust Fund (SWTF) will be used for the project through the Program's existing environmental remediation contract DRR25034 and will be split between the funds based on actual costs. Staff estimate the funding split to be 75% from the TSTF and 25% from the SWTF. The contract currently has over $4,800,000 remaining and is adequately funded to complete this project, comprised of $4,500,000 from the SWTF and $300,000 from the TSTF.

Cost Recovery:

The LACDPW staff have requested a CalRecycle managed cleanup on the grounds that the public entity does not have sufficient financial and staff resources to implement this project in a timely manner.

Public Resources Code section 48023 directs CalRecycle to seek reimbursement for monies expended under the Program to the extent feasible from responsible parties. The illegal dumping occurred on an undeveloped and unimproved public ROW located adjacent to undeveloped private property. The ROW areas are unusable to the property owners for any purpose other than to access their own property, and are open for legal access and use for the greater public. The private property owners did not cause the disposal of waste at their sites, rather that was done by unknown third parties, especially prior to the increased enforcement and patrolling efforts by LA County Sheriff's Department. Pursuant to Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations (14 CCR) Section 18929(a), in considering the extent of cost recovery CalRecycle may take into consideration factors present here, such as publicly owned sites maintained in public benefit and use, where the owner did not cause the waste to be disposed on the

sites, and will not gain a private benefit due to the condition of the property. In this instance, the private property owners did not cause the waste to be disposed of and did not and will not gain a private benefit to a property they cannot utilize other than for access. Additionally, the ROW is open to the greater public for their benefit and use, and cannot be hindered by access prevention measures like fencing. For these reasons a waiver of cost recovery is recommended for this project for both the County and the adjacent private property owners.

Once this unpermitted disposal site is remediated, LA County patrols will be performed more frequently to ensure compliance, discourage illegal activity, and identify and clean up illegal disposal sites before they become long-term liabilities. In addition, to increase deterrence, real time monitoring cameras will be used by LA County along with nearby high visibility road signage that will specify the phone number to the illegal dumping information hotline, potential fines, and consequences for violators.

Support

The LA County Local Enforcement Agency is aware of the project and has expressed their support. Program staff has not received any other written support at the time this document was submitted for approval.

Opposition

Program staff have not received any written opposition at the time this document was submitted for approval.

Recommendation

Program Staff recommends approval of the remediation of the 146th St. E. ROW unpermitted solid waste disposal site and a waiver of cost recovery for the County and private property owners along the project limits.

Deputy Director Action

On the basis of the information and analysis in this Request for Approval and the recommendation set out herein, I hereby approve this project under the Solid Waste Disposal and Co-disposal Site Cleanup Program and waive cost recovery for the

County and the private property owners along the ROW project limits.

Mark de Bie Digitally signed by Mark de Bie
Date: 2026.08.26 16:35:24 -07'00'

Dated: _____

Mark de Bie, Deputy Director
Waste Permitting, Compliance and Mitigation Division