

MEMORANDUM

Public Works Department



DATE: February 25, 2022
TO: Mayor and Councilmembers
THROUGH: Steve McHarris, City Manager
FROM: Tony Ndah, Public Works Director

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Steve McHarris".

SUBJECT: Illegal Dumping Abatement Report (July 2021 to January 2022)

This Information Memorandum, in response to a request from Councilmember Phan at the October 5, 2021 City Council meeting, provides the City Council with a report on illegal dumping response activities between July 2021 through January 2022.

Background

Responsibility for clean-up of illegal dumping in the City varies depending on the location of trash, debris, and waste. The Public Works Department is responsible for providing debris and illegal dumping removal services from the City right-of-way with the performance goal of abating illegal dumping within 14 days 80% of the time. Illegal dumping abatement requests received by the City which are located outside of the City's right-of-way are either directed to the responsible jurisdiction for resolution (e.g.: CalTrans, Santa Clara Valley Water District) or forwarded to Code Enforcement for abatement on private property. Once abatement requests are received, the response time and results of the responsible agency or property owner can vary based on a variety of factors such as location, site access, type of waste involved, the cost of abatement, and legal property protections related to unhoused encampments. For private property abatements, staff can cite the property owner; however, response times may vary depending on cooperation of the property owner.

Reporting illegal dumping has been streamlined through the MyMilpitas app since the app was relaunched in November 2019. The Streets Division within Public Works, which maintains the City's traffic signal system, street signs, streetlights, paved roadways, pavement markings, sidewalk repair, and graffiti removal, is also responsible for providing debris/ illegal dumping services for the City right of way. Priority responses are given to areas where debris/illegal dumping pose a health or safety risk, such as blocking intersections or sidewalks.

Activity Summary (July 2021 to January 2022)

As shown in the table below, the Public Works Department received a total of 325 illegal dumping abatement requests between July 1, 2021 through January 31, 2022. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic that has impacted staffing levels, staff were able to close out 310 work request or 95% of the requests received during this period. On average, debris/ illegal dumping requests received by Public Works were closed within 7.1 business days and 88% of the work request received were completed within the 14 business day service performance goal. This activity summary does not include abatement requests outside of the City's right-of-way. Typically, due to coordination with other agencies or with private property owners, the response period to abate illegal dumpings take longer.

Table 1: Illegal Dumping Abatement Activity Summary (July 2021 through January 2022)

Abatement Requests Received	Requests Completed	Average # of Days Requests Completed	% of Requests Completed within 14 days
325	310	7.1	88%