



Memorandum

TO: BUILDING STRONG
NEIGHBORHOODS COMMITTEE

FROM: Sara L. Hensley

**SUBJECT: UPDATE OF THE ANTI-GRAFFITI AND LITTER PROGRAM AND
YEAR TO DATE RESULTS** **DATE:** 05-05-04

APPROVED:

DATE:

This report provides an update of the Anti-Graffiti and Litter Program (AGLP) enforcement efforts and year to date results.

GRAFFITI REPORT

Eradication

- Hotline
Response time for Hotline calls from July 1, 2003 through March 31, 2004 was 99% within 48 hours. The target for this period was 95%. Response time for gang graffiti was 97% within 24 hours. The target for this period was 100%.

Community Involvement

- As of March 31, 2004, there were a total of 2,467 Adopt-A-Block Volunteers. To date 124,234 sq. ft. of graffiti have been painted by volunteers.

Enforcement Strategies

- The Graffiti Enforcement Team arrested a total of nineteen (19) people from November 2003 - January 2004. Fourteen (14) of these arrests were for graffiti related crimes, three (3) for possession of weapons, one (1) for drug sales and we issued one citation for littering. Eight (8) were adults and eleven (11) were minors. Four (4) were repeat offenders.
- The team arrested the vandal "BOB81" who was causing significant damage in San Jose and Campbell and the vandal "TET" who was vandalizing tall buildings downtown.
- Also arrested was the vandal "Bucket" who caused thousands of dollars of damage and was vandalizing overpasses on the freeway.
- The team dismantled the tagging crew ARS "Alum Rock Skaters" who were vandalizing the Alum Rock/Capitol area by arresting all of its members.

Additional Program Information

- The Annual City-wide Graffiti Survey was held in January and the total number of tags was 2,913. This is a 96% drop from 1999. The Chart below shows the annual results from 1999 to 2004.

1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
71,541	35,774	10,498	5,612	3,827	2,913

PICK-UP SAN JOSE REPORT

Litter Eradication

- The Weekend Juvenile Offender Program has picked up 3,409 bags of litter from July 1, 2003 through March 31, 2004.
- The Great American Pick Up took place on April 24, 2004. Norcal and Green Team paid for the pizza lunches. Six hundred seven volunteers picked up a total of 725 bags of litter.
- Seven illegal dumpsites have been identified for physical improvements through a CDBG Grant.

Community Involvement

- **Pick Up San Jose Volunteers (PUSJ):**
From July 1, 2003 through March 31, 2004:
 - 3,868,871- Total bags of litter picked up by all participating PUSJ organizations and volunteers.
 - 1,639 – Total number of Pick Up San Jose volunteers.
 - 1,368 – Total bags of litter removed by Pick Up San Jose volunteers.
 - 665 – Total bags of litter picked up at special group clean-up events.
 - 112 – Total number of Hotspot volunteers.
 - 59 – Hotspots have been adopted out of 150. Individuals from the Weekend Juvenile Offender Program are utilized to target the remaining 91 Hotspots that have not been adopted. Council Offices have invited staff to meetings to discuss recruitment of volunteers. These meetings are on going and have resulted in additional Hotspots being adopted.
- The Anti-Graffiti and Litter Program received an award from the California Parks and Recreation Society for the All Star Stan Litter Ladder anti-litter campaign.

Enforcement Strategies

- An “Avoid the 13” type of campaign to address the problem of debris escaping from unsecured truck beds was held on April 24 and 25, 2004. The District Attorney’s Office is working to determine the number of citations issued during that weekend.
- Local law enforcement agencies have issued 227 citations for littering from July 1, 2003 to March 31, 2004. These citations were for littering and trucks whose loads were improperly covered.
- City staff are reviewing local ordinances to determine if fines need to be increased for violations of litter laws. One ordinance pertaining to the tarping of truckloads has been identified to increase the fines from \$25.00 to \$100.00.

If all the bags of litter picked up by all participating PUSJ organizations and volunteers from July 1, 2002 through March 31, 2004 (5,803,461 bags) were lined up next to each other, the line would stretch for 3,297 miles spanning a distance from San Jose to just past Providence, Rhode Island and back westward to Chillicothe, Ohio. The large increase in volume is a result of delayed reporting from the Department of Transportation and Cal Trans for November 2003 - March 2004, due to a change in personnel.

COORDINATION

This memorandum has been coordinated with the Departments of Police, General Services, the City Manager's Office and the City Attorney’s Office.

SARA L. HENSLEY
Director of Parks, Recreation
and Neighborhood Services