

Date of Hearing: June 29, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

Isaac G. Bryan, Chair

SB 1230 (Valladares) – As Amended June 25, 2026

SENATE VOTE: 36-2

SUBJECT: Solid waste: illegal dumping: penalties: resources

SUMMARY: Increases penalties for illegal dumping and declares the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) as the lead state agency to act as a resource for cities and counties to address illegal dumping.

EXISTING LAW:

- 1) Establishes the California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989, administered by CalRecycle, to regulate solid waste disposal, management, and recycling. (Public Resources Code (PRC) 40050 *et seq.*)
- 2) Authorizes local governmental agencies to determine aspects of solid waste handling that are of local concern, including fees and the extent of providing solid waste handling services. (PRC 40058-4006)
- 3) Prohibits dumping waste on public or private highways or roads, including any portion of the right-of-way thereof, or on private property without consent, or in a public park or other public property (Penal Code (PC) 374.3)
- 4) Specifies that every day that waste placed, deposited, or dumped in violation of PC 374.3 remains a separate violation.
- 5) Establishes penalties for the illegal dumping of commercial and non-commercial quantities of waste:
 - a) A person convicted of dumping non-commercial quantities of waste may be required to pay the cost of cleanup or cleanup themselves for 12 hours, in addition to a mandatory fine of the following amounts:
 - i) First offense: \$250-\$1,000;
 - ii) Second offense: \$500-\$1,500; and
 - iii) Third offense: \$750-\$3,000.
 - iv) Doubles the fines for used tires (PC 374.3)
 - b) A person convicted of illegally dumping commercial quantities is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment in a county jail for not more than six months and by a fine. Provides that the fine is mandatory at the following amounts:
 - i) First offense: \$1,000-\$3,000;
 - ii) Second offense: \$3,000-\$6,000; and
 - iii) Third offense: \$6,000-\$10,000. (PC 374.3)

- c) Provides that if a person convicted for a violation of illegal dumping in commercial quantities is the owner or operator of the business involved in the illegal dumping, and that business employs more than 10 full-time employees, the mandatory fine is as follows:
 - i) First offense: \$1,000-\$5,000;
 - ii) Second offense: \$3,000-\$10,000; and
 - iii) Third offense: \$6,000-\$20,000. (PC 374.3)
- 6) States that the court shall require, in addition to the fine imposed upon a conviction, that a person convicted of illegal dumping in commercial quantities to remove, or pay the cost of removing, any waste matter that the convicted person dumped or caused to be dumped upon the public or private property. (PC 374.3)
- 7) Requires the court, if a person convicted of illegal dumping in commercial quantities holds a license or permit to conduct business that is substantially related to the illegal dumping for which the person was convicted, to notify the applicable licensing or permitting entity subject to the jurisdiction of the Department of Consumer Affairs of the conviction, as specified. (PC 374.3)
- 8) Requires the licensing or permitting entity to record and post the offense on the public profile of the license or permit holder on the internet website of the entity. (PC 374.3)
- 9) Defines “commercial quantities” as an amount of waste matter generated in the course of a trade, business, profession, or occupation, or an amount equal to or in excess of one cubic yard. Specifies that it does not apply to the dumping of household waste at a person’s own residence. (PC 374.3)
- 10) Requires the court, when setting fines pursuant to the above violations, to consider the defendant’s ability to pay, including consideration of several specified factors. (PC 374.3)

THIS BILL:

- 1) Repeals the provision that specifies that every day that waste is placed, deposited, or dumped is a separate violation.
- 2) Increases the fine for the dumping of commercial quantities of waste to not less than \$4,500 nor more than \$8,000 for the second conviction and to not less than \$8,000 nor more than \$10,000 for the third and any subsequent convictions.
- 3) Increases the fine for the dumping of commercial quantities of waste by a business that employs more than 10 employees to not less than \$6,000 nor more than \$10,000 for the second conviction and to not less than \$15,000 nor more than \$25,000 for the third and any subsequent convictions.
- 4) Declares CalRecycle as the lead state agency to act as a resource for cities and counties to address illegal dumping. Requires CalRecycle to create a website with resources to help cities and counties combat, prevent, and clean up illegal dumping.

FISCAL EFFECT: According to the Senate Appropriations Committee, annual costs of \$155,000 beginning 2027-28 to implement the provisions of this bill (Solid Waste Disposal Site Cleanup Trust Fund).

COMMENTS:

- 1) **Illegal dumping.** Illegal dumping is the act of disposing of solid waste at a location that is not a permitted solid waste facility. In California, illegal dumping is often done for economic gain, either by individuals who opt to dump their own waste illegally to avoid paying disposal fees or by illegitimate “junk hauling” entities that collect waste for disposal for a fee, but don’t haul the material to a permitted facility. Illegal dumping poses significant social, environmental, and economic impacts statewide. According to CalRecycle, local governments spend tens of millions of dollars annually to remove illegally dumped materials, and private property owners incur significant costs to clean up illegal dumping on private lands. Once a site has illegally dumped material, the site tends to grow in size and becomes more difficult to abate.

Most local governments treat illegal dumping as a nuisance/litter issue rather than a violation of solid waste laws. The methods used by local governments to manage illegal dumping vary widely. Local and state law enforcement entities will cite people caught illegally dumping, but those agencies are not responsible for cleanup programs. No single state or local agency is given responsibility for a comprehensive program to combat littering and illegal dumping. CalRecycle is responsible for investigation, cleanup, and enforcement of sites that qualify as illegal solid waste disposal sites and shares this responsibility with local enforcement agencies.

In recent years, many urban areas have experienced an increase in illegal dumping activity. For example, in Oakland, the amount of illegally dumped trash collected by the city has increased sixfold since 2015. Los Angeles County’s illegal dumping cleanup costs grew from \$2.3 million in fiscal year (FY) 2019-2020 to \$6.8 million in FY 2023-2024, a nearly threefold increase. Los Angeles County also projected a 15% increase in reported illegal dumping cases from 2023 to 2024, to over 15,800 cases. According to data compiled by Crosstown LA, there were 22,046 reports of trash, furniture, and other debris illegally disposed in the months of January and February of 2025, compared to 16,212 the previous year over the same two-month period.

Rural areas also grapple with illegal dumping. There are reports of pervasive dumping in the Antelope Valley. Residents say that more than 100 dump sites are scattered throughout the valley—from Lake Los Angeles to the Antelope Valley California Poppy Reserve and north to the Mojave. One site is alleged to contain more than 182,000 tons of debris left over from the processing of construction and demolition material.

Illegal dump sites undermine the quality of life of nearby residents and are environmental and public health hazards. From 2020 to 2024, self-combustible wood chips and organic materials used to camouflage garbage as mulch sparked 42 fires, costing taxpayers more than \$1.6 million to extinguish and exposing downwind Antelope Valley residents to toxic smoke, contaminated dust, and airborne particulates. The Bravo fire ignited at an illegal 80-acre dump site in 2024, and cost the LA County Fire Department more than \$288,000, took four days to extinguish, and exposed residents to toxic smoke.

- 2) **Illegal dumping technical advisory committee (IDTAC).** CalRecycle established a state and local technical advisory committee in 2006 to assess the extent of illegal dumping and to develop recommendations to improve the effectiveness of local and regional responses to the problem. Originally established as a task force, the group developed recommendations that were presented to the former California Integrated Waste Management Board in 2007. IDTAC is comprised of local government entities, state government entities, nonprofit organizations, and others. The Illegal Dumping Toolbox was created by the IDTAC to provide resources to local governments to help combat illegal dumping.

In 2020, IDTAC completed a Work Plan to develop new and expanded resources and objectives to address illegal dumping. The Work Plan includes priorities and objectives in three areas: enforcement, outreach, and standards. In addition to the Work Plan, the IDTAC has focused on, and provides information to local governments and the public about, the topics of homeless encampments and abandoned vehicles.

- 3) **Solid Waste Disposal and Codisposal Site Cleanup Program.** The cleanup program allocates \$1 million annually for public entities to fund illegally disposed waste removal and disposal, security measures (i.e., fences, signs, etc.), and health and safety measures associated with the cleanup. Grant awards are limited to \$50,000 per applicant per year.
- 4) **Farm and Ranch Solid Waste Cleanup and Abatement Program.** CalRecycle administers a grant program to eligible cities, counties, resource conservation districts, and Native American tribes for the cleanup and abatement of illegal dumping on farm and ranch properties. Funding for this program is limited to \$1 million each fiscal year. Grants are limited to \$50,000 per site and \$200,000 per applicant per year.

5) **Author's statement:**

Illegal dumping is a persistent and costly problem affecting communities throughout California, particularly in rural, desert, and lower-income areas where enforcement resources are most limited. In Senate District 23, residents of the Victor Valley and surrounding high-desert communities have documented hundreds of unauthorized dump sites containing construction debris, household waste, plastics, and other discarded materials. These sites degrade natural habitats, create fire risks, and impose significant financial burdens on local governments that are often already stretched thin.

SB 1230 takes two targeted, practical steps to address this ongoing problem. First, it increases fines for repeat illegal dumping offenders under California Penal Code Section 374.3. The non-commercial repeat offender fine ranges and commercial minimum thresholds have not been substantively updated since AB 1802 in 2004. Although AB 2374 in 2022 raised maximum fines for larger businesses, it did not address the fine minimums or non-commercial infraction ranges, leaving those penalty floors unchanged for over two decades and well below the true cost of cleanup and environmental remediation. By raising the penalty thresholds, this bill creates a stronger deterrent for chronic violators, including those dumping in commercial quantities.

Second, SB 1230 designates the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) as the lead state agency for supporting cities and counties in combating illegal dumping. It requires CalRecycle to create a publicly accessible website offering enforcement tools, best practices, educational outreach materials, and information on available grant funding. Cities and counties, particularly smaller and rural jurisdictions, currently lack a centralized state resource for this guidance.

- 6) **This bill.** This bill is intended to combat illegal dumping by increasing the penalties for repeated violations. However, the amended version of this bill weakens existing law by removing the provisions that declares that each day that illegally dumped waste remains in place is a separate violation. Further, this bill is intended to provide assistance and guidance to local governments by requiring CalRecycle to provide information and maintain a website to support local efforts to stop illegal dumping.
- 7) **Double referral.** This bill was heard by the Assembly Public Safety Committee on June 23, and passed 9-0.
- 8) **Related legislation.** AB 2310 (Carillo) increases penalties for a fourth or subsequent illegal dumping offense from an infraction to a misdemeanor, with a fine of up to \$5,000, and increases penalties for commercial quantities of illegal dumping with fines of up to \$50,000. This bill has been referred to the Senate Appropriations Committee.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

Alameda County
California Association of Highway Patrolmen
California Chapters of the Solid Waste Association of North America's Legislative Task Force
City of Hesperia
Rural County Representatives of California

Opposition

ACLU California Action

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