

# Trash in Stormwater: A Failure of the Trash Collection System

MARCH 23, 2017



PRESENTATION TO

League of California Cities - Public Works Officers Institute 2017

PRESENTED BY

Garth Schultz, R3 Consulting Group Inc.

## We need to get trash out of stormwater

- ▶ Regulated via NPDES permits
- ▶ Good environmental management
- ▶ Right thing to do



SLIDE 1

## Trash doesn't start off in stormwater - it travels there

- ▶ Trash originates with **people and properties (waste generators)** and *escapes* waste collection systems
- ▶ Litter
- ▶ Uncovered loads
- ▶ Overfull/poorly managed public containers
- ▶ Homeless encampments
- ▶ Wind/water mobilization

SLIDE 2

## How do we get trash out of stormwater?

- ▶ Litter clean-ups
- ▶ Street sweeping
- ▶ More public containers
- ▶ Cover loads
- ▶ Education and outreach
- ▶ Trash capture



SLIDE 3

## Trash removal strategies are similar to trash collection

- ▶ **Trash capture** is essentially a trash collection service, same purpose and end result (landfill/recycling)
- ▶ **Trash collection** largely funded by trash rates
- ▶ Often includes public containers, litter, street sweeping, outreach and education
- ▶ **Trash collection vs. capture:** location of collection “container” above vs. below ground

SLIDE 4

## Funding trash capture via solid waste funds

- ▶ What solid waste rates are/aren't
- ▶ Prop 218 exception (Crowley)
- ▶ Solana Beach
- ▶ Carlsbad
- ▶ Signal Hill



SLIDE 5

## Looking at your trash capture expenses as trash collection

- ▶ Track trash collection, removal and disposal expenses *separately* from other maintenance functions
- ▶ Defensible methodology for allocating staffing expenses
- ▶ Use contracts as a means of clear delineation
- ▶ Maintenance costs vs. capital expenses

SLIDE 6

## Collecting revenue for trash capture expenses

- ▶ Establish a new solid waste fee
- ▶ Franchise fees / interfund transfers
- ▶ Negotiated service enhancement / contract extension
- ▶ New service via competitive procurement process  
[Street sweeping, litter clean-up, public containers currently included]

SLIDE 7

## Cover your bases - perform a Nexus Study

- ▶ Provide a *basis* for use of solid waste funds
- ▶ Tie revenues to expenses
- ▶ Consider variability trash sources
- ▶ With solid waste rates, this tracks to waste generation
- ▶ Could also track to property use and size

SLIDE 8

## In summary...

- ▶ Collection, removal, disposal of trash is a **function** of solid waste system
- ▶ Funded by **solid waste rates**, which:
  - ▶ Cover costs of litter removal, public containers, street sweeping, outreach and education
  - ▶ Are a funding option for stormwater trash capture.
- ▶ Trash in storm water is a **failure** of the solid waste system



SLIDE 9

## Q&A

- ▶ Garth Schultz  
R3 Consulting Group, Inc.  
Berkeley, CA  
(510) 292-0853  
[gschultz@r3cgi.com](mailto:gschultz@r3cgi.com)  
[www.r3cgi.com](http://www.r3cgi.com)