



Oakland City Administrator's Office - Memo
Actions taken to help remedy illegal dumping
To strengthen eradication, education, and enforcement
August 2026

Oakland City leadership has taken action to help remedy illegal dumping, including identifying this issue as a clear citywide priority, enhancing cross-departmental collaboration, and strengthening work with County, regional, state, and community leaders to address it. Oakland leadership has sought and obtained major new funding, including grants from CalRecycle, the EPA, Caltrans, the Crankstart foundation, and Council budget actions, to enhance this work. City staff have prepared Strategies to remedy illegal dumping and worked in collaboration to identify and adopt solutions. In fall of 2025 City staff and officials participated in an Illegal Dumping Convention (IDCON), events which share best practices for remedying illegal dumping from throughout the Bay Area and Statewide. On January 12, 2026, City leadership joined in a large community gathering, hosted by Faith in Action East Bay (FIAEB) and multiple faith and community groups, to come together around solutions to illegal dumping, and support enacting legislation to crack down on dumpers. Subsequently, both the Oakland City Auditor and the Alameda County Civil Grand Jury (GJ) released reports on illegal dumping, which supported and encouraged many of the same strategies, solutions and proposals. Below, this chart includes identified topics for remedying illegal dumping and provides updates about actions the City has taken.

Num	Topic	Actions Taken
1	Improve public access to free bulky waste disposal, and expand public awareness of those services, especially for low-income communities, in multiple languages, renters/multi-family buildings, and hard-hit areas.	• Placed information about free bulky waste removal on IKE Kiosks and electronic billboards. • Provided handouts/flyers in multiple languages at community events and organizations • Contracted with R3, a local Oakland consultant, to conduct targeted outreach to increase use of bulky services. • Reinstated Bulky Block Parties with free bulky waste disposal for Oakland residents and outreach • Posted information on social media and to the press to encourage use of free bulky services • Partnered with Keep Oakland Beautiful (KOB) on murals which include graffiti removal, beautification, and information about using free bulky services. Approved funding for grant to Keep Oakland Beautiful, to expand this work and provide education around bulky services. • Funding for this work is provided by a Council budget appropriation adopted May 19, 2026 through the Illegal Dumping Expenditures Action Plan. Outreach work expanded with Crankstart grant.

2	Expand pro-active identification of abandoned trash, especially in hard-hit areas, remedy inequities and issues with complaint-based system, ensure identification of illegally dumped debris is more rapid, accurate, equitable and reliable	Obtained approval, funding, and authorization for new technology to identify and track abandoned trash, and support pro-active deployment to remedy illegal dumping. (Aerbits). Use policy approved by the Oakland Privacy Advisory Commission on March 5, 2026. Approved and funded by City Council on April 14, 2026. Additional funding obtained from Crankstart grant, announced June 11, 2026.
3	Increase penalties for illegal dumping, make them easier to issue, hold dumpers accountable	Oakland's new Illegal dumping enforcement ordinance increases penalties, holds vehicle owners accountable, makes it an offense to transport waste in a vehicle without a license plate. Adoption of the new fines were finalized through an ordinance amending Chapter 8.11 of the Oakland Municipal Code, with final adoption by the Council on May 5, 2026. Now Oakland has some of the highest penalties, and Oakland was praised at the Statewide Illegal Dumping Convention (IDCON) for being the first city to take such action, as inspired by the recommended Alameda County Model Ordinance.
4	Improving contract waste franchise services, process for future waste contract to improve affordability, transparency, and changes to remedy illegal dumping and improve public access to services provided by contracted waste companies.	The City has ongoing negotiations on with the existing hauler, including on these topics. Oakland has now also launched the new process to bid for an improved future waste contact. On June 5, 2026 Oakland released an RFP , to develop a future waste agreement to reduce rates, promote transparency and reduce illegal dumping.
5	To provide reduced-cost waste service to low-income residents, hard-hit areas. Provide larger garbage carts at no extra cost.	The City has successfully obtained new funding for a program to upsize carts at no cost through the Crankstart Foundation grant, announced June 11, 2026 . The funding will facilitate providing a greater volume of service for a reduced cost in several high need areas.
6	Improve identification and regulation of junk haulers, to make it easier for the public to identify licensed haulers, and avoid improper ones who may commit illegal dumping	Oakland has created and shared a public list of Oakland licensed haulers at: https://www.oaklandca.gov/MyHousehold/Waste-and-Recycling/IllegalDumping-Services-for-Oakland/LicensedJunk-Haulers In addition, staff is working with regional and statewide leaders to advance a broader hauler registry and enforcement system, since many illicit haulers cross city lines and dump across jurisdictions.
7	Increase usage of dumpsters which are provided to each official's office through the waste contract	Staff has worked together with the Council and Mayor's offices to identify unused dumpsters, and arrange for enhanced use, including to support the recently restored Bulky Block Parties, and for community cleanups.

8	Strengthen enforcement of the requirement for commercial properties to have proper waste services by instituting the power of the City to ensure service and collect through special assessments on commercial properties, similarly to how it is handled on residential properties.	OPW and Finance have enhanced collaboration to strengthen enforcement and collections. Staff have prepared an ordinance to modify Chapter 8.28 of the O.M.C. which will resolve the problem of commercial property non-compliance by creating a special assessment process to collect unpaid trash service bills and allow the City to sign up properties for required service. The process will mirror the existing process for residential properties. This item is planned to be brought to Council in fall 2026.
9	Provide hand-held devices for Environmental Enforcement Officers to make it easier to enter, track, issue, and collect citations (penalties) for illegal dumping	In order to improve collections of unpaid illegal dumping citations, a new system is being deployed, providing for tablets, and software, to allow for dumping citations to be entered directly into an effective tracking system, which will also make them easier to collect. Funding for the devices (tablets) and software was included in the Illegal Dumping Expenditures Action Plan, passed by Council on May 19, 2026. The tablets have been ordered and begun to arrive. The devices are being programed and deployed, and training and demonstrations with staff. Coordination between OPW and Finance has also been enhanced to strengthen this work, and funding for enforcement personnel has been increased.
10	Increase cross-departmental and cross-jurisdictional collaboration, including working together between different City departments, and between City of Oakland and Alameda County and State officials and community groups, to strengthen enforcement of illegal dumping violations	City staff are engaged with this coordination work, participating in Countywide, Regional, and Statewide Illegal Dumping coordination, strategy, and convenings. This work includes identifying funding, policies, and resources with State, County, and other partners, including to advance countywide enforcement strategies. The City Administrator holds ongoing meetings with OPW, City Attorney's Office, and OPD. Coordination between OPW and Finance to strengthen collections has been enhanced. Work at the county, regional, and state level has continued to advance advocacy for hauler registration and enforcement, and advance State legislation to help hold dumpers accountable (SB 1218). Oakland adopted a strong Illegal Dumping Enforcement Ordinance, in coordination with the Alameda County Model Ordinance, and Bay Area Regional policy recommendations.
11	Enhancing strategies, goals, training, and policies for the Environmental Enforcement Unit and training on enforceable offenses related to illegal dumping, including	OPW is actively in the process of enhancing EEU strategies and procedures, including creating a workflow analysis and Cityworks process for inputting and tracking enforcement actions, to support better alignment of goals and

	major violations such as dumping hazardous material and illegally hauling waste	policies. This system will be better able to identify actions and outcomes, and improve enforcement and collection of penalties. This work is being strengthened with the technology (e.g. tablets) and applications as approved in the Illegal Dumping Expenditure Action Plan . OPW is finalizing a workplan and SOPs for the Environmental Enforcement Unit and data sharing. Staff receive annual training on hazardous materials identification. OPW is working to identify additional advanced training opportunities.
12	Seek changes in State law to enhance the ability to hold illegal dumping violators accountable and collect unpaid penalties	Oakland worked with State Senator Jesse Arreguin to introduce State legislation to hold dumping violators accountable with SB 1218 which has passed initial committee votes and is continuing through the State legislative process.
13	Improve the data entry and tracking for illegal dumping citations, including how they are transmitted from Public Works to the Finance Department's Collections Unit and with complete documentation.	Public Works is in the process of developing a new illegal dumping citation case management module for Cityworks, the city's asset management software platform, to better track citation and ensure a streamlined process with payments and collections. Enhanced coordination between Finance and OPW is also strengthening solutions. To support this work, staff is being provided tablets and software for entering citations to easily upload data/images to be accessed by the Finance Department for collections. This is included as part of the Illegal Dumping Expenditures Action Plan , adopted May 19, 2026.
14	Protocols for the Environmental Enforcement Unit for referral to the General Crimes Unit for criminal illegal dumping investigations, including criteria on the level of evidence required for misdemeanor citations.	The OPW EEU in collaboration with OPD has created protocols for referring illegal dumping cases to the General Crimes Unit for criminal investigation which include level of evidence required for a misdemeanor or felony. The protocols are being memorialized in an SOP to be completed this fall. The large scale Crankstart Foundation grant includes funding to expand the work with OPD and OPW on illegal dumping enforcement.
15	Cross-departmental meetings and collaboration on illegal dumping remediation and enforcement, including the City Administrator's Office, the Public Works Department, Police Department, Code Enforcement Services, and City Attorney's Office, etc.	Continuing since January, the City Administrator's Office has regularly convened Police, Public Works, and the City Attorney's office on these referral systems. Code enforcement is included as needed. In addition, new funding from the Crankstart grant, announced June 11, 2026 will strengthen this collaboration, including with OPW and OPD, to enhance enforcement.
16	Improve the effectiveness of the camera system for identifying illegal dumping violators and holding them	Public Works continually reviews the effectiveness of its illegal dumping fieldwork and cameras, and has been acquiring improved systems to better identify violators, and will include a third-party evaluation in the coming

	accountable. Make effective use of staff time, technology, and technical support to efficiently target needed images.	year. EEO time reviewing camera video have been enhanced through additional review being provided by the camera vendor. OPW is also working on options for AI software that could expedite camera footage review. Recently approved funding for additional new cameras, funded in the Illegal Dumping Expenditures Action Plan, and the Crankstart grant, will also strengthen the effectiveness of the camera network for catching violators. The adopted Enforcement Ordinance, making it an offense to transport waste in a vehicle without a license plate, can help make the camera systems more effective, as will solar power, effective deployment, and personnel added in the June 12, 2026 budget vote.
17	Adopt a comprehensive plan to remedy illegal dumping, which includes education, eradication, and enforcement	Oakland City Council on May 19, 2026, adopted the Illegal Dumping Expenditures Action Plan , which funds and authorizes multiple actions, technology, equipment, and staff time to remedy illegal dumping, with education, eradication, and enforcement.
18	Need for more reliable trucks and other equipment for OPW KOCB crews, to more rapidly and effectively remove abandoned trash.	The City has taken action to obtain more working vehicles for cleanup crews. Funding for rental and purchase of needed vehicles, including for Lightning Loader trucks, which can lift and clear large debris rapidly, was approved by the City Council on May 19th, 2026. In addition, the City applied for and received an EPA grant to purchase vehicles for OPW, and City Council approved an additional \$900,000 to purchase new cleanup vehicles on June 12, 2026. Initial lightning loader truck arrival took place on August 8, 2026.
19	Identify funding and other resources, including grants, to be able to substantially expand meaningful action to remedy illegal dumping	Oakland has had great success this year in bringing new resources and support for our work to remedy illegal dumping, including: A major \$9.2 Million grant from the Crankstart foundation , and support from the EPA, CalRecycle and Caltrans.
20	Restore community-wide Bulky Block Parties – free bulky waste dropoff events for Oakland residents.	Funding to restore the free Bulky Block Parties was included in the Illegal Dumping Expenditures Action Plan , approved by the City Council May 19, 2026. The first restored Bulky Block Party event took place on July 25, 2026 – and was a great success. https://www.oaklandca.gov/News-Releases/Oakland-revives-Bulky-Block-Party-events-for-free-large-item-disposal
21	Unfreeze Environmental Enforcement Officer (EEO) positions, to ensure sufficient personnel for illegal dumping enforcement	Some positions were restored in the June 2025 budget adoption, and the rest of the “unfreezing” to restore these positions was completed with

		Budget amendments proposed by the Mayor and approved by the City Council on June 12, 2026.
22	Provide cleanup surges, including on overtime, to remove illegal dumping from hard-hit areas, including pro-active removal.	Cleanup surges were initially reinstated last fall with some unspent available funds. Funding and authorization for cleanup surges which are now taking place was included in the Illegal Dumping Expenditures Action Plan, adopted May 19, 2026. These efforts are further supported in the Crankstart grant, announced June 11, 2026, CalRecycle grant, and City Council budget amendments, adopted June 12, 2026.
23	Providing responses from the City Administration and the City Council to Civil Grand Jury recommendations and findings on illegal dumping	The City Administration, together with OPW and other relevant personnel, prepared comprehensive responses to each of the Findings and Recommendations from the Alameda County Civil Grand Jury Report on Illegal Dumping, including documentation of the many actions Oakland has taken which align with those recommendations. The Responses were approved by the City Council on July 21, 2026, and provide a unified response on behalf of the Oakland Council and Administration.
24	Uploading before and after photos as updates to SeeClickFix reporters to help accurately close out completed cleanups, and display the effectiveness of clean up crews.	Public Works is deploying tablets to the Illegal Dumping Unit and is configuring their use to include this purpose. In addition, the approved Aerbits technology program will assist in before-and-after footage collection for cleanups. Funding for these items was included in the Illegal Dumping Expenditures Action Plan, approved May 19, 2026.
25	Expand access in multiple languages, as described in the City's Equal Access Ordinance, including for online 311 reporting.	OPW has been working with the 311 vendor to seek this fix, and reports that the project is progressing as planned and are aiming to go live with support for multiple languages in the mobile app and web portal before June 30, 2027. In addition, staff has worked with Waste Management (WM) to ensure that they provide language access in all required languages for the bulky waste scheduling system, and that change was made in spring 2026.