

Illegal Dumping & Litter Abatement Task Force Newsletter

JUNE 2026

RECAP ON EARTH DAY CLEANUP EVENTS:



On April 22, members of the IDLATF collected illegally dumped material and litter along the walking path next to Los Padres Elementary School in Salinas. We collected over 320 lbs of trash and metal! Thanks to staff from Waste Management, Republic Services, Salinas Valley Recycles, Monterey County, and City of Salinas for coming out!



On April 25, Monterey County Environmental Health Bureau hosted a community cleanup event of Carr Lake in Salinas. Despite some chilly winds and light rain, we were able to collect so much material! Thanks to local students and County employees for volunteering, and another thanks to City of Salinas for picking up the collected material!



HAULER HIGHLIGHTS: SALINAS VALLEY CLEANUP EVENTS

2025 Salinas Valley Cleanup Events: By the Numbers

Events:

21

Vehicles Served:

3,538

Total Collected:

406 TONS

Trash:

198 TONS

Diverted/Recycled/
Reused/Donated:

208 TONS

Diversion Rate:

51%



From Pajaro to Salinas, Gonzales to Greenfield, and to the South Monterey County line, Salinas Valley waste and recycling haulers Republic Services, Tri-Cities Disposal & Recycling, and Waste Management put on a large number of cleanup day events throughout the year for residential customers. In 2025, haulers reported record-setting participation and tonnage collection across 21 events to collect excess trash, source-separated recyclables, appliances, metal, electronic waste, mattresses, household hazardous waste, and reusable or donatable items. These events alleviate pressure on residents that can lead to illegal dumping, the buildup of unsanitary conditions at home, and keep hazardous waste out of storm drains and waterways. While the events collect similar items, each hauler hosts events that take into consideration the unique personality of the communities they serve.

Republic Services coordinates events in Salinas with the Salinas City Council, who identify neighborhoods or areas in their districts that need support. Republic's Municipal Manager, Christina Urquidez, says they manage the event while the City recruits volunteers who help source separate the items collected. They also spread out in a radius around the event to pick up litter. Giving back to neighborhoods is an uplifting part of the job for company employees, says Christina. "It's really gratifying for our team when we see neighbors helping neighbors bring in items they can't manage on their own. We bring a little extra love to a struggling neighborhood, and that feels great."





HAULER HIGHLIGHTS (CONT.): SALINAS VALLEY CLEANUP EVENTS



Liz Hall, Public Sector Manager for Waste Management, says she values the extra time she and her team can spend with their customers. “There are many items that don’t go in the carts or dumpsters we provide for home collection,” she says. Waste Management’s rural customers find managing these items a challenge. “These events allow us to build community, answer questions, and provide solutions for problematic items like hazardous or medical wastes.”

Maury Treleven manages special projects for Tri-Cities Disposal & Recycling in Gonzales, Greenfield, and Soledad. “Some of our events have a very vibrant reuse area I’m really proud of,” says Maury. Reuse is a big priority for their events, which accept donations of usable clothing and household items. Event participants are encouraged to look through items identified by volunteers as still usable and take whatever they can use. “Our volunteers pull out blankets, sheets, towels, and animal crates to donate to South County Animal Rescue. One volunteer scours clothing donations for formalwear to deliver to the Monterey County Free Libraries’ program that provides the clothing to youth attending special events.”



The haulers expressed their gratitude to Monterey County Environmental Health for facilitating the used oil filter voucher exchange program and Salinas Valley Recycles for providing event staff and hazardous materials collection. These events cannot operate safely or efficiently without the hospitality of local schools, community organizations, shopping centers, and city public works yards, which provide space for them.

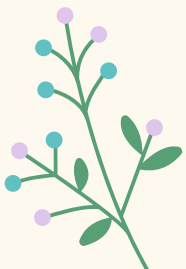
For more information on these events, visit:

WM King City: home.wm.com/king-city.

WM Unincorporated Monterey County: MontereyCounty.wm.com

Gonzales, Greenfield & Soledad: Tri-CitiesDisposal.com

Salinas: RepublicServices.com/Salinas



UPCOMING CLEANUP EVENTS:



Waste Management (Unincorporated Monterey County):

- Aug. 15: San Ardo - Corner of Main St. & Jolon Rd.
- Sep. 19: Salinas - 17890 Moro Rd.
- Oct. 24: Pajaro - 499 Salinas Rd.
- Nov. 7: King City - 625 Division St.

Events are for residents of specified service areas ONLY
Click [here](#) for more information



Tri-Cities Disposal & Recycling (Gonzales, Soledad, Greenfield):

- Aug. 29: Greenfield Public Works Yard, 8 AM - 12 PM
- Sep. 26: Soledad High School, 8 AM - 1 PM
- Oct. 17: Fairview Middle School (Gonzales), 8 AM - 1 PM

Events are for residents of specified service areas ONLY
Click [here](#) for more information



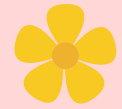
Republic Services (Salinas):

- Aug. 15: District 4 - Gloria De La Rosa
- Sep. 26: District 1 - Jose Luis Barajas
- Oct. 17: District 6 - Aurelio Salazar

Events are for residents of specified districts ONLY
Click [here](#) for more information



Hosting Your Own Community Clean Up Event? Victim of Illegal Dumping?



We can help - apply for a Disposal Voucher [here](#) to get free disposal at ReGen Monterey (Salinas), Johnson Canyon Landfill (Gonzales), or Jolon Rd. Transfer Station (King City)

Disposal Vouchers shall not be used for cleaning out garages, businesses, and/or homes

MONTEREY COUNTY IS A CLEAN CA COMMUNITY!

