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A TLMA Code Enforcement Monthly Newsletter

THE POSTING

Scenery in Riverside County

Mission Statement:

"To enhance public safety and the quality of life in partnership with communities through fair enforcement of laws and codes."

Code Enforcement Administration

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Mecca Landmark Demolished *District 4*

A longtime community business in Mecca, simply referred to as "The Tire Shop," closed its doors and sold the property. Although the perimeter of the building was completely fenced and locked, the abandoned structure quickly became a haven for illegal activity and vandalism. The building also turned into housing for vagrants and migrant workers, with even packs of wild dogs roaming in and out. This left the building surrounded by hundreds of tires, accumulated rubbish, and a substandard recreational vehicle. Riverside County Code Enforcement Officer Lucero Iniguez posted the property as substandard and subsequently notified the new property owner of the structure's deteriorating condition.

While the property owner was initiating the process to demolish the building and clean up the property, Officer Iniguez, in conjunction with the Riverside County Sheriff's Department (a.k.a. RSO), assisted in frequently patrolling the area for any trespassers – mainly to keep individuals (notably minors) from entering the substandard area for their own safety.

After the combined efforts of the Sheriff's and Code Enforcement departments, the property was successfully abated, making Mecca a safer and better place to live. Special thanks to RSO for all of their efforts.



"The Tire Shop" demolished



2008 Winner
California Counties
Challenge Award

Bank Removes the Violations *District 1*



Temecula De-Luz area: two sub-standard structures and two recreational vehicles, and a large volume of accumulated rubbish

Murrieta area: Contractor storage yard and accumulated rubbish



Temecula-Del Luz Area: sub-standard double-wide mobile and a large volume of accumulated rubbish

Temecula-De Luz area: abandoned and sub-standard commercial trailer

With each of the above bank-owned properties, Code Enforcement Officer Brett Farlow worked with the bank and they removed all of the code violations from these properties.

Communication is Key to Compliance *District 3*

A Spanish speaking property owner with an inoperable vehicle on his property requested the services of a translator from the Riverside County Code Enforcement's District 3 office after receiving an advisory notice regarding his vehicle.



Inoperable vehicle

Code Enforcement Technician Ariana Meza telephoned the property owner and arranged for a field inspection and/or meeting with the property owner, Code Enforcement Officer Mark Mandel, and herself. During the meeting, Officer Mandel explained the inoperable vehicle violation (Riverside County Code 10.04.140) to the property owner. Technician Meza translated, becoming the means of communication and common ground. By the end of the meeting, the property owner agreed to remove the inoperable vehicle within three weeks.



Vehicle was removed from property

During the follow-up inspection, Technician Meza confirmed that the inoperable vehicle had been removed; once again demonstrating that face-to-face communication often leads to fast compliance.

Illegal Vending in Mead Valley *District 1*

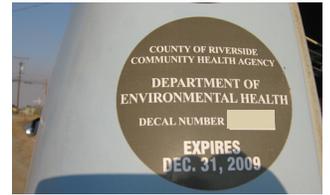
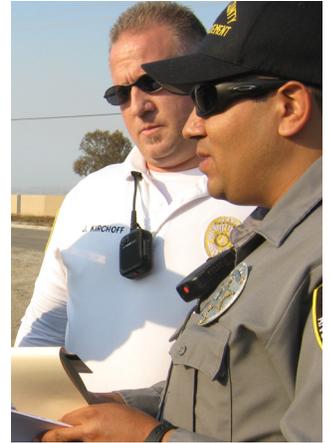
In response to public concerns and a request from Val Verde Unified School District’s security division regarding illegal roadside vending, officers with the Riverside County Code Enforcement Department (Mead Valley office) conducted an enforcement program focusing their efforts within the communities of Mead Valley and Glenn Valley.

As the schools released students for the day, officers patrolled the streets of Martin, Clark, and Dawes, verifying vendor permits and enforcing safety protocols regarding double parking. Security personnel from Tomas Rivera Middle School appreciated Code Enforcement’s assistance, and it was discovered that the vending issues seemed to resolve themselves while the officers were on-site.

Code Enforcement received a request for service at Citrus High School regarding illegal vendors hoping to attract visitors attending the graduating ceremony scheduled for that day. Officers patrolled the perimeter of the school to serve as a deterrent as well as enforcement. As a result, contact was made with an illegal vendor who was cautioned that any further illegal roadside vending would warrant a citation.

The following day, additional vendors arrived early to assemble their stands in front of the high school. As officers arrived, they found four vendors selling brightly colored leis. After officers approached the vendors individually and explained the illegal vending ordinance, the vendors disbanded and did not return. Health and safety information was also provided to individuals who questioned the enforcement, as they implied vendors were not directed to cease their vending operations in the past.

The Mead Valley Code Enforcement office will continue its efforts in conducting future special operations concerning illegal roadside vending and address public concern regarding the issue.



Sample of expired permit. Permits must be renewed yearly. Contact Environmental Health at (951)358-5172 for more information.



A treasure is found amidst 10,000 square feet of excessive outside storage

Code Enforcement Reunites Veteran with Lost Dog Tags *District 2*

While removing the excessive outside storage around his childhood home in Belltown, Mr. Robert Sandoval found a long lost memory of his service in the Vietnam War – his dog tags. With the funding assistance of the Community Development Block Grant, Riverside County Code Enforcement Officer Travis Engelking and Community Improvement Specialist Angel Olivo assisted Mr. Sandoval and his parents in obtaining dumpsters to aid in the removal of 10,000 square feet of excessive outside storage.

Initially, Mr. Sandoval was not too delighted about removing over 80 years of family possessions; once the grant program was explained to him, Mr. Sandoval became motivated with ideas about the potential of his property.

One afternoon after his original contact, Officer Engelking dropped by the property to observe the progress of the storage removal and met with Mr. Sandoval. An emotional Mr. Sandoval explained to Officer Engelking that if it was not for Code Enforcement, he would never have found his lost dog tags from when he served in Vietnam over 40 years ago.

Code Enforcement would like to thank Mr. Robert Sandoval for his past service in our armed forces, and the Department appreciates his efforts to improve his family’s quality of life.

Second Residence Mobile Home *District 5*

The pictured unpermitted mobile home had been used as a second residence for a family member. The owner did not reside on the property, but was issued a Notice of Violation via certified mail.

Not certain on how to proceed, the property owner contacted Code Enforcement Aide Jennifer Miller. She explained that he should speak with Code Enforcement Officer Lori Lyon regarding his situation.

The owner called Officer Lyon and discussed his circumstance, the age of the mobile home, and the size of the property. The officer mentioned to the owner that he most likely would not be able to obtain a permit for his mobile home as a second unit. Officer Lyon encouraged him to contact Riverside County's Planning and Building and Safety departments to determine his options. The property owner was reluctant to go through the permit process and stated that he would rather just sell the mobile home. He also requested that Officer Lyon work with him and allow him the time to sell the unit.

Officer Lyon discussed the time frame for compliance with the property owner. The mobile home was immediately vacated, and the owner had the utilities disconnected. In less than three months, the mobile home was sold and removed from the property.



Owner sold unpermitted mobile home

Build A Playground *District 1*



From left to right: Grace Escobar, Jamison Cole, Belen Ramirez, Manny Acueto, Sue Rush, Dawn Burnett, Jennifer Miller, Jessica Morrison, Cyndi Black, and Ron Welch



And in addition...Chaka Ferrell (far right)

We'd like to express our sincere thanks to all the individuals that worked at the Mead Valley Community Center Build Day. Your time and hard work will benefit children for years to come!



BEAT THE HEAT!

COOL CENTERS

COMMUNITY ACTION PARTNERSHIP'S
SUMMER ENERGY CRISIS HOTLINE
(888) 636-8676



Contact your local
Code Enforcement Office

LAKE ELSINORE/MEAD VALLEY OFFICE - (951) 600-6650
JURUPA VALLEY/HOME GARDENS OFFICE - (951) 275-8739
MURRIETA SOUTH COUNTY OFFICE - (951) 600-6140
THOUSAND PALMS EAST COUNTY OFFICE - (760) 343-4150
MORENO VALLEY/BANNING OFFICE - (951) 485-5840