



OFFICE OF THE  
**DISTRICT ATTORNEY**

COUNTY OF SHASTA

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**PRESS RELEASE**  
**Rewards Given in Illegal Dumping Cases**  
June 25, 2009

This week, District Attorney Jerry Benito is announcing that 3 reward checks in the amount of \$333.33 each were distributed to 3 citizens who provided information that led to the arrest and conviction of illegal dumpers. The 3 checks were issued by the City of Redding as part of their participation in Shasta County's illegal dumping program called "Don't Trash Shasta". The City of Redding, as did Shasta County and the cities of Shasta Lake and Anderson, adopted resolutions in 2007 that provided for rewards to those who provide information leading to the arrest and conviction of those who illegally dump in Shasta County. The reward ordinances were in support of the County's pilot program to combat illegal dumping, called "Don't Trash Shasta". The program has been very successful in curbing illegal dumping throughout Shasta County. In fact, the program won an award at the state level in 2008 for innovation.

The program focuses on identifying illegal dumping sites and illegal dumpers with the ultimate goal of getting dump sites cleaned up. On public land, governmental agencies work to clean up the areas. On private land, the land owners are responsible for the clean up, however, our unit works with owners to develop strategies for preventing future illegal dumping. The unit also has been successful in convincing 103 potential defendants to clean-up their own garbage that was illegally dumped. In addition, 14 people have been charged with crimes related to illegal dumping.

The rewards given go to citizens of our community that were willing to report illegal dumping activity and provide critical information that allowed my office to investigate and prosecute the illegal dumpers. The eyes and ears of upstanding citizens like these that make this program work. In fact, since it's inception in March 2007, we have received nearly 1,000 calls on the toll free phone line (1-866-618-7274) and over 490 cases have been investigated in all parts of the County.

The program, like the reward ordinances, began as a pilot program. However, in April of 2009, the Board of Supervisors agreed to continue the program, but had to reduce funding because of the current financial crisis. The reduced funding should not impact the service provided to the public. With the continuation of the program, the District Attorney has asked all the cities to make permanent their reward ordinances. On June 2, 2009, the City of Redding City Council made their reward ordinance permanent and approved of the 3 reward

payments distributed today. On June 16, 2009, the City of Anderson City Council made their reward ordinance permanent. The City of Shasta Lake City Council is scheduled to consider making their reward ordinance permanent on July 7, 2009. The participation of the County government, all the City governments and the citizens make this program a true community effort to keep Shasta County clean.

For information about the program, contact District Attorney Jerry Benito at 245-6310.