



### Dangerous Accessible Cesspool Removed - District 4



**Definition:** Cesspool - An underground hole or container for holding liquid waste (such as sewage) from a house or building.

Officer Frank Mendez, from the District 4 Code Enforcement office, was conducting a follow-up inspection at an unpermitted mobile home park in the community of Thermal. During the inspection he noticed a tractor parked next to a large pile of dirt. Upon further investigation, he discovered an open cesspool. It measured approximately 10 ft. x 5 ft. and was 5 to 6 ft. deep. The cesspool was unprotected and easily accessible which was particularly dangerous since it was within 50 feet of a mobile home occupied by two adults and three children.

Officer Mendez made several attempts to reach the owner of the property. He spoke with the tenants of the mobile home in an effort to get the owner’s contact information. Then, while the officer was there, the property owner arrived at the location. Officer Mendez explained to him what needed to be done to correct the issue. So he immediately used his tractor to bury the cesspool with sand until Environmental Health officials could provide him with further direction.

Since the officer’s visit, officials from the Riverside County Environmental Health Department have issued the owner a corrective notice, which they will be closely monitoring.

**Safety Warning:** You can catch hundreds of different diseases and parasites from bodily fluids and feces alone. Not to mention, there is a high risk of fatality if someone falls in to one of these systems that are not protected by a very secure cover or if, by chance, the system collapses. Often times people succumb to toxic fumes from the septic tank, losing consciousness and subsequently drowning.



### Waste Resources & Code Work Together - District 1

Code Enforcement Officer Gregorio met with Joe Schupp, Riverside County Department of Waste Resources, and showed him an area located on the north side of Mead Valley. The area was being occupied by homeless individuals, who left a large clutter of trash and debris scattered throughout the trees. The unsightly clutter was visible from the road right away. With the assistance of Mr. Schupp’s work release staff and coworkers, the property was cleared of the waste—four loads of trash were removed from the property.

Prior to the clean up by Waste Resources, an inspection was conducted by Code Enforcement staff. During the inspection, the staff disseminated information on an upcoming homeless fair to all persons staying at the location. Also, they thoroughly explained to the individuals why they are not allowed to camp on private property. Special thanks to Joe Schupp and Waste Resources for their quick response in the cleaning of the area.





### Dumping Ground - District 5

The property (pictured to the left) became a dumping ground for building materials, trash, and mobile homes. Among the many violations on the property (five substandard structures and a large amount of rubbish), several mobile homes and a travel trailer were left abandoned on the property - leaving them subject to vandalism and theft. Due to the enormity of the violations, the previous owner forfeited the property, which eventually sold at a tax sale.



The new owner had big dreams of cleaning up the property, rehabilitating the structures, and turning the property into a peaceful getaway. Unfortunately, life does not always happen as planned, and the owner was faced with challenges that prevented her dreams from becoming a reality.

Understanding the situation and the personal challenges of bringing the property into compliance, the owner gave the Code Enforcement Department written authorization to abate the two mobile homes and the travel trailer.

The additional violations are still being addressed, and the property owner is weighing her options with bringing the property into compliance.



### Keeping an Eye on Your Investment

#### District 1

Code Enforcement Officer Jennifer Morris received several complaints of people living in trailers and creating a nuisance in the Warm Springs area of Lake Elsinore. Upon arrival, she found it was a bigger problem than anticipated. The occupants not only failed to dispose of their day to day trash, but they also brought additional junk, trash, and debris onto the property. Blighted properties like this decrease property values and create hazardous conditions like vermin infestation.

Officer Morris met with the owner, who did not live at the property. The owner admitted he had not kept close tabs on the property and was appalled by its condition. He lawfully removed the unwanted "visitors", their belongings, and several tons of trash that were left behind. Hopefully the owner will keep a better eye on his investment.



### Well-Received Training

Those in attendance at the Abandoned Vehicle Abatement Service (AVASA) quarterly meeting were in for a treat as Matt Silver, with Silver & Wright LLP, Attorneys at Law, gave a presentation on Drug, Prostitution, and Gang House Abatement and Cost Recovery. After the Board meeting concluded, Mr. Silver spoke on how the drug, prostitution, and gang houses blight the community and the effective ways to deal with them. Silver & Wright LLP is very active in municipal law and code enforcement. The forum was well-received, and there was active participation and discussion from the group. Several Riverside County Code Enforcement staff members were present, and have taken the training material back to their respective offices to share with their co-workers.



### Good Relationships - City of Perris

Over the last several years, Riverside County Code Enforcement officers assigned to the contract city of Perris have forged relationships with local elementary schools and neighborhood parents by attending English Language Advisory Committee (ELAC) meetings. Code Enforcement staff, who participate in these meetings, are fluent in Spanish and attend these meetings as a platform to convey concerns, which may affect the public’s health and welfare. The officers spend as much time as needed in answering the questions from those in attendance and often stay long after the meeting has been dismissed to ensure that each person’s question has been addressed.

This year, ELAC invited the officers to participate in the “Read Across America” program, where the school’s administration, parent volunteers, or invited guests are asked to read short books to kindergarten, and first and second grade classes. Officers use this time to have fun with the students while interacting with the parents. This interaction allows for the staff to build long-lasting relationships and give back to the communities in which they serve.



### Vacant Home - District 5

The single-family residence (pictured below) was abandoned before construction was complete. The structure had been left vacant for several years, eventually being targeted by vandalism and transient activity. The interior (asbestos containing) walls had been destroyed by vandals, creating an unwelcome and potentially hazardous situation for the neighborhood. Evidence of squatters was present inside the structure, (i.e., alcohol and drug paraphernalia). The abatement process was completed and the house was demolished, which provided great relief to the neighborhood residents.





### Unneighborly Neighbors - District 2

Code Enforcement received complaints from neighbors of an El Cerrito property regarding rubbish, excessive outside storage and inoperable vehicles on the premises. The occupants were new tenants who had recently moved in. An initial inspection was done and the allegations were confirmed. A property manager contacted Code Enforcement within a few days of receiving our notices to correct the violations. She stated that they had also received complaints and already issued the tenant a Notice To Perform Covenant outlining the items violated per the Rental Agreement. The tenants had no intention of complying and eventually an unlawful detainer complaint was filed in Superior Court. Code Enforcement frequently inspected the property during the eviction process to address ongoing parking concerns. The property has since been abated and new tenants have moved in. All is well.

### Resolution - District 4

Code Enforcement Officers Brenda Hannah and Lorena Diaz worked with the property owner reaching a successful resolution in a timely manner. The Officers received a complaint that a mobile home and travel trailer had been moved onto a large property in Thermal. Officer Brenda Hannah conducted her research and then inspected the property. She found the alleged violations to be true. A mobile home was installed without the required building permits and a travel trailer was also being occupied as habitable space. There was rubbish throughout the property. Officer Hannah worked with the property owner explaining the correct processes to install a manufactured home. She also advised them that a travel trailer can only be occupied in an approved mobile home park and that the rubbish would need to be disposed of in a legal landfill or recycling center. The property owners decided to remove all of the items, ultimately bring the property into voluntary compliance.



#### Local Code Enforcement Offices:

- District 1 - 17650 Cajalco Road, Perris, 951-776-3233
- District 2 - 4080 Lemon Street, 9th Floor, Riverside, 951-955-5650
- District 3 - 37600 Sky Canyon Drive, Suite G #507, Murrieta, 951-696-1606
- District 4 - 77588 El Duna Court, Palm Desert, 760-393-3344
- District 5 - 581 South Grand Avenue, San Jacinto, 951-791-3900
- City of Perris 137 North D Street, Perris, 951-385-4131
- Administration 4080 Lemon Street, 12th Floor, Riverside, 951-955-2004

To verify which district your community is a part of, please visit our website: [www.rctlma.org/ce](http://www.rctlma.org/ce)



Celeste's Quote of the Month

**"EVERYONE SWEEP IN FRONT OF THEIR OWN HOUSE,  
AND THE WHOLE WORLD WILL BE CLEAN."**

JOHANN WOLFGANG VON GOETHE

**Mission Statement: To enhance public safety and the quality of life in partnership with communities through fair enforcement of laws and codes.**