



SB 1394 (Wilk) – Illegal Dumping Reform

**Summary:**

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SB 1359 (Wilk) closes an illegal dumping loophole that has allowed waste materials to be dumped on private property, instead of licensed dumping facilities. It will also increase an illegal dumping classification from an infraction to a misdemeanor and raise fines for violations. Consequently, the bill will increase environmental protections, reduce public roadway damage, and clean up residential areas for Californians.

**Background:**

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The intention of existing prohibitions on illegal dumping is to require dumping of waste materials to occur either at a licensed facility or a private property with a relevant permit. However, dumping on private property does not require a permit if the owner has given consented.

Consequently, in an effort to cut costs, companies that dump waste materials have begun paying property owners a discounted rate to dump on their property, rather than licensed facilities. But because they receive permission from property owners, there is no legal mechanism to prevent it.

**Issue:**

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High volumes of large trucks in residential areas en route to private dumpsites have increased, causing both noise and air pollution. The consequences of dumping don't end at property lines - people are helpless to suffer the consequences of their neighbors' decisions without legal recourse.

**Proposal:**

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SB 1359 closes this loophole by requiring a permit for private property dumping, *with or without* the owner's consent. Furthermore, illegal dumping would be classified as a misdemeanor, rather than an infraction, and fines for each violation would be significantly increased. By closing a legal loophole and increasing punitive disincentives for illegal dumping, SB 1359 increases protections for both the environment and residents.

**Support:**

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Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC)

**Contact:**

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