CalRecycle

FY 2009/10

GRANT #

FR37 09 0003

Calaveras County

Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery

Farm and Ranch Solid Waste Cleanup and Abatement Grant Program

Background

Calaveras County (county) applied for a Farm and Ranch Grant to cleanup an old illegal disposal site, called Mitchell Mill (site). The bulk of the illegal dumping occurred during the 1950's and 1960's, however the site still had some active dumping until the time of cleanup. The privately owned site is located in the Sierra Nevada foothills and is used for timber harvesting and cattle grazing. The waste had historically been dumped off the side of a steep 300 foot drop to the property below. The waste threatened a year round stream, the health of the surrounding forest, and the cattle that graze there. The waste consisted of approximately 700 cubic yards of solid waste, cars, tires, appliances, furniture and numerous metal food cans. The county was awarded $50,000 for the cleanup of this site.

Grant Project Goals

The primary goals of the project were to:

- Remove 700 cubic yards of solid waste.
- Prevent continued illegal dumping of solid waste by using fencing during debris removal activities and posting no dumping signs.
- Remove all physical hazards and potential threats to public health and safety, and the environment.
- Stabilize the slope, if necessary, after the solid waste was removed.
- Recycle as much as possible from the site.

Outcome and Accomplishments

- The county spent $27,483 of the $50,000 that was awarded.
- The waste removed from the site included 102 tires, 56 appliances, 125 cubic yards of metal, 15 cubic yards of glass, and more than 2 cubic yards of solid waste.
- The Calaveras County Public Works Department did the cleanup. The focus was on recycling as much of the waste as possible, with only three cubic yards having to be landfilled.
- Cyclone fencing and signage were placed at the site to help discourage further illegal disposal activity.
- Successful remediation of the site resulted in the removal of the physical hazards associated with the open disposal site, removal of the contamination threat to the stream which helped protect the groundwater, and restoring the area for the replanting of trees.

Calaveras County

Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery

Farm and Ranch Cleanup and Abatement Grant Program

CalRecycle

FY 2009/10

GRANT #

FR37 09 0003

Challenges

After the budget was set for the cleanup of the site, the county determined that approximately 450 cubic yards of dirt had been placed on top of the waste. It was determined that this would increase the cost of the cleanup by an additional $45,000. To address this increase, the Environmental Health Department and Public Works staff worked to find an in-house solution to cover the increased cost to remediate the site.

Public Works hired Cal Fire who utilized hand crews to remove and stockpile debris for recycling and proper disposal. In addition to the removal of debris, Public Works crews removed the dirt and underlying waste, replaced the dirt, and stabilized the slope.

Lessons Learned and Recommendations

By utilizing all of their resources, the county was able to cut costs significantly, and spent $27,483 of the $50,000 that was awarded.

Snapshot

Grant Program: Farm and Ranch Cleanup and Abatement
Grant Program Website:
http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/LEA/GrantsLoans/FarmRanch/
Grant Number: FR37-09-03
Grant Type: Illegal disposal site cleanup
Year Awarded: 2010
Funding: Awarded $50,000, spent $27,483.88
Grant Manager Contact: Carla.Repucci@CalRecycle.ca.gov