

NEWS

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Supervisors pick up two national awards from WeTip

Members of the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors today collected two awards from the national crime-fighting organization WeTip during the group's National Conference in Ontario.

Fifth District Supervisor Josie Gonzales was honored as the "County Supervisor of the Year," and First District Supervisor Brad Mitzelfelt received on the county's behalf the "Program Development Award" in recognition of the county's implementation of an illegal dumping enforcement program.

In accepting her award, Supervisor Gonzales commended her fellow board members and WeTip for establishing an innovative partnership aimed at tackling a major issue facing San Bernardino County communities – illegal dumping.

Supervisor Mitzelfelt concurred.

"I was honored to receive this recognition from WeTip and I would like to thank WeTip for their partnership in our illegal dumping program," said Supervisor Mitzelfelt. "Cracking down on illegal dumping is a cooperative effort and WeTip has been an indispensable partner."

San Bernardino County last year developed a comprehensive anti-illegal dumping program that included the adoption of an illegal dumping ordinance, which created new fines and penalties for dumpers, the installation of warning signs and surveillance cameras in problem dumping areas, the creation of a reward program for tipsters, and a partnership with WeTip.

The program recently resulted in the capture of an illegal dumper in Hesperia after a witness called WeTip. The illegal dumper was caught, forced to clean up the mess and cited for illegal dumping.

WeTip is a national, independent, non-profit organization established in 1972 based on the key idea that many people with information about crime are reluctant to report it due to fear of reprisal. WeTip staffs 24-hour phone lines that take anonymous tips from all 50 states as well as Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. During its 33-year history, WeTip has logged more than 411,000 tips.