

## Two cleanup efforts begin Sept. 29

Posted: Friday, Sep 28th, 2007

BY: Ellen Holland 9-28-07

Two organized efforts to clear trash from the North County's roads, creeks and rivers are on the horizon.

The annual Atascadero Creek and Salinas River Cleanup Day will take place on Saturday, Sept. 29, the same day a tarp giveaway program that stands as an expansion of the effort to clean the community is set to begin.

The creek and river cleanup begins at 8:30 a.m. when volunteers will meet at the parking lot across from the Administration Building on East Mall to register. Work begins at 9 a.m. and volunteers should bring gloves, sturdy shoes and a small backpack to store water.

The cleanup effort will continue until noon when a volunteer appreciation event is set to begin. During the appreciation event, which will conclude at 1 p.m., volunteers will be provided with refreshments and snacks as well. In addition, raffles and giveaways will take place.

"It's an opportunity for [residents] to see first hand our water resources and the watersheds," Atascadero Mutual Water Company conservation manager Jamie Lien said.

The cleanup event is being sponsored by AMWC, Groundwater Guardian Program, city of Atascadero, Atascadero Waste Alternatives, Upper Salinas Las Tablas Conservation District, Atascadero Historical Society and Chicago Grade Landfill.

A campaign with the motto to "Tarp your load before you hit the road" will also begin on Saturday, Sept. 29. The program, made possible by the San Luis Obispo County Garbagemen's Association, which donated the tarps, represents a collaborative effort to keep the community's roadways free of debris.

"This effort was spawned from a meeting of North County haulers, landfills and government entities to address the litter and illegal dumping issues we face here in the North County," Fifth District Supervisor Jim Patterson said.

Through the program those who visit the landfills in both Paso Robles and Templeton will be given free tarps to cover their loads.

The program, Patterson said, is a way to curb litter and illegal dumping without additional enforcement.

Landfills are required to provide clean up around their site, First District Supervisor Harry Ovitt said, and state law requires that trash taken to landfills must be covered.

Dale Gomer, the general manager of Paso Robles Waste Disposal, Inc. and president of the garbagemen's association, said the association wanted to get involved with the tarp giveaway program "to hopefully make the environment better and cleaner."

"We want to make the environment better than it was before," he said. "This is one way to help people become more environmentally sensitive."



The Chicago Grade Landfill is located at 2290 Homestead Road in Templeton and the Paso Robles Landfill is located on Highway 46 east. Free tarps will continue to be distributed until the supply runs out.