

**Community Focus Statement A:** Improve the quality of our built environment to enhance community health, safety, neighborhood character, and the image of our business corridors.

**A**

**Action Statement A.1:** Work with San Bernardino County Code Enforcement to develop educational materials to inform residents and property owners about County Codes, with a particular emphasis on inoperable vehicles, unpermitted construction, property maintenance, and other community concerns as they may change from time to time, and encourage local residents to report persistent problems to Code Enforcement.

**Benchmark:** Code Enforcement materials are accessible to community members, and regular meetings are held between Code Enforcement Education Committee and County Code Enforcement officers.

**Champion:** Volunteer group or person or can be identified by the community

**Estimated Cost:** \$5,000–\$10,000



Abandoned vehicles are in violation of the San Bernardino County Code. Photo source: [tpsdrive](https://www.tpsdave.com)

The County Codes include property-related regulations to protect the health, welfare, and safety of the Bear Valley communities. These codes require maintaining buildings to proper safety standards, cleaning up piles of trash on private property, requiring signs to meet certain design standards, and prohibiting abandoned vehicles, among many others. Violations of these codes are addressed by the County’s Land Use Services Department’s Code Enforcement section, which employs professional staff to carry out these duties. By educating Bear Valley residents about County code provisions and encouraging them to report violations, the County can help ensure more effective enforcement of the code, which in turn makes Bear Valley a safer and more attractive community.

Educational materials should include examples of common types of code violations, including clear criteria for what constitutes a violation and what does not. While the educational materials should be broadly adaptable to all of San Bernardino County, they must include information that is locally applicable to the Bear Valley communities. The County could conduct training sessions on these issues, teaching community members how to identify code enforcement violations and making sure they know how to report any suspected violations to County staff.

When creating educational materials on code enforcement, the County should ensure that these materials are widely distributed throughout the community, including making them available electronically and in multiple languages as appropriate, and regularly updated with emerging issues. If the County chooses to establish a volunteer program, it is critical that the volunteers have adequate resources, including identification and any equipment needed for

documenting code violations. It is also very important that there be a process in place for community members to provide feedback on any volunteer code enforcement participants and that any issues with the program are addressed quickly and completely.

Action	Action Leader	Timeline	Resources
1. Contact or hold a meeting for residents, property owners, and business owners and to identify a core group of committed people.	Champion	Month 1	San Bernardino County Code Enforcement <a href="http://cms.sbcounty.gov/us/CodeEnforcement/CodeEnforcementHome.aspx">http://cms.sbcounty.gov/us/CodeEnforcement/CodeEnforcementHome.aspx</a>
2. Form Code Enforcement Education Committee and select group leader.	Champion	Month 2	City of Hawaiian Gardens Code Enforcement Manual <a href="http://www.hgcity.org/PDFfiles/CodeEnforcementManual1.pdf">http://www.hgcity.org/PDFfiles/CodeEnforcementManual1.pdf</a>
3. Prepare educational materials on code enforcement.	Code Enforcement Education Committee, San Bernardino County Land Use Services	Months 2-5	City of Victorville Code Enforcement Examples <a href="http://www.victorvilleca.gov/uploadedFiles/CityDepartments/Development/Keep%20it%20Safe%20Brochure.pdf">http://www.victorvilleca.gov/uploadedFiles/CityDepartments/Development/Keep%20it%20Safe%20Brochure.pdf</a>
4. Committee members distribute educational materials to all property owners as agreed upon by action leaders.	Code Enforcement Education Committee, San Bernardino County Land Use Services	Months 6-7	
5. Revise educational materials to account for emerging issues and changes in Code Enforcement policy.	Concerned citizens, San Bernardino County Land Use Services	Every two years	