



COUNTY of SONOMA  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

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**SONOMA COUNTY HEALTH NEWS**

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**Tour De Trash Bicycle Rides Help Clean Up Sonoma County**  
**-- Volunteer bicyclists will identify illegal dumping sites three Sundays in May --**

April 24, 2008 – Santa Rosa, CA -- The spring Sonoma County “Tour de Trash” bike rides to pick up roadside litter and identify illegal dumping spots will take place in Santa Rosa on May 4, and in Petaluma on May 11 and 18, 2008. The May 4 and 11 volunteer rides are family-friendly events open to bike riders of all abilities. Claire House from Norcal Velo Women’s Cycling Team will lead the Santa Rosa ride that begins at NorCal Bike Sport (425 College Avenue) at 10:00 a.m. on May 4. The May 11 ride will depart from Helen Putnam Plaza in downtown Petaluma at 9:30 a.m. The May 18 ride, which is for experienced cyclists who will mark the location of trash sites using GPS technology, will start in Petaluma and continue to Marin County

The “Tour de Trash” rides began in fall 2005 when Ario Bigattini, Yuri Hauswald and other local cyclists came together to identify trash sites. Bigattini explains: “Who more than cyclists wants our back roads to be clean?”

Bigattini, Hauswald and their supporters founded ABC Rides and began to coordinate the rides through local cycling shops, cycling teams and their blog. The bi-annual volunteer rides have logged hundreds of illegal dumping sites. The volunteers provide dump site locations to Sonoma County Public Works, which subsequently sends staff to clean up the sites.

The cyclists’ unique advocacy work helped the County of Sonoma apply for and receive funding from the California Integrated Waste Management Board for an illegal dumping campaign, “Keep Sonoma Clean.” Keep Sonoma Clean is a cooperative effort between the Sonoma County Department of Health Services, Environmental Health Division; the Sonoma County Department of Public Works, and the Sonoma County Sheriff.

Keep Sonoma Clean will launch a public education, garbage removal, and illegal dumping enforcement program this year. With 1,400 miles of county roads, Sonoma County spends an average of \$267,517 annually to address illegal dumping.

For more information about the Tour de Trash, see [abcrides.blogspot.com](http://abcrides.blogspot.com).



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