



ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

March 2017

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT WINS OUTSTANDING CUPA AWARD FOR 2017

The purpose of being a designated Certified Unified Program Agency within a county is to ensure that facilities with large quantities of toxic gases have release prevention plans; that hazardous wastes are properly managed; that hazardous materials in facilities throughout California are accurately reported, cataloged, and disseminated to emergency responders and the public; and that above and underground tanks storing hazardous materials have adequate leak detection and containment equipment to protect the waters of the state. The Environmental Management Department recently sent twenty one staff members to attend the annual California Unified Program Annual Training Conference (February 6-9) in San Diego, CA.

At the conference, Sacramento County EMD was pre-

sented with this year's Outstanding Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA) Award by the CUPA Forum Board for its superior program implementation and leadership in participation, collaboration, and assistance to other CUPAs. Some of the accomplishments cited were

ed sites, multiple EMD staff serving as chair or co-chair Technical Advisory Groups, significant efforts in California Environmental Reporting System (CERS) Violation Library Workgroups, EMD staff teaching a significant number of trainings at conferences, and EMD providing mutual aid to Calaveras County in response to the Butte Fire.



Front Row L to R: Marie Woodin, Jordan Zakaria, Dennis Karidis, Mike Lyttge, Amanda Hakim, Heather Tanner, Robert Duncan, Eric Sutton, Tom Vohoska, Kevin Smith

Back Row L to R: Ryan Bailey, Monica Boatright, Christine Abad, Natasha McClurg, James Van Buren, Jonathan Pollack, Jeni VanDusen Also present, John Elkins and Katrina Hiott

innovative steps like annual inspections for certain non-compliant facilities and compliance assistance videos with web and smartphone integration, becoming one of only six CUPAs to receive authority to implement and enforce assessments and corrective action for mitigation/cleanup of contaminat-

Presentations by EMD staff:

Monday

Managers Workshop – Jason Boetzer

Intermediate UST Inspector 201 Training – John Elkins

Universal Waste –

James Van Buren

Tuesday

Retail Store Compliance Solutions – Heather Tanner

Enforcement Case Studies – Robert Duncan

Wednesday

UST Plan Check for VPH Systems – John Elkins

Board of Supervisors

Phil Serna, 1st District
Patrick Kennedy, 2nd District
Susan Peters, 3rd District
Sue Frost, 4th District
Don Nottoli, 5th District
Nav Gill, County Executive
Paul G. Lake, Chief Deputy
County Executive, Countywide Services

**Val F. Siebal, Director,
Environmental
Management
Department**

UST Inspection for VPH Systems – John Elkins

Up in Smoke? The (Un) Regulated World of Cannabis in the Unified Program – Jason Boetzer

UST Corrosion and Tank Lining – Jennea Monasterio

Thursday

CUPA 101 – Jason Boetzer

Release Reporting Administrative Enforcement Case Studies – Dennis Karidis

RMP, CalARP and PSM: Regulatory

Resources – Dennis Karidis

Technology Solutions That Work for CUPAs – Tom Vohoska

Questions from Industry for Unified Program Leaders – Marie Woodin

Urban Ag: Now Closer to Home

The Sacramento County Board of Supervisors unanimously passed an Urban Agriculture Ordinance on January 24th, 2017. What does that mean to the average resident of Sacramento County who has been inspired by the Farm to Fork movement, wants to see fresh fruit and produce available in underserved communities, the local chef who wants a connection with the source of his herbs and vegetables, or the family that lives next door to a vacant lot and has energy to cultivate the land, tend to a few chickens and raise 2-3 hives of bees to sell local honey? It's good news and the ordinance creates a pathway to accomplish those goals in a smoother, less regulated process. If you plan on sell-



ing the product you produced on your lot, you will need a temporary use permit

from the Sacramento County Planning Department for Urban Farming Activities.

The Environmental Management Department will not be issuing permits for urban farms but may enter and inspect the operations of a Community Food Producer (CFP) when there is a food safety recall or complaint related to the operation.



On A Personal Note:

Jim Guilliams
Beekeeper



Challenges of Urban Bee Keeping by Jim Guilliams

Urban beekeepers are dealing with the same challenges as commercial beekeeper: pests (Varroa mites), pesticides, and loss of habitat. A large advantage that urban areas have is flowering plants throughout the year...we all like color in our yards. The healthiest bees may be the urban population, because commercial operations aren't conducted with bee health in mind but geared around exploiting bees for their pollinating activity. The new Urban Ag ordinance has made it 'legal' to keep bees in the county. In the past, there was little guidance within the county for beekeepers and regulators alike. This will help promote the health and growth of urban bees which is good for us all.

EMD DIRECTOR VAL SIEBAL RETIRES



Director Val Siebal retired March 24th, 2017 from Sacramento County Environmental Management Department (EMD) after 35 years as a public servant committed to protecting public and environmental health, ten of those years serving as the Director of the Environmental Management Department. Val appreciated working at the County level of government as a chance to effect change at a quicker pace than working at State agencies, which he did prior to coming to EMD.

Two recent cases in which EMD achieved very successful results relatively quickly under Val's leadership were the Carpet Collectors cleanup, and the Mangan Gun Range lead cleanup (not complete yet but well under way.) "Things get accomplished when you make a point not to be distracted by

the press and other outside entities; just move forward with what you know will work."

Val expressed how proud he was of EMD staff who carry with them a responsibility and an ability to cause major positive change by how they present themselves in consumer education, enforcement, outreach and in collaboration with agencies and programs outside of EMD.

Val talked about the scrutiny that comes with being a fee based agency and the importance of watching the budget. There is a sense of extra responsibility to the fee payer but also the need to recovers costs incurred in meeting state mandated regulations.

Val has had exceptional staff during his tenure at EMD and thus had the freedom to encourage Program Mangers to lead with their own style and methodologies, even if it differed from the way he would choose to do something. His strong Executive Team gets things done and is able to take Board input and implement it with speed and excellence. He mentioned the staff who man the front desk at EMD and who are at the forefront of customer

service. They project a knowledgeable, helpful, good natured persona which helps change the way government employees are perceived. Val also mentioned what a pleasure it was to work with a Board of Supervisors that are approachable, listen to the issues faced as a regulatory agency, and support staff. Sacramento County EMD is respected by other California counties and has an excellent reputation.

Making the decision to retire may be similar to looking at a blank canvas, holding the brush full of paint in your hand... with limitless possibilities, where do you begin? His 2 1/2 year old granddaughter may have a lot to say about that! It begins with her, and maybe some motorcycle riding, windsurfing and art lessons, and an up close look at the Aurora Borealis.

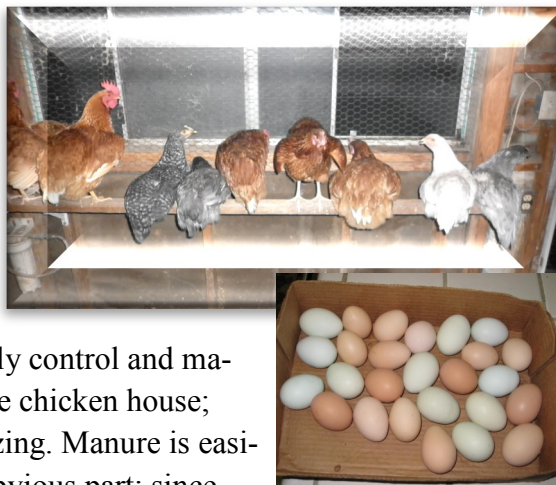


POULTRY & URBAN ENVIRONMENT

By D. Von Aspern

Since the early 2000s ES3 David Von Aspern has raised poultry for eggs and as an enjoyable hobby. His flock lives at family property near Lockeford, CA. Occasional poultry visits have occurred at his urban home in South Natomas, for chick rearing or flock transfer. The challenges for such endeavors are many and most are predictable:

flock noise, odor control and predation. Less obvious are fly control and manure management. Flies are generally a problem only in the chicken house; flies don't tend to "follow" the flock when they're out grazing. Manure is easily managed with a home compost bin but here's the less obvious part: since hobby poultry become much like any other domesticated animal, they prefer to congregate near the humans! The hens like to hang-out and "look" in the sliding glass patio door and leave their droppings in a place where you'd often be taking your first step out the door. You can imagine the rest.



BON VOYAGE, KRISTEN LEDBETTER

Kristin Ledbetter celebrated her retirement from Sacramento County and the Environmental Management Department this February 2017. Kristin started the County as a Senior Office Assistant and ended her tenure as a Senior Office Specialist for Environmental Health. She was an oasis of calm in the flurry of phone calls and questions that besiege Environmental Health administrative staff for most of each day. Her parting thoughts on her time at EMD were about the great department and leadership team she worked with for the last 10 years. *Favorite*

part of the job? The special projects such as applying for the Crumbine Award for the Green -Yellow- Red placarding program and the administrative work she did on the S3 conference planning, "which came together so beautifully." She valued the fact that all the administrative staff works so well together even though it's a combination of support groups for two different divisions.

What's next? Rome! Kristin left for Europe one week after retiring for some great adventuring. She plans on quilting reading and sleeping in unto 7:30 in the

morning, with no schedule. She's been successful at growing basil and would



like to attempt other crops in her garden. "The world is my oyster. Get in the car and go!"

Childhood Lead Investigations increase as the CDC lowers the recommended reference level to 5 micrograms per deciliter to identify children with blood lead levels of concern.

Until 2012, children were identified as having a blood lead “level of concern” if the test result is 10 or more micrograms per deciliter of lead in blood. CDC is no longer using the term “level of concern” and is instead using the reference value to identify children who have been exposed to lead and who require case management. Experts now use a reference level of 5 micrograms per deciliter to identify children with blood lead levels that are much higher than most children’s levels. (https://www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/acclpp/blood_lead_levels.htm)

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In 2016, California adopted the CDC reference levels for acceptable lead levels in children which has prompted an increase in lead investigations performed by the Environmental Management Department. Between 1960 and 1990 the CDC lowered lead level thresholds from 60 µg/dL to 25 µg/dL. The current threshold level for individ-

Lead Samples



ual intervention in children, which results in a lead investigation by EMD) is BLLs >10 µg/dL. At this point, lead program staff from EMD will accompany a public health nurse from the Department of Health and Human Services and visit the home to search for the source of lead, ensure its removal or abatement, and provide outreach and education to prevent further lead poisoning.

California’s, specifically Sacramento’s, rich cultural diversity brings with it cultural items and practices that can unwittingly expose children and families to lead. During the past six months (September 2016 to February 2017), EMD has investigated 41 children with high blood lead levels, 38 of whom have been Middle Eastern refugees. The primary source of lead poisoning has been surma, a religious and health product applied to the eyes by Middle Easterners. Some surma has tested at 78% lead.

Additional lead sources frequently found in the home include turmeric purchased at either local Sacramento stores or shipped from overseas. Families may use Turmeric as an herbal medicine for rheumatoid arthritis, conjunctivitis, skin cancer, small pox, chicken pox, wound healing, urinary tract infections, and liver ailments. Lead is also found in home remedy medications used for diaper rash (some appear to be made of lead oxide), and cosmetics. When an Environmental Specialist goes on an investigation primary lead sources they check for include old paint that may contain and is flaking into soil or carpet, toys that contain lead, spices being used by the family, surma pouches, and tap water samples from the house.

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Surma



Paint Chips



Which of these products might contain lead?

Turmeric



| By the Numbers February 2017 | | |
|---|---------------|------------------|
| | Feb-17 | YTD 16/17 |
| Food Facility Placards Issued | | |
| A. Green – Pass | 1321 | 8864 |
| C. Red – Closed | 11 | 117 |
| B. Yellow – Conditional Pass | 73 | 465 |
| Inspections | | |
| Abandoned Wells | 2 | 68 |
| Above Ground Storage Tank | 0 | 11 |
| Body Art | 35 | 151 |
| Food Protection (includes reinspections and food events) | 1713 | 11672 |
| Farm Labor Camps | 0 | 4 |
| Public Swimming Pools/Spas | 0 | 1624 |
| Solid Waste Facilities (landfills/transfer stations) | 18 | 190 |
| Liquid Waste | 3 | 152 |
| Medical Waste | 11 | 67 |
| Small Water Systems | 3 | 15 |
| Wells and Monitoring Wells | 33 | 529 |
| Businesses/Facilities Generating Hazardous Waste | 55 | 709 |
| Businesses/Facilities Storing Hazardous Materials | 81 | 838 |
| Underground Storage Tank Facilities | 32 | 295 |
| Underground Storage Tank Removal, Installations, Upgrades, Repairs | 15 | 85 |
| Storm Water Non Food Facility | 40 | 392 |
| Waste Tire | 61 | 490 |
| Tobacco Retailer | 14 | 242 |
| Commercial/Multi-Family Recycling | 29 | 661 |
| Refuse Vehicle Inspections/ | 0 | 238 |
| Septic Tank Pumper Trucks | 1 | 88 |
| Total | 2146 | 19889 |
| Investigations | | |
| Body Art | 4 | 21 |
| Consumer Complaints | 47 | 597 |
| Food Borne Illness | 4 | 100 |
| Incident Response | 77 | 421 |
| Solid Waste | 2 | 15 |
| Storm Water | 9 | 50 |
| Waste Tire | 0 | 0 |
| Childhood Lead | 8 | 49 |
| Total | 151 | 1253 |
| Class Attendance | | |
| Food Safety Education (Food School) | 102 | 872 |
| Hazardous Materials Business Plan (HMP) Workshop | 4 | 55 |
| “How To Get A Green Placard For Food Inspection” Workshop Online Video | NA | NA |
| Underground Storage Forms Workshop | 7 | 49 |
| Total | 113 | 972 |
| Plans, Permits, and Reviews | | |
| Abandoned Wells | 19 | 132 |
| Hazardous Materials Business Plans | 451 | 3232 |
| Body Art | 0 | 28 |
| Monitoring Wells/ Water Wells | 42 | 823 |
| Food Facilities | 100 | 1023 |
| Public Swimming Pools/Spas | 61 | 572 |
| Underground Storage Tanks Plans and Permit Reviews | 11 | 85 |
| Land Use | 19 | 158 |
| Local Oversight Program | 2 | 14 |
| Cross Connection Permits (Blue Tags) | 1570 | 13174 |
| Total | 2275 | 19241 |
| Imaging | | |
| Document Pages Imaged | 10639 | 93347 |



Hazardous Material Plan Workshops

The Environmental Management Department offered four Hazardous Material Plan Workshops for six attendees during February 2017. EMD staff assisted each person with the process of submitting their Hazardous Waste Plans electronically, as mandated by the California Environmental Protection Agency, effective January 1, 2013.



Food Safety Education Classes February 2017

Attendees 102

Facilities Represented 16

Onsite 2
Offsite 4

Languages Represented

English 4
Spanish 1
Cantonese 1
Korean 0
Punjabi 0

EC Division offered two **Underground Storage Tank (UST) Workshops** in February 2017. During the workshops, EMD staff assisted seven attendees with submitting UST forms electronically through the California Environmental Reporting System.

