

# Environmental Management Department

## EMD NEWS & NOTES

Summer 2008 Edition

8475 Jackson Road, 2nd Floor Suites 230/240  
Sacramento, CA 95826  
(916) 875-8484  
on-line at [www.emd.saccounty.net](http://www.emd.saccounty.net)



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### OUR LEASE IS UP!

The long-time lease for our current facility is expiring and we need more room as we are busting at the seams! Eighteen years at our current location has served us well, but has taken a toll on our building interior—almost all of our meeting rooms have been converted to staff office space. After searching along the Highway 50 corridor and exploring rehabilitation of our existing building, it was determined that a "build to lease" facility at Mather Field would best fit our needs.

Plans have been approved by the Rancho Cordova City Council and our expected move in date is May 2009. Several internal committees are busily working on everything from cubicle design and layout to white noise dampening options employed in other County buildings.

EMD hosted a brief ground breaking ceremony at our new location, 10600 Armstrong Avenue, on May 7 as the bulldozers were busily grading in the background.



Val F. Siebal, Director

I know everyone on staff is looking forward to a new building with more room to provide training and to conduct business with our clients. We look forward to hosting an open house as this building year will no doubt go by quickly.

### EMD TO RECEIVE 2008 SAMUEL J. CRUMBINE CONSUMER PROTECTION AWARD

We are very pleased to announce that EMD has been selected as the recipient of the **2008 Samuel J. Crumbine Consumer Protection Award for Excellence in Food Protection**. This Award was named for one of the nation's most notable public health sanitarians (Dr. Samuel J. Crumbine 1852-1954) and is presented annually to exceptional food protection programs that demonstrate leadership and innovation over a sustained period. This Award is the most prestigious recognition a local consumer program can receive. Winners serve as models for other public health and safety programs around the nation and Canada. EMD is being honored and recognized as a result of several successful program improvements. During the last six years, EMD has implemented several retail food program enhancements, including the highly visible green, yellow, and red placards posted at the entrance of food facilities to disclose inspection results. Sacramento County was the first County in the nation to use color-coded placards as part of a food safety rating system.

The Samuel J. Crumbine Award has several prominent sponsors, including the Conference for Food Protection, American Academy of Sanitarians, American Public Health Association, Association of Food and Drug Officials, Foodservice Packaging Institute, International Association for Food Protection, International Food Safety Council, National Association of County and City Health Officials, National Environmental Health Association, NSF International, and the Underwriters Laboratories, Inc. The Award jury was comprised of twelve public health practitioners and EMD received high marks in the following areas:

- Presentation of measurable outcomes
- Implementation of the nation's first color-coded placard program and industry's involvement during the entire process
- External communications, particularly with the public, about our color-coded placard program
- Work force development strategy



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## EMD TO RECEIVE CRUMBINE AWARD,

*continued from page 1*

- Post-violation training through a food safety education class for employees offered at EMD or the facility
- Multi-lingual inspection guidelines
- Funding through permits which ensures sustainable programs and long-term food safety

This year, EMD competed with five other jurisdictions from throughout the nation—Michigan; Maricopa County Environmental Services, Arizona; and Tri-County Health Department, Colorado.

EMD will receive the Crumbine Plaque during the Awards Ceremony at the Annual Conference of the National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) to be held June. Inscribed medallions will be presented to EMD at the Annual Meeting of the International Association for Food Protection and at the Annual Conference of the National Association of County and City Health Officials to be held in Sacramento on September 9.

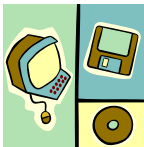
Congratulations and appreciation are extended to EMD staff, the Industry Working Group, the Sacramento Environmental Commission and the Board of Supervisors for the hard work, commitment and support that contributed to the success of the Department's Consumer Protection Program.

## ENVISIONCONNECT GOES "LIVE"

On May 12, 2008, EMD achieved a long-time goal of converting to the new version of its inspection tracking and billing software,--EnvisionConnect. The transition to the new version has been in the planning stages for several years and in the testing phase for several months prior to the launch date.

The new version of the software program runs on up-to-date technology and puts into place a mechanism that will allow Department specialists to record inspection data while in the field performing inspections. Among other numerous improvements, this new version will provide more timely information to the business owners of facilities regulated by EMD and will simplify the somewhat manual data collection process currently in place.

EMD is one of the first users of the Envision software to migrate to the EnvisionConnect software, although the software designers—Decade Software of Fresno (CA)—report that many other California Counties are planning to transition to EnvisionConnect within the next few months.



## COMPLIANT FACILITIES RECEIVE ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT REVENUE

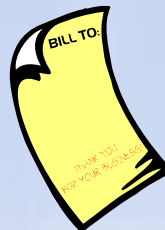
Under a plan that was approved by the County Board of Supervisors in July 2005, EMD returns revenue collected from enforcement actions to compliant businesses and facilities. It is believed that EMD is the only regulatory agency in the State that is returning revenue gained from enforcement actions. Penalty revenue is distributed by program as an offset appearing on EMD's annual fee invoices. With the conclusion of FY 2008-09, fee offsets totaling approximately \$950,000 will have been provided to eligible businesses. For example, with the offset, the fees billed to facilities with underground storage tanks in FY 2008-09 will be below amounts charged in 2002.



EMD provides regulatory oversight to 35 environmental and public health programs within Sacramento. As part of its regulatory responsibilities, the Hazardous Materials Division of EMD has initiated a majority of the Department's enforcement actions which have resulted in an assessment of fines or penalties.

Enforcement actions are initiated to achieve one or more of the following objectives:

- To bring the business or facility into compliance with applicable laws or regulations;
- To deter the offending business or facility from repeating their non-compliant behavior; and
- To eliminate any competitive business advantage that has been gained by the business or facility throughout noncompliance.



With the exception of a relatively small amount of revenue set aside for investigation cost recovery, EMD does not budget for any realization of enforcement revenue. This approach is based on the premise that necessary program activities should not be dependent on the assessment and collection of fines and penalties.

An overwhelming majority of facilities regulated by the Hazardous Materials Division achieve an acceptable level of compliance. The revenue has been received as a result of enforcement actions against only about 4% of the Division's regulated inventory. Overall business community reaction to the program has been very favorable and supportive.

## RECYCLED WATER IN SACRAMENTO COUNTY



*Recycled Water Irrigation in Laguna West, CA*

The Water Recycling Program in Sacramento County is a partnership between the Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District (SRCSD), Sacramento County Water Agency

(SCWA) and the Sacramento County Environmental Management Department (EMD). SRCSD operates a five million gallon per day recycled water facility that treats wastewater to a level that is safe for landscape irrigation purposes and provides the recycled water to the SCWA, who then distributes it to a variety of local customers for their irrigation needs.

### EMD'S PROGRAM ROLE

As the department whose core mission is the protection of public health and the environment in Sacramento County, EMD provides regulatory oversight of the water recycling program to ensure health and safety compliance with State Title 22 standards. EMD is also responsible for providing technical consultation on issues relating to public health concerns.

EMD staff conducts plan reviews of new recycled water sites and works with the SCWA to ensure that the site has the correct infrastructure to meet all regulatory requirements.

EMD and SCWA perform cross-connection control inspections before delivery is allowed to ensure that no interconnections occur between the drinking water pipes and the recycled water pipes.

### DID YOU KNOW THAT...

- Recycled water is the fastest growing water supply in California?
- The City of Roseville and housing developments in Rancho Murieta and El Dorado Hills are a few of the local communities that utilize recycled water?



*Recycled Water Use Area public notification signage example*

"As the Department tasked with protection of public health and the environmental in Sacramento County, we view recycled water as a safe alternative water supply source and support its responsible use," Cecilia Jensen, Chief, Water Protection.

## DVD PRESENTATION "HOW TO GET A GREEN!"

In January 2007, the Environmental Management Department implemented a Color-Coded Placard food safety rating system for retail food facility inspections. A Green/Pass, Yellow/Conditional Pass or Red/Closed placard is posted at the facility following each routine inspection. This rating system is based upon major violations observed during an inspection.

EMD has prepared a DVD presentation titled, *How-To-Get-A-Green!* Our team of dedicated environmental health professionals is to be commended for their extraordinary work on this 25-minute instructional video. We are very proud of this video presentation and are pleased to announce that the DVD has been distributed to over 5,000 food facility operators.

This educational tool is designed to help food facility operators and their employees understand how the placard system works and how to keep a Green/Pass placard in their window. Restaurateurs and other food business operators can receive a copy of the DVD in one of the following ways:

- Environmental Specialists (Inspectors) have DVDs on hand and they are made available to both managers and food service employees during the inspection process.
- DVDs are available to new business owners that are working with our Plan Review staff or with the Business Environmental Resource Center (BERC).
- DVDs are also available at all Food Safety training seminars held either at the EMD offices or at a food facility.
- Interested parties may contact EMD at (916) 875-8440 to request a copy of the DVD or visit EMD's website at [www.emd.saccounty.net](http://www.emd.saccounty.net) to view the entire video or select clips.

The DVD training will be helpful for retail food facility staff and includes information on basic safety principles, avoiding major violations and preventing foodborne illness.

Please contact EMD at (916) 875-8440 or visit our website at [www.EMD.SacCounty.net](http://www.EMD.SacCounty.net) for additional information on the DVD presentation.



## EMD ACTIVITY SUMMARY

EMD Program Element	July 2007– May 2008
<b>Food Placarding</b>	<b>Total: 10,237</b>
Green (Pass)	9,170
Yellow (Conditional Pass)	957
Red (Closed)	110
<b>Inspections</b>	<b>Total: 23,400</b>
Food Protection	12,981
Farm Labor Camps	33
Public Swimming Pools/Spas	2,351
Solid Waste Facilities (landfills/transfer stations)	249
Liquid Waste	322
Medical Waste	86
Small Water Systems	36
Water & Monitoring Wells	1,097
Underground Storage Tank (UST) Facilities	382
UST Installations, Upgrade/Repair & Removal	169
Businesses/Facilities Generating Hazardous Waste	892
Businesses/Facilities Storing Hazardous Materials	1,217
Stormwater	1,235
Waste Tire	410
Tobacco Retailers	347
Commercial Recycling	1,593

EMD Program Element	July 2007– May 2008
<b>Investigations</b>	<b>Total: 1,119</b>
Food Borne Illness Complaint	215
Incident Response	552
Stormwater Complaint	279
Waste Tire	57
Childhood Lead	16
<b>Workshop Attendance</b>	<b>Total: 1,657</b>
Food Safety Education (Food School)	669
Hazardous Materials Business Plan	115
How To Get A Green Placard	846
Stormwater Compliance Workshop (General)	27
<b>Permits, Plans &amp; Reviews</b>	<b>Total: 24,132</b>
Hazardous Materials Business Plans	4,890
Monitoring Wells	502
Food Facilities	1,128
Public Swimming Pools/Spas	307
UST Installations, Upgrades/Repairs & Removals	195
Land Use	80
Cross Connection Permits (Blue Tags)	17,030
<b>Information Management</b>	<b>Total: 137,616</b>
Documents Imaged	137,308
Public Record Reviews	308



### HELLOS, GOODBYES & SERVICE RECOGNITION

for January – May 2008

**New Hires**

Daniel Abellon	William Frost
Olivia Arnold	Steve Moua
Ryan Danel	Amy Roth
Tram Doan	

**Promotions**

Michelle Blair	Elizabeth Olson
Victoria Krohn	Justin Ross
Sharon Merker	Eric Sutton
Rashmi Nair	Joseph Terefe

**Service Awards**

Barry Marcus—15 years  
 Mary Taylor—35 years  
 Marie Woodin—20 years

**Retirements**

Dianne Peck

### SPECIAL THANKS...

EMD would like to extend special thanks and recognition to BEREC, the Business Environmental Resource Center, for its skill and assistance in designing and developing the format for **EMD NEWS & NOTES**.

BEREC is part of Sacramento County's Department of Economic Development & Intergovernmental Affairs. BEREC partners with EMD, and other local governmental entities, to enhance County service delivery.

**County of Sacramento  
Board of Supervisors**

Roger Dickinson, District 1  
 Jimmie Yee, District 2  
 Susan Peters, District 3  
 Roberta MacGlashan, District 4  
 Don Nottoli, District 5

Terry Schutten, County Executive

Countywide Services Agency  
 Penelope Clarke, Administrator  
 Ann Edwards-Buckley, Deputy Administrator

Val Siebal, EMD Director

**EMD NEWS & NOTES** is EMD's periodic newsletter providing information on EMD activities and services that enhance our community.

EMD is a Department within the Countywide Services Agency of Sacramento County which serves the businesses and residents of the County. EMD is committed to protecting public health and the environment by ensuring compliance with environmental regulations.

For more information about EMD's News & Notes newsletter, or to offer your feedback, please contact Linda Jimenez by email at jimenezl@saccounty.net