

Environmental Management Department

EMD NEWS & NOTES

Spring 2009 Edition

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NEW FISCAL YEAR FOR THE COUNTY

While the Sacramento County General Fund is still being reconciled, EMD has also taken action to reduce costs for our fee payers.

Cost containment efforts include:

- Consolidating program staff from three Divisions into two Divisions thereby reducing management and administrative overhead costs and bringing new efficiencies to the programs.
- Returning fines and penalties as fee credits to compliant facilities in the Hazardous Materials programs.
- Subsidizing a gradual fee increase for our food program fees, utilizing reserves from prior years instead of seeking immediate full cost recovery.
- Reducing our Department vehicle fleet by 25% to reduce auto lease and maintenance costs.



Val F. Siebal, Director

- Cross-training inspectors to conduct inspections in multiple programs, thereby eliminating the need to hire additional staff.
- Utilizing computer software to map inspector routes for efficiency, reducing gasoline costs and the production of greenhouse gas emissions.

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RECREATIONAL WATER SAFETY

Recreational water settings provide opportunities for people to increase their level of physical activity—swimming offers an excellent low-impact cardio workout—and to enjoy their leisure time. To make this summer an even healthier experience, the Sacramento County Environmental Management Department (EMD) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) are urging swimmers and bathers to adopt healthy behaviors to protect themselves, their families, and fellow bathers from the spread of illness.



May 18-22, 2009 has been designated as National Recreational Water Illness Prevention Week. There are over 2,200 Commercial Swimming Pools, Spas, Wading Pools and Spray Grounds in Sacramento County. Environmental Management Department staff inspects these facilities, responds to complaints and conducts Recreational Water Illness (RWI) investigations throughout the year. The Department's goal is to prevent RWIs and drownings at recreational water facilities that are open to the public.

Swimming or exercising in water contaminated as a result of poorly maintained recreational water facilities or the presence of chlorine resistant germs, can result in the spread of RWIs. The organisms most associated with RWIs are *Cryptosporidium*, *Giardia*, *Shigella*, *Norovirus* and *E. coli*, all of which have similar primary symptoms of diarrhea. Public awareness of RWIs and appropriate swimming and water activity behaviors play a pivotal role in RWI transmission. Facility users who are ill with diarrhea may contaminate recreational water sites; this poses health risks for the healthy users of the pool or the water feature. In addition, risks are even greater for high-risk groups such as the young, the elderly, the pregnant, and the immune-suppressed.

Healthy swimming and water activity behaviors include:

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NEW FISCAL YEAR FOR THE COUNTY

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- Recording inspection results on laptop computers on site to eliminate the need to reenter data, ultimately reducing staff costs.
- Environmental Specialists report to their first inspection site directly from home twice a week. EMD gains two inspections per day which reduces staffing, air emissions and fuel costs.
- EMD trains, and contracts with other County Departments, to perform EMD inspections at facilities which they are already inspecting.

EMD will continue to seek ideas to improve the value of our fees.

RECREATIONAL WATER SAFETY, *continued*

1. Don't swim or use the water feature when you have diarrhea. You can spread germs in the water and make other people sick.
2. Don't swallow the pool or feature water. In fact, avoid getting water in your mouth.
3. Practice good hygiene. Shower before swimming or using the water feature and wash your hands after using the toilet or changing diapers. Germs on your body will end up in the water.
4. Take children on bathroom breaks or change diapers often. Waiting to hear "I have to go" may mean that it's too late. Change diapers in a bathroom and not at the water activity area. Germs can spread to surfaces and objects in and around the pool or water feature and spread illness.
5. Bathe thoroughly with soap and water before swimming or using the water feature. Everyone has invisible amounts of fecal matter on their bottoms that end up in the water.



In addition to EMD's role in preventing RWIs, we must also remain cognizant of the *Federal Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act (VGB)* requirements.

As of December 2007, the VGB Act was signed into Federal law by President Bush. The main purpose of this Act is to increase the safety of swimming pools and spas by establishing a federal swimming pool and spa drain cover standard and ensuring that pools and spas are equipped with proper safety devices. The enforcement agency for this new law is the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC).

The new Federal standards became effective on December 19, 2008. According to this Federal law, all public swimming pools and spas must be equipped with:

1. Anti-entrapment drain covers that meet the American Society of Mechanical Engineers/American National Standards Institute (ASME/ANSI) A112.19.8-2007 standard, and
2. One or more of the following systems when the suction outlet is a **single drain** other than an unblockable drain (defined by CPSC as having dimensions of 18" x 23"):

RECREATIONAL WATER SAFETY, *continued*

- A. A safety vacuum release system (SVRS);
- B. A suction-limiting vent system;
- C. A gravity drainage system;
- D. An automatic pump shut-off system;
- E. A drain disablement device or system (only allowed for skimmer equalizer lines); and/or
- F. Any other system determined by the CPSC (Consumer Product Safety Commission) to be equally effective as, or better than these systems at preventing or eliminating the risk of injury or death associated with pool drainage systems.

Although this is a Federal law, EMD's Plan Review staff has been reviewing and processing plan submittals and conducting construction inspections to verify compliance with the law.

FOOD SERVED ON COUNTY WATERWAYS IS SAFE



EMD staff work to ensure that food purchased from vendors on our waterways is safe and sanitary. Vendors are required to come to the EMD offices for inspection and permitting. In the photo at left, The Big Chill, a mobile ice cream boat, is held to the

same standards as other food retailers. The Big Chill can be found offering refreshments on the Sacramento River on hot days. Although current laws are cracking down on alcohol consumptions in watercraft, enjoying an ice cream while rollin' on the river will, hopefully, never be illegal.



MULTI-FAMILY RECYCLING ORDINANCE

On May 18, the Sacramento Regional Solid Waste Authority (SWA) adopted a Multi-Family Recycling Ordinance for residential dwellings of five or more units in the City of Sacramento and unincorporated areas of Sacramento County. The Ordinance applies to multi-family complexes that subscribe to **10 cubic yards or greater** of garbage collection service per week. The Ordinance is expected to affect over 3,000 locations that include over 80,000 residential units making the SWA program one of the largest in the nation. Under a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with SWA, the Environmental Compliance Division within EMD will be responsible for the implementation of this Ordinance.

State law (AB 939) requires that 50% of the waste generated be reduced or recycled. Almost all homes have a recycling program

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PINNING CEREMONY CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION



Pictured left to right: Acting Deputy Surgeon General Rear Admiral Robert Williams, Rear Admiral Scott Deitchman, MD, MPH, and Alicia Enriquez, Deputy Chief, Environmental Health Division,

Sacramento County Environmental Management Department.

Alicia Enriquez, Deputy Chief of the Environmental Health Division, recently had the honor of attending a pinning ceremony at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Atlanta, GA. This event was held to recognize the promotion of Scott Deitchman, MD, MPH to Rear Admiral and Assistant Surgeon General within the United States Public Health Services (USPHS).

Alicia traveled to Atlanta on a recent vacation and was invited to this event by a colleague from the CDC. "It was an incredible experience to meet such highly qualified public health officials and staff that are charged with both preventing and responding to crises that affect our nation's well being."

MULTI-FAMILY RECYCLING ORDINANCE

Continued from page 2

available, but until now, multi-family dwellings have not been required to participate in a meaningful recycling effort.

Qualifying multi-family complexes within the SWA region must comply with the following requirements:

- Keep recyclable materials separate from the garbage waste stream;
- Provide a separate bin for recyclable materials on-site by entering into a written service agreement with a Franchised Waste Hauler, or Authorized Recyclers, or register to self haul their recyclables;
- Inform tenants of the requirement to separate common recyclable materials such as bottles, white paper, aluminum cans, cardboard, etc. from their waste stream and use a designated recyclable materials disposal bin; and
- Maintain recycling documents (service agreement or self-haul form) on-site and available for review.

EMD will be implementing the program in four overlapping phases:

- Phase 1: Development of a database of multi-family complexes in the SWA region.
- Phase 2: Ongoing education and outreach. This effort will be coordinated with the Rental Housing Association of Sacramento Valley.
- Phase 3: Site inspections with education as the primary objective.
- Phase 4: Follow-up inspections and, if necessary, enforcement action.

COUNTY STARS OF EXCELLENCE

Several Environmental Health Division staff members were recognized at the Countywide Employee Recognition Program's 2009 Stars of Excellence Awards Ceremony on May 7 for their superb work on an instructional "How To Get A Green" Video/DVD detailing EMD's food safety rating system using Green/Pass, Yellow/Conditional Pass, and Red/Closed Placards. Congratulations to Zarha Ruiz, Supervising Environmental Specialist (ES); ESs Sonia Lee and Jannine Talusik, ; Senior Office Specialist Kristin Ledbetter; and Senior Office Assistant Jennifer Hermreck, on their success in producing an excellent product that continues to be utilized to educate foodservice personnel throughout Sacramento County.

ESs Victoria Krohn, Sharon Merker, Eric Sutton and Sharon Zimmerman; and Senior Office Assistant Julian Mason of the Environmental Compliance Division were recognized at the Stars of Excellence Ceremony for their work on the Business Recycling Program. Staff work included planning and implementation of a comprehensive educational and outreach plan, development of checklists, presentation of inspection protocols to staff, and creation of enforcement policy and associated documents. Information Technology Manager Geoff Marsh assisted in the project by receiving data base information from major refuse haulers in the Sacramento area and merging the information into EMD's existing database.

Supervising ES Lisa Todd and ES Brion McGinness were recognized for their efforts toward issuance of a solid waste facility permit to Zanker Road Resources, Ltd. which allows the facility to process and separate recyclable or reusable solid waste materials. Lisa and Brion conducted public workshops, provided information and accepted and responded to questions and concerns regarding issuance of the permit.

Even though the permit application presented to the California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB) received strong opposition, CIWMB was unable to find issues with the comprehensive application prepared by Lisa and Brion and the permit was approved. More recently, the Superior Court of Sacramento County further confirmed Lisa and Brion's excellent work by ruling that EMD acted properly and within the law in adopting the governing environmental review document for the proposed project.

Supervising ES Anthony Chu and ES Dennis Karidis were recognized for the successful settlement of the largest administrative environmental enforcement case completed by a county or city agency in the United States.

While conducting a routine inspection, ES Karidis discovered several previous and ongoing violations of the California Health and Safety Code and State Code of Regulations. Due to the size and complexity of the manufacturing processes, Dennis received the assistance of his Supervisor Anthony Chu and from environmental scientists employed by the California Department of Toxic Substance Control (DTSC). Together, Dennis and Anthony formulated a comprehensive corrective action schedule to move the company into compliance.

The company involved responded by deploying a team of environmental attorneys to meet with EMD management. Due to the excellent work of Dennis and Anthony, the strength of EMD's case as quickly recognized and the enforcement case was settled.

EMD congratulates the above mentioned staff for their attention to detail, professionalism and hard work!

EMD ACTIVITY SUMMARY

| EMD Program Element | July 2008–April 2009 |
|--|----------------------|
| Food Placarding | Total: 11,773 |
| Green (Pass) | 10,916 |
| Yellow (Conditional Pass) | 698 |
| Red (Closed) | 159 |
| Inspections | Total: 25,370 |
| Food Protection | 14,109 |
| Farm Labor Camps | 42 |
| Public Swimming Pools/Spas | 1,904 |
| Solid Waste Facilities (landfills/transfer stations) | 200 |
| Liquid Waste | 175 |
| Medical Waste | 81 |
| Small Water Systems | 26 |
| Water & Monitoring Wells | 718 |
| Underground Storage Tank (UST) Facilities | 439 |
| UST Installations, Upgrade/Repair & Removal | 292 |
| Businesses/Facilities Generating Hazardous Waste | 847 |
| Businesses/Facilities Storing Hazardous Materials | 1,329 |
| Stormwater | 2,388 |
| Waste Tire | 421 |
| Tobacco Retailers | 393 |
| Commercial Recycling | 2,006 |

| EMD Program Element | July 2008–April 2009 |
|--|-----------------------|
| Investigations | Total: 909 |
| Food Borne Illness Complaint | 170 |
| Incident Response | 512 |
| Stormwater Complaint | 212 |
| Waste Tire | 0 |
| Childhood Lead | 15 |
| Workshop Attendance | Total: 1,193 |
| Food Safety Education (Food School) | 912 |
| Hazardous Materials Business Plan | 70 |
| How To Get A Green Placard | 211 |
| Stormwater Compliance Workshop (General) | 0 |
| Permits, Plans & Reviews | Total: 22,766 |
| Hazardous Materials Business Plans | 4,319 |
| Monitoring Wells | 316 |
| Food Facilities | 875 |
| Public Swimming Pools/Spas | 667 |
| UST Installations, Upgrades/Repairs & Removals | 214 |
| Land Use | 21 |
| Cross Connection Permits (Blue Tags) | 16,354 |
| Information Management | Total: 117,112 |
| Documents Imaged | 116,394 |
| Public Record Reviews | 178 |

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
 Jim Hunt, Acting Administrator
 Ann Edwards-Buckley, Deputy Administrator
 Val Siebal, EMD Director

HELLOS, GOODBYES & SERVICE RECOGNITION

for January – April 2009

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| <i>New Hires</i> | Yoon Hahn Vicki Kloock |
| <i>Promotions</i> | Jane Auyeung Jan Bradshaw Lisa Christy Shirley Fong Laura Henry |
| <i>Service Awards</i> | Victoria Krohn Barry Marcus Justin Ross Eric Sutton Joseph Terefe |
| <i>Retirements</i> | Wageeh Elgammal—10 years Linda Jimenez—10 years |
| | None |

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.

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@sacounty.net