



EMD News & Notes

Summer 2012 Edition

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www.emd.saccounty.net

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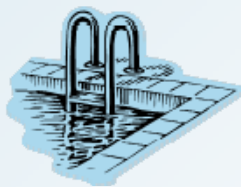
FROM THE DIRECTOR



Environmental Management Department (EMD) staff continues to be recognized for their contributions to the environmental health profession. Not only are staff members being elected to state and national association positions, they are also contributing to the overall knowledge of the profession by organizing education events such as the recently held California Environmental Health Association's Annual Education Symposium. These activities bring attention to the tremendous work performed by Department staff and increases avenues by which California protects its citizens.

**Congratulations to the staff members
acknowledged in this edition of
EMD News & Notes.**

POOL TEAM RECEIVES NATIONAL AWARD



EMD's Pool Team (Supervising Environmental Specialist (ES) Colleen Maitoza, Chair; Supervising ESs Mark Barcellos and Jeff Czapla; ESs Judinae Ablang, Janet Martin, Rashmi Nair, Manroop Shergill, Jannine Talusik, and Toua Yang and Environmental Compliance Technician Lisa Robbins) received the 2012 Dr. Neil Lowry Memorial Award. The national award is presented by the Association of Pool and Spa Professionals (APSP) in recognition of outstanding contributions by public health officials toward advancing safer and healthier use of recreational water.

The Team and EMD's Environmental Health Division were recognized for the development of a "Swimming Pool/Spa Workshop" for pool operators and service companies in Sacramento County. The workshop curriculum focuses on compliance with the Virginia Graeme Baker Act/AB 1020 (anti-entrapment device requirements).

The goal of providing the workshops is to educate operators/service companies and to reduce the occurrence of major violations related to recreational water illnesses and accidents.

EMD recorded a 52% reduction in major violations by attendee facilities in 2010 and a 38% reduction in 2011.

Thanks to Terah Newland and Kari Wagner for preparing the awards nomination packet for submittal to APSP.

ABANDONED WELL PROGRAM REACHES MILESTONE



In November 2009, EMD initiated a program to identify abandoned wells within the county and to ensure that unsafe or problematic wells are properly secured or destroyed. Improperly abandoned wells can pose a significant threat to groundwater quality and present a falling-in hazard for people and animals. The program is funded by monies received from MTBE contamination enforcement case settlements with various petroleum marketers .

Sacramento County relies on groundwater to meet one-half of its water needs. Due to deterioration or lack of maintenance, many abandoned wells allow runoff water carrying bacteria, sediment, fertilizer, pesticides and other surface pollutants to flow directly into groundwater. Some abandoned wells have been used as disposal sites for hazardous waste such as used oil and chemicals from clandestine methamphetamine production. It is crucial that steps be taken to protect our groundwater resources to ensure a safe, adequate water supply for county residents, businesses and farms.

In early 2012, the Abandoned Well Program reached a milestone by discovering 500 abandoned wells in Sacramento County. The majority of these wells have been properly inactivated to eliminate safety and contamination hazards. Well owners have the option to either bring inactivated wells back into service, or to have them properly destroyed by a licensed well contractor.

EMD's Abandoned Well Program was awarded both the 2011 National Association of Counties Achievement Award and the 2011 Kevin J. Neese Award from the California Groundwater Association for its efforts in protecting groundwater resources.

2012 CEHA ANNUAL EDUCATIONAL SYMPOSIUM

The California Environmental Health Association (CEHA) , a nonprofit association committed to providing professional growth and development for environmental health professionals, holds an Annual Education Symposium (AES). Sacramento County and CEHA's local Superior Chapter hosted

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2012 CEHA ANNUAL EDUCATION SYMPOSIUM CONTINUED

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this year's premier educational event.. The Symposium provides a tremendous opportunity to increase knowledge and to raise awareness of the environmental health profession among other groups.

Over 500 environmental health professionals from throughout California participated in the Symposium held in Sacramento. EMD Director Val Siebal, Environmental Health Division (EHD) Chief John Rogers, EHD Deputy Chief Alicia Enriquez, Supervising Environmental Specialists (ESs) Colleen Maitoza, John Elkins and Barry Marcus, and ESs Lisa Perez, Heather Tanner and David Von Aspern shared their expertise regarding what to do when a key staff person resigns, requirements for food handler cards, California's new pool code, underground storage tank operational compliance, EMD's Abandoned Well Program, basic hazardous material/hazardous waste requirements for business, and regulatory issues pertaining to a retail store.

The 2012 AES Committee spent a considerable amount of personal time organizing this very successful event. The Symposium was co-chaired by ESs Jane Auyeung and Rashmi Nair. The following EMD staff members served on the Symposium Planning Committee: EHD Deputy Chief Alicia Enriquez,; Supervising ESs Colleen Maitoza and Lisa Todd; and ESs Sonia Andrusiak, Sara Cardozo, Dennis Catanyag, Shirley Fong, Cheryl Hawkins, Debbie Katz, Elizabeth Olson, Jannine Talusik and Kari Wagner.

HEATHER TANNER ELECTED PRESIDENT OF CHMIA



Environmental Specialist Heather Tanner was recently elected President of the California Hazardous Materials Investigators Association (CHMIA) .

CHMIA is a nonprofit public benefit corporation established in 1985 to encourage the cooperation and coordination of environmental crime investigations conducted by enforcement and administrative agencies and to facilitate and promotion educational programs in all aspects of environmental crimes investigation.

KERRI AIELLO RECEIVES MEDIA AWARD



Kerri Aiello, EMD Communications and Media Officer, was presented with the 2012 California Environmental Health Association Media Award at the 2012 CEHA Annual Educational Symposium. The Media Award is normally presented to a journalist who has written an article which has enhanced

or promoted the field of environmental health professionals through the medium of newspaper, magazine, radio, or television, etc., but CEHA's Superior Chapter members felt that Kerri's countless hours of devotion to promoting environmental health was deserving of recognition. Kerri has overseen 17 press releases and worked tirelessly with reporters, journalists, community activists, and homeowners associations. Kerri has also provided media training to EMD employees who regularly respond to public interest topics. Congratulations Kerri on a job well done!

LOW-THREAT CLOSURE POLICY

On Tuesday, May 1st the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) adopted the Low-Threat Petroleum Case Closure Policy. The policy identifies environmental conditions (low-threat criteria) associated with petroleum releases from underground fuel storage tanks that, if met, pose a low threat to human health and groundwater resources. Sites meeting the low-threat criteria may be closed. The purpose of the policy is to direct limited funds to those petroleum release sites that pose the greatest threat to human health and resources.



Supervising Environmental Specialist Barry Marcus was a member of the nine-person task force that developed the policy. At the request of the SWRCB, Mr. Marcus made presentations at stakeholder workshops throughout the state to explain/clarify the proposed policy and to obtain feedback from regulators, consultants, and other interested parties. Mr. Marcus was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation by SWRCB for his participation on the policy development group.

EMD STAFF PROMINENT AT NEHA CONFERENCE

Past and present Environmental Management Department staff persons were prominent at the recently held National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) Annual Educational Conference (AEC). Mel Knight, former Sacramento County EMD Director, presided over the conference as his last duty as President of NEHA.

Current Environmental Health Division (EHD) Deputy Chief Alicia Enriquez was sworn in as 1st Vice President and will become NEHA President at the conclusion of next year's AEC. Deputy Chief Enriquez also facilitated an environmental health technology lab.

EMD Director Val Siebal presented information on a project being tested in Sacramento County to utilize smartphone technology to streamline lower risk types of inspections. The smartphone transmitted a video of a well closure from the field to the office which would reduce costs and allow for more inspections. Additional testing is needed.

EHD Chief John Rogers participated on a panel discussion on medical marijuana. The panel reviewed the current legal standing of medical marijuana in California and dealing with food products infused with medical marijuana.



ES Kari Wagner described a new mobile app developed by the Sacramento County Environmental Management Department and the Sacramento County Department of Technology. The app, which can be downloaded for free, allows a user to locate nearby eateries and review their most recent food safety inspection.

Supervising ES Colleen Maitoza accepted the Dr. Neil Lowery Award on behalf of Sacramento County for EMD's innovative public swimming pool operators' training program. The award recognizes public health officials who have made outstanding contributions to advance the public's healthy and safe use of public swimming pools, spas, hot tubs, and water parks.

NEHA was created in 1937 as a national professional society for environmental health practitioners to establish standards of excellence. NEHA currently has 4,500 members; offers a variety of programs, including credentialing programs; sponsors the AEC; publishes the Journal of Environmental Health; offers technical workshops and committee participation opportunities; and takes positions on timely environmental health issues.

EMD ACTIVITY SUMMARY

EMD Program Element

Food Placarding **Total: 12,158**

Green (Pass)	11,544
Yellow (Conditional Pass)	532
Red (Closed)	82

Inspections **Total: 24,063**

Food Protection	14,372
Farm Labor Camps	44
Public Swimming Pools/Spas	1,829
Solid Waste Facilities (landfills/transfer stations)	248
Liquid Waste	181
Medical Waste	128
Small Water Systems	40
Water & Monitoring Wells	634
Underground Storage Tank (UST) Facilities	465
Businesses/Facilities Generating Hazardous Waste	1,021
Businesses/Facilities Storing Hazardous Materials	1,550
Stormwater	2,013
Waste Tire	596
Tobacco Retailers	395
Commercial Recycling	547

EMD Program Element

Investigations **Total: 478**

Food Borne Illness Complaint	133
Incident Response	189
Stormwater Complaint	81
Waste Tire	67
Childhood Lead	8

Workshop Attendance **Total: 973**

Food Safety Education (Food School)	824
Hazardous Materials Business Plan	26
How To Get A Green Placard	123
Stormwater Compliance Workshop (General)	0

Permits, Plans & Reviews **Total: 24,784**

Hazardous Materials Business Plans	4,411
Monitoring Wells	893
Food Facilities	1,007
Public Swimming Pools/Spas	485
UST Installations, Upgrades/Repairs & Removals	142
Land Use	77
Cross Connection Permits (Blue Tags)	17,769

Information Management **Total: 122,201**

Documents Imaged	121,073
Public Record Reviews	228

County of Sacramento Board of Supervisors

Phil Serna, District 1
 Jimmie Yee, District 2
 Susan Peters, District 3
 Roberta MacGlashan, District 4
 Don Nottoli, District 5

Bradley J. Hudson
 County Executive

HELLOS, GOODBYES & SERVICE RECOGNITION

For January thru May 2012



New Hires Ana Faris

Promotions Daniel Abellon
Toua Yang

Service Awards Shelley Emery—10 years
Derrick Ho—10 years
John Lewis—10 years
Lisa Robbins—10 years
Heather Tanner—10 years

Countywide Services
Ann Edwards
 Chief Deputy County Executive

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 jjimenezl@sacounty.net